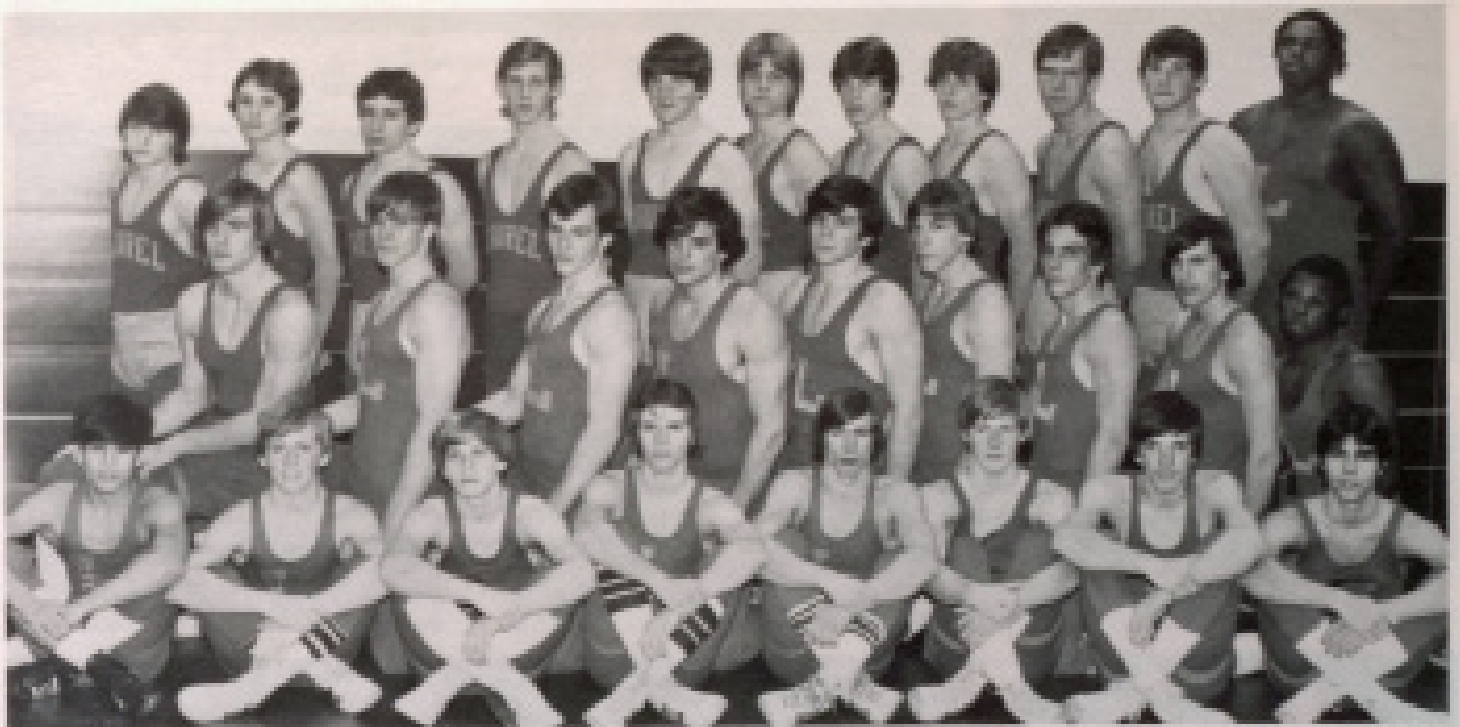


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First Row, Left to Right

Robert Bigbee	11-0-1
Mike Yawer	9-0-1
Kir Wiedel	7-1-0
Mike Tyson	2-2-0
Dan Cumberland	9-0-0
Gerrald Wilson	9-0-0
Steve Smith	6-3-1
Frank Mabry	6-0-1

Second Row, Left to Right

Chris Osborne	7-1-1
Guido Vandrunen	5-1-1
Vicor Holland	8-5-1
Kam Pizer	5-3-0
Andy Venson	7-4-0
John Smallwood	10-1-0
Steve Kellogg	10-2-0
Mike Pizer	9-1-1
Bruce Snowden	7-1-0

Third Row, Left to Right

Steve Sachs	4-1-0
Mark Harris	4-1-0
Walter Zook	2-4-0
Tom Milligan	5-0-0
Jeff Knosden	1-1-0
Scott Powell	6-0-0
Steve Neeback	4-2-0
Joe Calmont	4-0-0
Mike Donny	3-0-1
Roger Plaskon	6-1-0
Kent McDonald	8-1-0

