

## HIGH SCHOOLS

# Longwood Wrestler Wins State

By Gregg Sarra

STAFF WRITER

Syracuse — Longwood senior Nick Hall is a take-charge type of person. He rarely makes mistakes, and he's used to pressure.

Saturday night, the pressure was on Hall as he was Long Island's last shot at winning a state title at the New York State wrestling championships at Onondaga War Memorial.

Like so many times in his career, Hall didn't disappoint his teammates.

He capped a brilliant career with a first-period pin of Chenango Fork's Joe Walker in 1:39 for the heavyweight title. Had Hall lost, it would have marked the first time in the 29-year history of the tournament that Long Island failed to crown a champion.

Not even Walker's 27-0 record, which included 25 pins, fazed Longwood's first state champion.

"He's gone through some extreme personal turmoil and this is the most joyous moment of his life," said Longwood coach Mike Picozzi, who guided the Suffolk sectional team to a third-place finish. "His longtime goal is finally fulfilled."

Hall's three pins and a 4-1 victory over Williamsville South's Kevin Brinkworth, who will attend Miami on a football scholarship, in the semifinals earned him the most outstanding wrestler award. He is the first heavyweight to win the award since 1970.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Hall (28-0). "Last year, these were the saddest days of my life when I elected to stay home with my mom, who was sick. Now I'm going to call her and we're going to enjoy this moment together."

As Hall left the arena, he was handed a letter from his mom, who was unable to make the trip. The letter's content made him cry. He called them tears of happiness and thankfulness.

"This is what I've worked for," said Hall, who finished with a 127-9 career record. "I've left my mark and I'm proud of that."

There were four other Long Island wrestlers in championship matches, but none won.

Centereach's Craig Furrer became that school's first state place-winner when he took second at 145. He dropped a 6-3 decision to Johnson City's Matt Sorochninsky in the final.

Sachem's Tim Godoy (138) missed a second-period headlock and Fowler's Kareeb Howard capitalized for a two-point takedown and went on to a 7-3 win in the final.

Longwood's Kerry McCoy could manage only two escapes in a 3-2 loss to Mahopac's John Degl in the 177 final.

Bethpage's James Douglas (98) scored a first-period takedown but Ithaca's Shane Mack scored 10 unanswered points for a 10-2 win in the final.

Matt Marciniak of Watkins Glen (155) set the state record for career wins with 189 when he beat Mike Quaglio of John Jay-East Fishkill, 4-2, in the final. Marciniak broke the mark of 188 set by J.J. Stanbro of Johnson City from 1984-89.

### New York State Wrestling Championships At Onondaga War Memorial, Syracuse Final Results

91 — David Hardwick (Valley Central, IX) dec. Todd Rutecki (Fowler, III), 8-6. 98 — Shane Mack (Ithaca, IV) dec. James Douglas (Bethpage), 10-2. 105 — Mike Jamison (Fowler, III) dec. Alex Croog (Brighton, V), 6-0. 112 — Chris Matteotti (Suffern, I) dec. Chris Cali (Baldwinsville, III), 6-4. 119 — Juan Carlos Garcia (Sleepy Hollow, I) dec. Bryan Roggie (Beaver River, III), 2-1. 126 — Mike Castro (Washingtonville, IX) pinned Doug Groncki (Burnt Hills, II), 1:34. 132 — Steve Caruso (New Hartford, III) dec. Shawn Edwards (Peru, VII), 10-8. 138 — Kareeb Howard (Fowler, III) dec. Tim Godoy (Sachem), 7-3. 145 — Matt Sorochninsky (Johnson City, IV) dec. Craig Furrer (Centereach), 6-3. 155 — Matt Marciniak (Watkins Glen) dec. Mike Quaglio (John Jay East Fishkill), 4-2. 167 — Paul Lyman (Johnson City) dec. Chris Francis (Palmyra-Macedon, V), 12-7. 177 — John Degl (Mahopac, I) dec. Kerry McCoy (Longwood), 3-2. **Hvy** — Nick Hall (Longwood) pinned Joe Walker (Chenango Forks, IV), 1:39. **250** — Joe Yanis (Minisink Valley, IX) dec. Otha Davidson (Brighton, V), 6-0. **Most Outstanding Wrestler** — Nick Hall (Longwood). **Team Scores** — Hamhamton 209, Syracuse 181½, Suffolk 167½, Westchester 143½, Rochester 139½, Catskills 120, Buffalo 117½, Albany-Schenectady 102½, Nassau 88½, Plattsburgh-Champlain 63½, CHSAA 57½, St. Lawrence County 21, PSAL 2.