

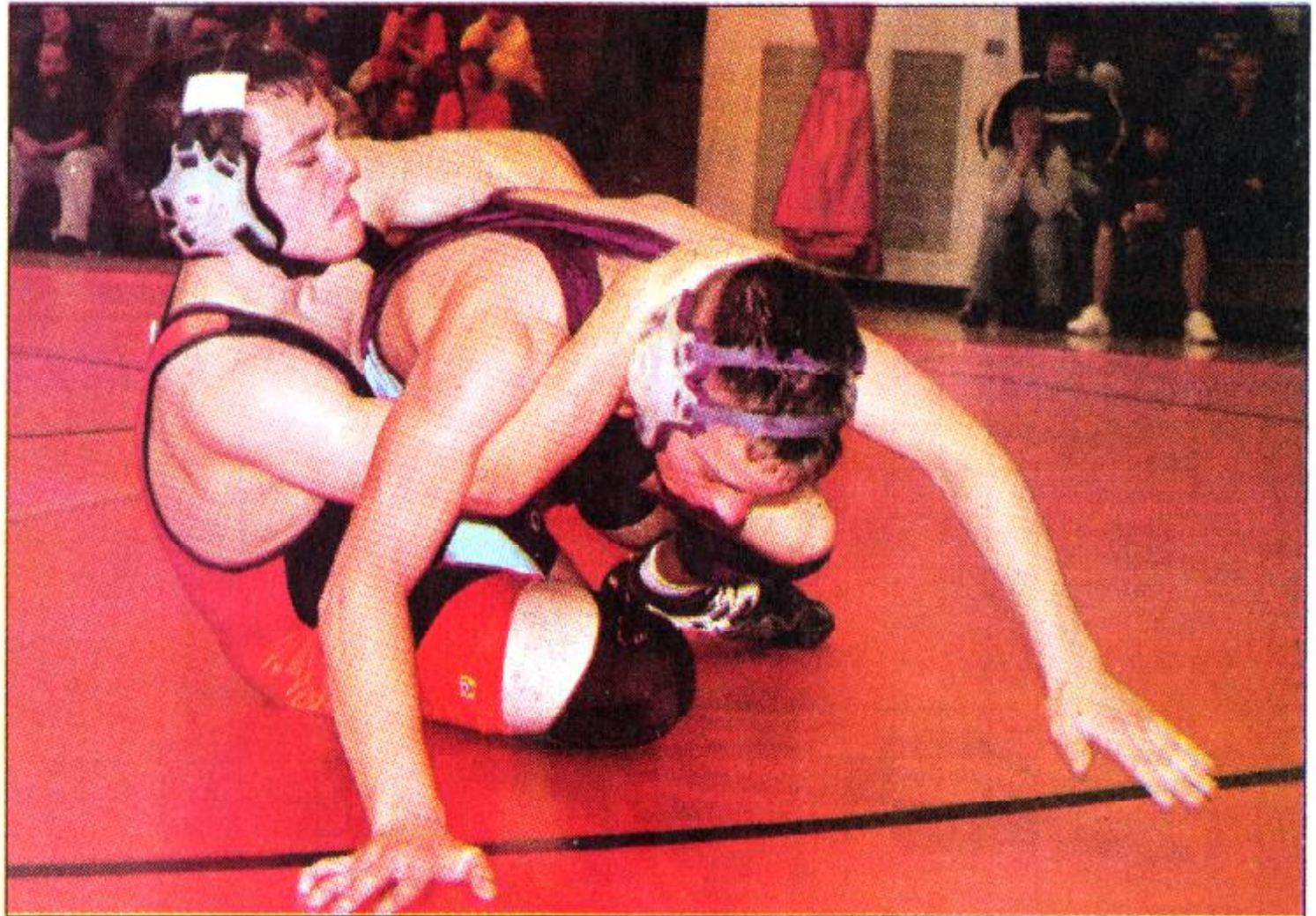
Arkport wrestlers come up short in opener

By **ALEX RASKIN**
WELLSVILLE DAILY REPORTER

WELLSVILLE — Early expectations for the new wrestling season were instantly exceeded by both Wellsville and Arkport on Tuesday night thanks in part to several grapplers' offseason efforts. The Lions were able to pull away with a 54-27 home win; and in only their second varsity season, the Blue Jays showed a marked improvement from their winless '05-'06.