Not Pictured

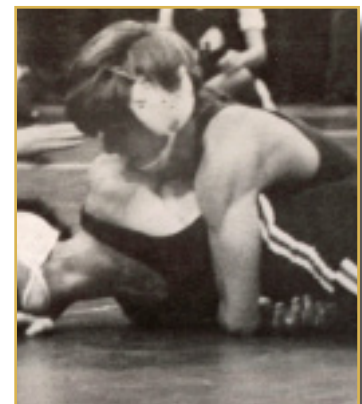
Marshall Hand	7-1-0
Craig Mae	0-1-1
Steve Trout	3-0-1

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LHS		OPP.
51	Central	9
44	Largo	18
59	Gwynn Park	8
25	Northwestern	24
27	High Point	12
32	Bowie	11
42	Surrattsville	*8
42	Parkdale	13
55	Bladensburg	3
39	Friendly	14
35	Duval	15
49	Fairmont	12
43	Potomac	7

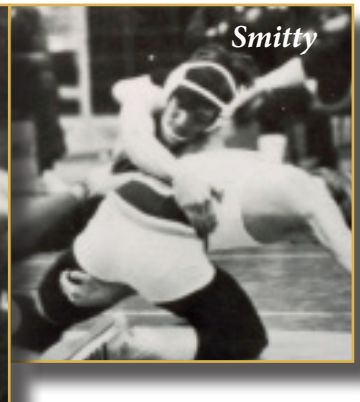
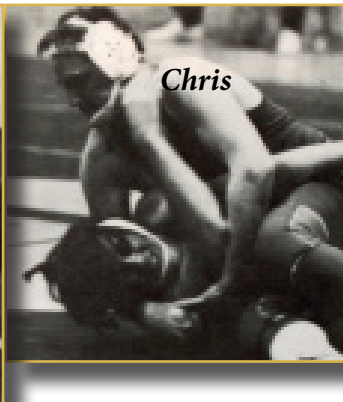
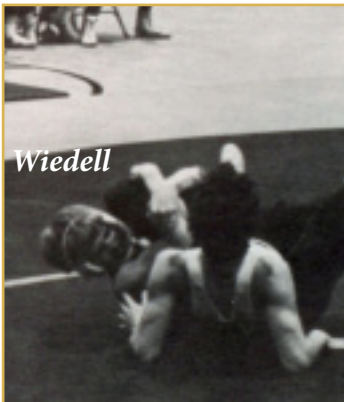
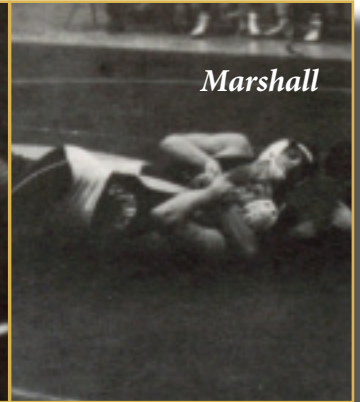
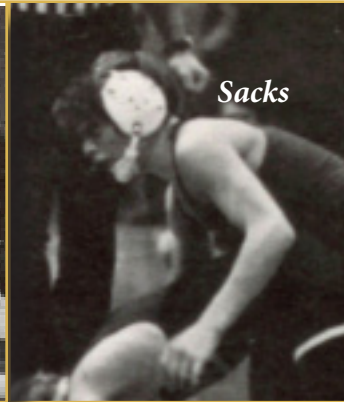
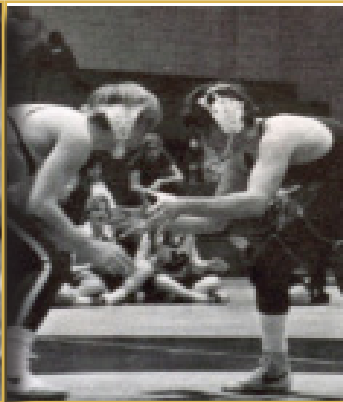


Bigbee



Wilson

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Dethrone Laurel

★ From Page B-7

Sakowski. Melbourne upset the top seed in the county tournament last year in the 119-pound class.

Central

Another team looking forward to possibly its best season is Central. The Falcons, coached by Bernie Smollen, had the most wrestlers ever, 32, try out for the squad, which won't have its outstanding wrestler of a year ago. It will, however, be stronger all around.

Gone is Mel Hart, the first wrestler from Central ever to go to state, and his 19-1 record. But there appears plenty of potential for coach Smollen to work with.

Back is junior Anthony Williams, who was 9-3 in the 103 division, and senior Ronnie Williams, who was 10-3 at 112. The Falcons will show strength in sophomore Kevin Price at 132, Tyrone Lawson (9-1 in junior high) at 145 and Steve Card at 155. Card, a hard-nosed football full-back, never wrestled until high school, but went to wrestling camp this summer.

Oxon Hill

Oxon Hill will mix youth with experience. The Clippers, who were 8-3-2 last season, have six returning lettermen, and six sophomores.

Two wrestlers who went to the regionals are back. Bobby McDonald will move from the 132 class to either 153 or 165 and Steve Veato will be at 138. McDonald was 16-6, while Veato 15-5.

Also returning are 98-pounder Russ Sanchez (5-0), 105-pounder Pete Snyder (9-1-1), 119-pounder Kevin Robinson (7-2) and Dan Scheid (6-6). Scheid wrestled four different weight classes last season.

The remaining weights will be manned by sophomores.

Surrattsville

We aren't going to be real strong," admitted Hornet coach Lew Jenkins, whose team was 6-5-2 last season. "We have a couple wrestlers with some experience under their belts and a couple who might go all the way, but the rest are still learning."

Four wrestlers who gained letters last year, Chris Moore at 185, Dominic Antonioli at 155 or 167, John Jenkins at 138 and Tony Morici at 198, return for the Hornets. Antonioli was 10-3 last season and Jenkins, who will be out until after Christmas with a broken thumb, was 10-1.

Potomac

One team that may surprise people this season is Potomac. The Braves were 8-5 last season, their best in five years, and just lost one tournament placer, Hernandaze Williams, who was 12-0.

Back are seven starters, all tough competitors, who registered .500 records a year ago. The classes break down like this: 105 Curt Hosler, 112 David Scalera, 119 Randy Henigin, 126 Jim Strain, 132 Ralph Carnahan, 155 Jim Aloji, and 167 Chris Amorose.

Gwynn Park

Coach Sid Solomon says he knew what he was stepping into when he took over the coaching duties at Gwynn Park. The Yellow Jackets, who sport a top basketball team, haven't won a wrestling match in their history.

"It will take a while, but we'll build a wrestling program," said the new coach.

Three experienced wrestlers, Don Cyr, 119, Steve Zilliox, 155, and Mark Wiedmaier, 145, will be joined by 20 sophomores.

Suitland

Coach Ken Lima of Suitland should have been a doctor. The Rams had as many as eight wrestlers out of the lineup at one time enroute to a 3-9 record last season.

Six are back this season for the Rams, including captain Keith Jone, and Joe Walls, the only wrestlers that finished with a record over .500. "If we can stay healthy," says coach Lima, "we have a shot of getting into some tournaments."

Parkdale

Parkdale has five solid wrestlers returning from last season's 6-6-1

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squad, though not as much experience as coach John McNeilis would like.

One of the kids could be Mike Walsch, a state champion his sophomore year, and 11-2 last season. Walsch was ill during last year's state, but finished fourth in the regionals.

Another fourth place regional finisher was Don Hresko, who posted a 9-4 record in the 155 pound class. Two other seniors, Paul Robey (10-3) in the 119 class, and Bill Contarino (6-6) at 165 join Walsch and Hresko.

Largo

Just behind the power schools, is Largo. The Lions, 5-8, last season, have experienced wrestlers back in the middle weights that should provide consistent points.

Warren Jamison, who's been bothered by a cracked thumb, was 11-3 last season though he missed the county tournament because of illness. At 138, Jimmy Dockett lost only two matches, and 145-pounder Tyrone Haper was undefeated on the JV.

Friendly

It appears Friendly's lightweights will be carrying the load for the Patriots who were 6-7 last season.

Leading the experienced group is little junior Mike Brown, a 98-pounder.

Friendly also has three seniors in 138 pounder Tony Brown, 11-1 last season but upset the first night of the county tourney, and Ken Pritz, 181 pounder, and 195-pound Dave Dell'Isola, who were both 8-4 last year.

DuVal

The Tigers' practice sessions

could develop into their most competitive matches of the season. *

Including three returning lettermen, DuVal, 10-3 last year, have 15 wrestlers in the 98-145-pound range.

Co-captain Devin Capizzi at 145 leads a host of middleweights that should make DuVal strong in the tournaments, but limited in the dual meets.

Returning at 98 is Bill Wensel, junior runner-up in the county and district last year. Joining him is Stan Pedersen at 132, Rob Pessagno at 126, Steve Seufert at 105 and John Meyer at 185.

High Point

With 10 returning regulars back from last year, High Point coach Steve Ruckert is eyeing improvement on the Eagles' 8-5 record.