"I haven't slept more than four hours in the last two nights," said Arkport Coach Brett Talbot after the match. "I couldn't be more excited. We're building a program and we're doing well."

The Blue Jays hit the ground running as senior John Lockwood defeated



ALEX RASKIN/WELLSVILLE DAILY REPORTER

Wellsville's Ben Pettenati, left, ties up Arkport's John Lockwood during their 135-pound matchup Tuesday evening in Wellsville. Lockwood, a senior, earned a 7-5 victory in sudden death.

Turn to 2B

Arkport wrestlers come up short in opener

Continued from 1B

Wellsville's Ben Pettenati at 135 pounds in sudden death. While staying on top for most of the match, Lockwood was able to score a takedown in the third period to force the match into another frame. There, Lockwood notched another takedown to win a grueling opener.

"He was a really good wrestler," Lockwood said of Pettenati. "We were both really tired. I think I outlasted him a little bit more. I had a little more in me and I did what I had to do to get it done."

Talbot agreed with his grappler saying, "It came down to heart. Not to say John had more heart, but he wanted it a lot. He was a first year wrestler last year and he went to camp and he's been working really hard. He earned that."

Lockwood was one of several wrestlers to show the benefit of wrestling camp on Tuesday.

Pettenati's effort was not completely wasted however as he learned a valuable lesson in the loss.

"He kept tying up underneath him," said Wellsville Coach Bill Sortore. "I don't want him to do that. I've been telling him for two weeks that I don't want that. In the overtime I told him to try a new takedown and boom, he snapped and he got around but he just couldn't catch (Lockwood's) ankle. He was like, 'Coach that works.' I was like, 'Yeah!'"

If the first match seemed to last an eternity, the rest of the night saw only three matches last more than two minutes

with each ending in a pin.

Ethan Lamphier scored Wellsville's first win of the season when he pinned Matt Getman in the 140-pound division in only 1:26.

Wellsville's second win of the season came in the next match as Darren Bennett pinned Grant Saper in only 23 seconds. For Bennett, the win was a payoff from a dedicated offseason.

"I went to a wrestling camp at Lehigh for about five days," said Bennett.

What the junior noticed was an, "Incredible difference," he continued. "My cardio has pushed to an entire new level and my confidence as well."

"He has put in a lot of time since camp," Sortore agreed. "He goes online and talks to their camp counselors. He's learning all sorts of stuff. That was absolutely amazing today. I didn't even know who was doing that. The roll that he did before moving it into a stack — I mean that kid was done. But it shows. If you're willing to go outside of the program and get more help, it pays off."

With the added skill and experience, Bennett looks like a different wrestler this season.

"I think he's going to offer a lot more offense," added Sortore. "He's been a defensive wrestler because he's been so new. He has definitely learned some offense. You could see it tonight. That is going to be the biggest difference this year for him because he will be more offensive."

It's something Sortore wants to see out of all of his young wrestlers adding, "The greatest thing I saw from our team tonight was offense. When

you're a young team, you're constantly defending what they're giving you. I didn't see that with all of our wrestlers tonight. For the experienced guys, it wasn't that at all. They were running offense."

Jeff Getman picked up a 48-second win by pinning Wellsville's Nate Schrlau in the 152-pound division. That Arkport win pulled them within three points of Wellsville, but it would never be that close again.

After nearly pinning Arkport's Kyle Cook three times — the Blue Jay was saved by an out of bounds call on each occasion — Ryan Lehman finally forced both of his opponents' shoulders to the mat for a pin at 1:57 in the 160-pound division.