Kevin Friday, Urson Domanque, Speck McNealy and Don Whitehead head an experienced, balanced lineup. As a sophomore in the 98 class, Friday was 12-1, with his only loss by one point to Bill Thomas of Northwestern, who was third in the state. Friday is likely to move up in class this season.

Bowie

Bowie has had tough luck the past two seasons. Twice it was 11-1, the losses each time coming to defending champion Laurel. One bright spot was heavyweight Mitch Kadziel, who was undefeated. However, he graduated last spring.

"We'll really miss Mitch," Bowie coach Dave Phillips said. "However, we have a nucleus of fine wrestlers coming back."

In the 98-pound and 119-pound classes Bowie will have Pete Ong and Bob Popp. Both were 9-3 in 1974-75 and fourth in the county

and third in the regionals. Two brothers, Danny and David Pottorff return at 126 and 132 pounds, respectively. Danny was 8-4 last year while David was 11-0 and fourth in the state.

Fairmont Heights

Only four wrestlers return from a 3-10 season for the Hornets. Percy Dixon, who placed in the county, is at 138. Seniors Gilbert Thomas and Terry Gilliam are at 119 and 167, respectively, while 270-pound John Kenney is at heavyweight.

Crossland

Three wrestlers who combined for 47 victories last year are gone for Crossland, but Kevin Figge, state champion at 132, is back to lead the Cavs.

"We have a solid team," coach Gerald Vance said. "We have some returning experience along with some new faces that might work their way into the lineup."

Figge will start at 145 but should drop later in the year to 138, according to Vance.

Jimmy Dobbink, who bench presses 200 pounds, returns at 105. Pat Brady, a junior heavyweight, and Chris Rogers at 167 are also back as five classes are still undecided.

Bladensburg

Coach Tom Sinibaldi has one big question this year, "What will happen between his two returning lightweights and his heavyweight?"

Kelven Scales and Dennis Mills are back at 98 and 112, while Curtis Skinner is a top heavyweight. Other than that Sinibaldi will field five sophomores and five juniors who have not wrestled much. The Mustangs were 7-6 last year.

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Continued

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By JIM GALATI

Coming this following Wednesday, the Bowie High School Athletic Department will be featuring one of its most colorful attractions of the year — the Bowie-Laurel wrestling match.

As usual, both teams will clash head-to-head with unbeaten records. Instead of being undefeated through their first twelve games, though, as was the case for the past two seasons, the schedule-makers have arranged for the classic match to be held in the middle of the year, after each club had wrestled five times.

However, the anticipation of the upcoming bout has had its normal affects on the two teams. While their respective fans have been sitting at home over the holidays, lazing off the time and enjoying their new-found freedom, the Bowie Bulldogs and Laurel Spartans have been in their respective wrestling rooms, conducting hard, concentrated, early-morning practices.

When they meet Wednesday, the winner will leave the mat ready to breeze through the rest of the season towards an undefeated title. The loser will sit in their own dressing room shaking their heads, wondering what went wrong, and contemplating their survival chances for the upcoming all-out battle for second place.

This is like the seventh game of a World Series, or Stanley Cup playoff — a mid-season Super Bowl, in fact.

tough, winning wrestlers.

Both Bowie and Laurel are well-coached, with Dave Phillips, Bruce Bowser, and Vic Schwartz manning the helm on the Bowie end. Each group uses different lineup strategy, though, and Laurel appears to thwart Bowie's tricks each time. The Bulldogs like to move good wrestlers down a weight category in order to gain more favorable odds. Meanwhile, coach Cohen has a specially selected individual from his vast roster to meet the challenge.

Therefore, with all the shifting of weight classes and sudden lineup changes, it becomes nearly impossible to supply the fan with a definite starting program. However, each weight class will be examined from here on, in order to make an obscure vision of the match a bit clearer.

98-pounds — Peter Ong, Bowie's leading wrestler with five pins in as many matches, will face Laurel's Bob Bigby, who, like Ong, is 5-0. Last year, Bowie coaches and fans heavily relied on Ong to defeat the Spartans' Kirk Wiedel in the flyweight match. Ong lost, though, thus leaving the Bowie co-captain determined not to fall apart again.

105-pounds — Chris Wiedel, a veteran in a Laurel uniform, will wrestle John Ong of Bowie in another clash of unbeatens. Each participant is 5-0, but Wiedel has experience over Ong, who is only a sophomore. Ong will need a

lot more than a third-period explosion.

112-pounds — Bowie's Ron Sinclair, 5-0 will have to face either one of two tough opponents, Mike Teems or Donald Cumberland, both 2-0. Sinclair has no pins this season, and really doesn't need one here, but both of these Laurel matmen are threats to win another one of their coveted three-point decisions.

119-POUNDS — Bowie's Bob Popp, 5-0, a senior who has been plagued with two straight draws against Laurel in past season, has his hands full with either Frank Mabry, 3-0, or Steve Smith, 1-1. Smith's only loss came at the hands of a champion High Point wrestler in the final seconds of their match.

126-pounds — Laurel's Mike Pitzer, 3-1, a solid veteran wrestler, will go up against Bowie's Dan Pottorff, an unbeaten senior at 5-0. Pottorff is enjoying his best season ever, but must always beware of Pitzer, who, like his teammates, is famed for his clutch three-point decisions.

132-pounds — Dave Pottorff, another one of Bowie's unbeaten wrestlers at 5-0, may, for a change, have a somewhat easier match against Laurel's Steve Kellogg, 2-2. Though Kellogg is certainly the underdog, Pottorff will have an extremely difficult time attempting to pin him.

138-pounds — At this point lies perhaps the biggest of all

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However, there are no extra innings, or sudden death overtime periods. If the score is tied after twelve bouts, the match will be declared a draw.

The most remarkable aspect of the Bowie-Laurel wrestling rivalry is the preparation each team undergoes to ready themselves for it. Each year Bowie is faced with the great anticipation of the match, each year they toil and labor in practice to get in top physical shape, and each year Laurel beats their brains out.

"Not this year," says Bowie 133-pound star Dan Shilling. "I know we're going to beat Laurel, this year."

Laurel is only a class A school, but they seem to uphold a great wrestling tradition. Unbeaten since 1972, the Spartan matmen have become so overwhelmingly popular with their fans, a Homecoming wrestling match is held each season for them. They are coached by the shrewd and cunning Beryl Cohen, who has built the reputation for consistently producing

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the matches. Jim Shilling of Bowie, 4-0-1, a wrestler with great intelligence and quickness, is pitted against Laurel's unbeaten sensation, John Smallwood, who has decked all five of his opponents. Shilling lost to Laurel's Kurt Palchefskey by default last year, and is coming off to his injury with positive determination to whip Smallwood.

145-pounds — Laurel's Guido Vandrunen, a pleasant surprise to Beryl Cohen at 3-1, will face either Joe Holland, 2-1-1, or Steve Cohen, 0-1. Cohen was originally Bowie's man for the 145-pound slot this year, but in suffering a mild injury, was replaced by Holland, who has looked exceptionally sharp.

155-pounds — In losing state champion Perry Lichtinger through graduation, Laurel has been forced to use Vic Holland, now 1-2. He will probably face Mike Moreland, an improved Bowie wrestler at 4-0, but there is a possibility that Moreland could move down a weight category, in a "soak-off" attempt.

167-pounds — Laurel's Vic Vebrone, 2-2, will face either Bowie's William Ross or Mark Wiant, who has

wrestled at 185-pounds this year. Both Ross and Wiant have been pinned in all of their matches, but if the latter can move down a weight category, it may open a new dimension for the team.

185-pounds — Bowie will wrestle either William Ross or Mark Wiant here, against the Spartans' Bruce Plaskon, 1-3. Laurel is weak in this weight category too, after losing Jackie Cropper through graduation last year.

Heavyweight — Laurel has found a fairly good heavyweight, Kent McDonald, who has racked up a 3-2 record. He'll face either Bowie's Tim Rabbit, 0-3, or Jerry Gerdes, 0-2.

Overall view — The Spartans thrive on winning the big matches against the tough teams. They may aggravate Bowie with their pesty lightweight victories, but no section of their lineup is as overwhelmingly strong as it was last year.

The Bulldogs will not have to worry about getting pinned in their lightweight classes, as much as they have to worry about gouging out an 18-point lead by the time the three heavyweight matches arrive.

The biggest worry, though, is getting that kind of lead. Laurel is strong where Bowie is strong, and likewise, they are weak where Bowie is.

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Laurel wrestlers conquer Bowie, Surrattsville bids

By Dave Ginsburg
Sentinel Correspondent

To put it simply, the champs were ready to wrestle.

Bowie came into last Wednesday's match with Laurel boasting a 5-0 record and riding high hopes of upsetting the county's perennial dual meet kings. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, Laurel realized the challenge and responded magnificently.

After the Spartans' Don Cumberland bested Ron Sinclair in the third bout of the night, Laurel never trailed and turned back Bowie 33-11. The victory left the Spartans as the county's only remaining unbeaten squad.

"The kids practiced and wrestled a little harder than usual," said Laurel coach Jerry Collins. "It was a closer match than the score indicated, but we won the close bouts when it counted."