At 171 pounds, the Lions' Mike Hills survived an early takedown before escaping and reversing John Parks. In the second period, after a see-saw battle, Hills was able to slam Park to the mat and pin him at 2:32.

Arkport's Edward McMichael pinned Tom Kasprzyk in 1:15 in the 215-pound division to narrow the lead to 15 points, but Wellsville's Lester Fanton took down Sal Fianacca in only 1:27 to push the Lions' lead to 36-15.

The Blue Jays had two more wins in them as James Larize pinned Wellsville's Zack Rahr in 1:50 in the 96-pound division and Ryan Hoyt beat the Lions' Joe Patrick in the 103-pound division with a pin at 3:05.

Wellsville won the next three matches by forfeit, but the final match of the night

had all of the action as the first.

Wellsville's Dustin White traded points with Nate Gambino for the first two periods. Heading into the third however, Bill Sortore called to his 130-pounder to demonstrate a move. The Wellsville Coach grabbed the nearby Kasprzyk, put him on the floor, and displayed a proper block.

"Dustin was trying to block him," explained Sortore. "But he wasn't blocking his legs, so I was just trying to show him — because we've been working on this for two weeks — block the legs first."

Soon after, at the 4:51 mark, White was able to make a block on Gambino before pinning him to complete the Lion victory.

"I think that kid ran out of gas," Sortore said of Gambino. "I really do. Disting got into a good position where he could hold him. He kept turning. I don't know how many times he was in a position to pin him, but he was never in a position to hold him. I'll bet he would have won 15 matches last year had he had the right body position. First year kid, what do you expect? To get that win for him right now is huge."

Early in the season, every win is huge for two teams trying to quickly add experience.

"This is the first time we've opened up the season with a win in five years," said Sortore. "Maybe more. That is a very young, developing team. I'm not going to run around like we're awesome all of the sudden, but we did get some good wrestling out of tonight."

Despite the loss, Talbot left Wellsville feeling exuberant as well.

"I'm excited," concluded Talbot. "After our initial season last year. We're looking to steal a few. We didn't win a match last year because it was our first varsity team in 25 years. We took our lumps. This year we want to hand a few back."

The Blue Jays will be in Hammondsport for the dual meet on Saturday before hosting Canisteo-Greenwood on Tuesday. The Lions are back in action tonight at 6 p.m. at home against Geneseo.

"Our young, new guys made the mistakes and they (Arkport) capitalized," finished Sortore. "We can learn from that and do a little bit better with Geneseo tomorrow night. They're young but they have about six good, experienced wrestlers like we do so it should be a good match."

Wellsville 54, Arkport 27

96: James Lariz (A) by pin over Zack Rahr (W) 1:50 103: Ryan Hoyt (A) by pin over Joe Patrick (W) 3:05 130: Dustin White (W) by pin over Nate Gambino (A) 4:51 135: John Lockwood (A) by sudden death dec. over Ben Pettenati (W) 7-6 140: Ethan Lamphier (W) by pin over Matt Gelman (A) 1:26 145: Darren Bennett (W) by pin over Grant Saper (A) 23 152: Jeff Getman (A) by pin over Nate Schrlau (W) 48 160: Ryan Lehman (W) by pin over Kyle Cook (A) 1:57 171: Mike Hills (W) by pin over John Parks (A) 2:32 215: Edward McMichael (A) by pin over Tom Kasprzyk (W) 1:15

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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	3	1	7			6		
5						2		9
						6		2
					7		5	
		3		1		9		
	7		5					
9			8					
1			2					4
		8			5	7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

11/29

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	4	6	5	3	2	9	8
8	9	6	2	7	4	3	1	5
5	3	2	1	9	8	4	7	6
7	1	9	4	8	5	6	2	3
4	6	3	9	2	7	8	5	1
2	5	8	3	6	1	9	4	7
9	2	5	7	3	6	1	8	4
6	4	7	8	1	2	5	3	9
3	8	1	5	4	9	7	6	2

Difficulty Level ★ ★

11/28