Pattern set

The first two matches set the pattern for the rest of the night. Laurel's Bob Bigby beat Pete Ong (6-4) to open the match, but John Ong avenged his brother's loss by nipping Kirk Weidel 4-3. The Spartans then pulled away from yet another team that has tried and failed to break Laurel's long dual meet victory string.

Surrattsville was next in line and fell to Laurel Saturday by a 42-8 count. The Hornets' only points came on a decision by Dominic Antonelli (189) and ties by John Jenkins (149) and John DiMichele (147).

Laurel received falls from Weidel, Cumberland, and heavyweight Kent McDonald, who disposed of Randy McCoschen in 30 seconds.

The Spartans also registered four shutouts, excluding John Smallwood's scoreless draw with Jenkins. Bigby, Steve Smith (134), Vic Holland (157) and Roger Plaskin (167) all

blanked their foes.

Friendly (6-1) remains a match behind Laurel and coach Larry Parker admitted he's already thinking about his team's match with Laurel on Jan. 26.

Last week Friendly ripped Crossland 28-25 and drubbed Suitland 47-12. Mike Bowen (100) started Friendly off against the Cavaliers with an 18-1 decision, but it took a 6-0 Ken Pritz (183) decision to finally ice the match.

Contributing heavily in the Patriot victory were Keith Polak (114) and Greg Rutkal (121). Polak, wrestling his first match of the season after recovering from an injury, pinned his opponent. Rutkal, a sophomore, upped his record to 6-1 with his fourth fall in a row.

Friendly pins

Against Suitland, Tony Brown (148), Pritz, and heavyweight Steve Eisenbergh all recorded falls. Pritz flipped the Rams' Bill White on his back in 34 seconds.

Oxon Hill increased its record to 5-2 with two victories, 40-12 over Central and 40-18 versus Fairmont. Double winners for the Clippers included Steve Beato (147), Dave Scheid (140), Resty Sanchez (107), and Bob McDonald (169). Beato's two falls increased his personal record to 6-0-1 while the latter three wrestlers each own 6-1 legs.

Potomac came within two bouts of upsetting High Point Saturday, 23-20. Breaking a 20-20 deadlock, the Eagles' Don Whitehead and Mike Hurley both got falls in the match's final two bouts to quell any Brave upset bid.

Potomac victors included Dave Scalera (114), Jim Strain (128) and Bill Jefferson (147). Curt Hoessler also notched a forfeit. Scalera edged High

Point's Kevin Friday 2-1, handing the Eagle 114-pounder his first loss of the year.

High Point could record only three wins in the first eight bouts. Steve Chatlin (121) scored a 9-7 decision, Speck McNealy (134) pinned Mel Davis in 1-49, and Steve Marko (140) topped Ralph Carmahan 8-1.

But the Eagles' strength lies in their upper weights and High Point was the last four bouts to erase a 20-14 Potomac lead. Steve Parker (157) and Mike Burke (189) both won easy decisions to set the stage for Whitehead and Hurley.

Double loss

Bladensburg fell twice. In a 42-11 loss to Potomac, only Carrie Yin (100) and heavyweight Curt Skinner notched victories. Yin ripped Martin Beck 5-4 and Skinner pinned Dave Morrison in 1:28. Mike Catlett (157) got the Mustangs two points by tying Jim Alai 4-4. Alai was wrestling in his first match since recovering from a shoulder injury.

Also returning to action for the Braves was Randy Hennigan (121), who had missed several weeks with a broken ankle. Hennigan celebrated his return with a 20-6 drubbing of Dennis Mills.

Largo suffered a heartbreaking 26-24 loss to Crossland. Cavalier heavyweight Pat Brady needed a fall to secure the win, and he got it, nailing the Lions' Terry Augustus.

Earlier in the week, Largo cruised past Suitland 22-12. Claude Boss (100) started the match with a fall and Augustus ended it the same way. In between, Chai Tharaberg (134), Warren Jamison (140), and James Dockert (147) also recorded pins.

Fairmont Heights breezed by Douglass Wednesday before running into Oxon Hill Saturday and split for the week. The 30-15 victory against

the Eagles gave Fairmont its second win of the year, matching last year's entire total.

Kelvin Wallace (100), Percy Dixon (133), Steve Barret (157), and Larry Foreman (169) all pinned their opponents. In addition, Dave England (187) rolled to a 15-2 master decision after having the whole vacation to think about his last match, a 10-second pinning of Friendly.

"You can bet he wanted this one," said Hornet coach Gerald Greenbaum.

Clippers tough

England didn't fare as well against Oxon Hill. In fact, only three Hornets won. Wallace got his third fall in a row, heavyweight John Kenny got a 10-second pin, and Dixon won his seventh straight with a second period fall.

"Percy Dixon is the best in the county," declared Greenbaum. "I look for him to go 13-0 and I expect him to pin in every match."

Dixon's next opponent should be Central's Tommy Thompson, as Fairmont travels to Central Jan. 18 in a battle of 3-5 squads. Thompson had a tough time in Central's 1-1 week, losing twice. In the loss to Oxon Hill Thompson fell short of Kevin Robinson and against Gwynn Park Dale Mounier pinned the Falcon 134-pounder in 4:28.

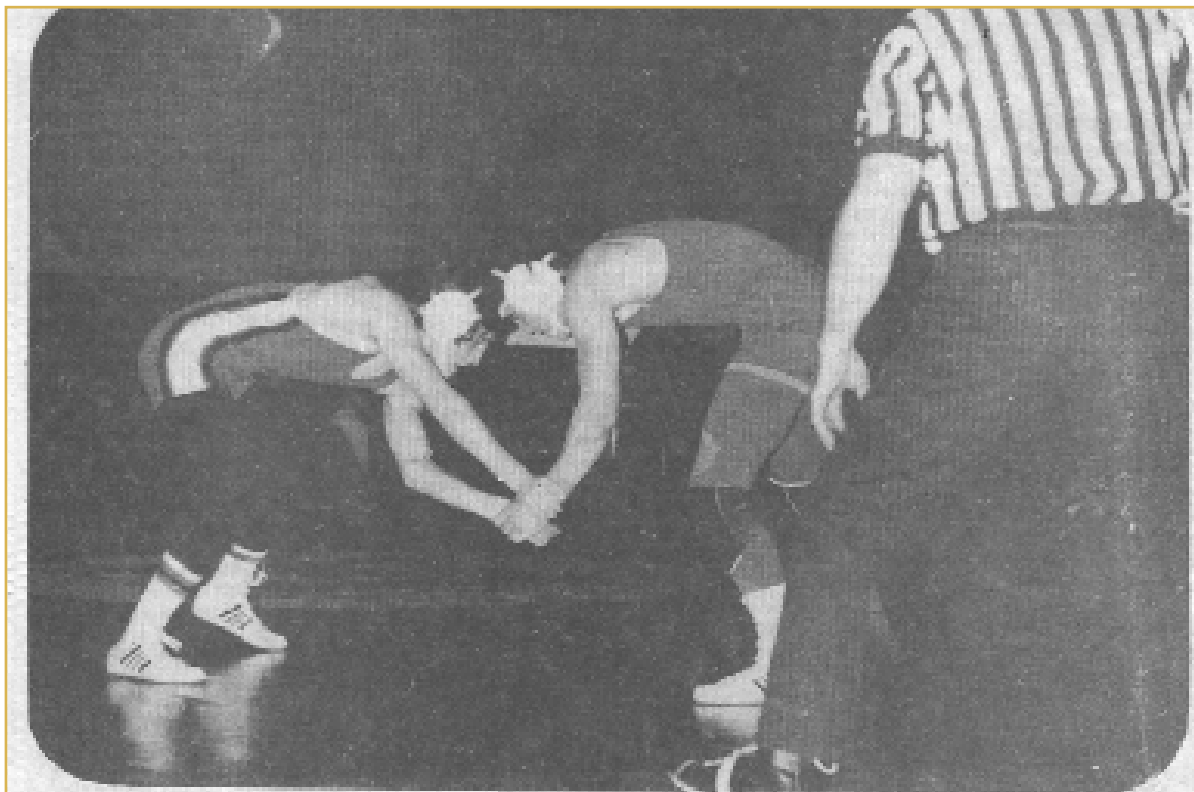
Anthony and Ron Williams continue to excel for Central. The two scored decisions against Oxon Hill and also won against Gwynn Park, 23-15. Anthony Williams (114) beat the Yellow Jackets' Mike Stoval in 4-40 while Ron Williams (121) blanked GP's Don Cyr 4-0. Tyrone Lawson (157) also won twice and is now 5-0.

Gwynn Park rose to respectability by scoring 15 points against the Fal-

See LAUREL, A-8

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Ron Sinclair and Laurel's Don Cumberland tie up in their bout, won by Cumberland. Laurel won the meet as well, 32-11.

Black Photo by Bob Howard

BHS Wrestlers Fall To Laurel, 32-11...

By JIM GALATI

For the third year in succession, the Bowie Bulldog wrestling team fell unmercifully to the Laurel Spartans, a team unbeaten since 1972. The Spartans rolled up a 32-11 victory over Bowie last Wednesday, after handing the Bulldogs 35-9 and 40-11 defeats in the respective years of 1974 and 1975.

As usual, it was Bowie's inability to win the vital matches that cost them the Laurel match. The Spartans appeared very strong and readily prepared for the dual under the coaching guidance of Deryl Cohen.

It may take Bowie forever to forget the frustrating third-period reversals the

Cumberland and Mike Pitzer in the 113-pound and 119-pound weight classes respectively.

Cumberland had a third-period 6-3 lead on Bowie's Ron Sinclair, and withstood a reversal from the Bulldog to win it, 8-6. Afterwards, Pitzer completely dominated Bowie's unbeaten co-captain Bob Pogg, who was unsatisfied with two draws against Laurel Spartans in recent years. Pitzer earned a three-point nearfall while nearly pinning Pogg in the first period, and went on to conquer his opponent, 8-2.

Laurel's Steve Smith then absolutely stole a victory from the clutches of Bowie's

126-pounder Dan Pottorff. Pottorff owned a late second-period lead of 5-1, only to see the unbeaten Spartans scrap his way back to earn a 3-3 draw. Actually, Smith had seemingly earned a nearfall in the last seconds of that match, and coach Cohen and 700 Laurel fans thought their man should have been awarded a 7-5 victory.

Pottorff's brother, Dave, followed up, though, with a rather convincing 9-6 victory over Laurel's Steve Kellogg. Some felt that Dave could have achieved a bit more than a three-point victory, when the first period ended with his opponent down, 4-0. Kellogg fought back,

however, and the Bulldogs were only able to cut the Spartan lead to 11-8.

Afterwards, the 1300 bipartisan fans were awarded with the big bout of the match — Bowie's Jim Shilling against Laurel's John Smallwood in a 138-pound mauling. They were tied, 3-2, after one period of action, and 4-4 after two periods. Smallwood, however, used a third-period reversal to win the match, 6-2, and abolished a large portion of any remaining Bowie hopes for victory.

In the 145-pound bout, Laurel's Guido Vandrunen defeated the Bulldogs' Joe

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Exasperation must be the byword for the matmen at Bowie and Northwestern as both squads attempt to dethrone Laurel as the wrestling power in the county.

After his squad downed High Point 30-23 last Saturday night, Bowie Coach Dave Phillips gave an indication of his outlook saying, "Laurel pretty much has it," a big concession from the coach of a top contender.

Both Bowie and Northwestern gave the Spar-

tans a run for their money in their meets, however, as Bowie lost 32-11 to Laurel on Jan. 7 in a meet the score doesn't really reflect. Northwestern came closest to toppling the powerful Spartans the week before Christmas, 25-24.

A reason for coach Phillips' remark may rest in the fact that Bowie and Northwestern must face each other Jan. 31 in a meet that will leave only one on Laurel's heels. Another reason, however, for Phillips' dim view may be

the remainder of Laurel's schedule. The Spartans have already downed their strongest challengers, Bowie, Northwestern and High Point, while the only possible threat remaining appears to be DuVal, which suffered consecutive defeats to Bowie and Northwestern this past week.

Surprisingly, the optimism that should surround a coach so fortunate as Laurel's Beryle Cohen is lacking. Cohen vocalizes his less than exuberant outlook, saying,



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"I don't think we are doing as well as we did last year. It takes time to get experience." Cohen graduated eight grapplers last year, but his charges this season have been rolling up crucial wins at a surprising rate, considering their inexperience. Only seven of the 30 team members are seniors, with the largest contingent coming from the sophomore class with a dozen 10th graders on the squad.

Cohen is quick to note that, although he has a relatively young squad, many of the juniors wrestled last year and that he usually starts two or three seniors in each meet.

Despite the indications by the Laurel coach, Cohen is not one to look to for an indication of his squad's strength. At the beginning of the year, he commented, "it's going to be a long winter," adding that he was way behind at that time. For Bowie, Northwestern and other county squads, he wasn't far enough behind.

Last week, Laurel continued to prove it was the squad to beat as it breezed to two easy wins over Parkdale and Bladensburg. In the Parkdale match, 134-pounder Steve Kellogg and John Smallwood at 140 pinned their opponents in aiding Laurel's 42-13 win. Vic Holland took his 155-pound match over Mike Donnessa with superior points.

Coach Phillips' comment came after the Bulldog handed High Point its second loss of the year. The Bulldogs controlled most of the lower weight classes as they ran up a 30-5 lead going into the 167-pound bout. The final three bouts were a High Point, however, as the heavier Eagle grappler helped give High Point a respectable showing.

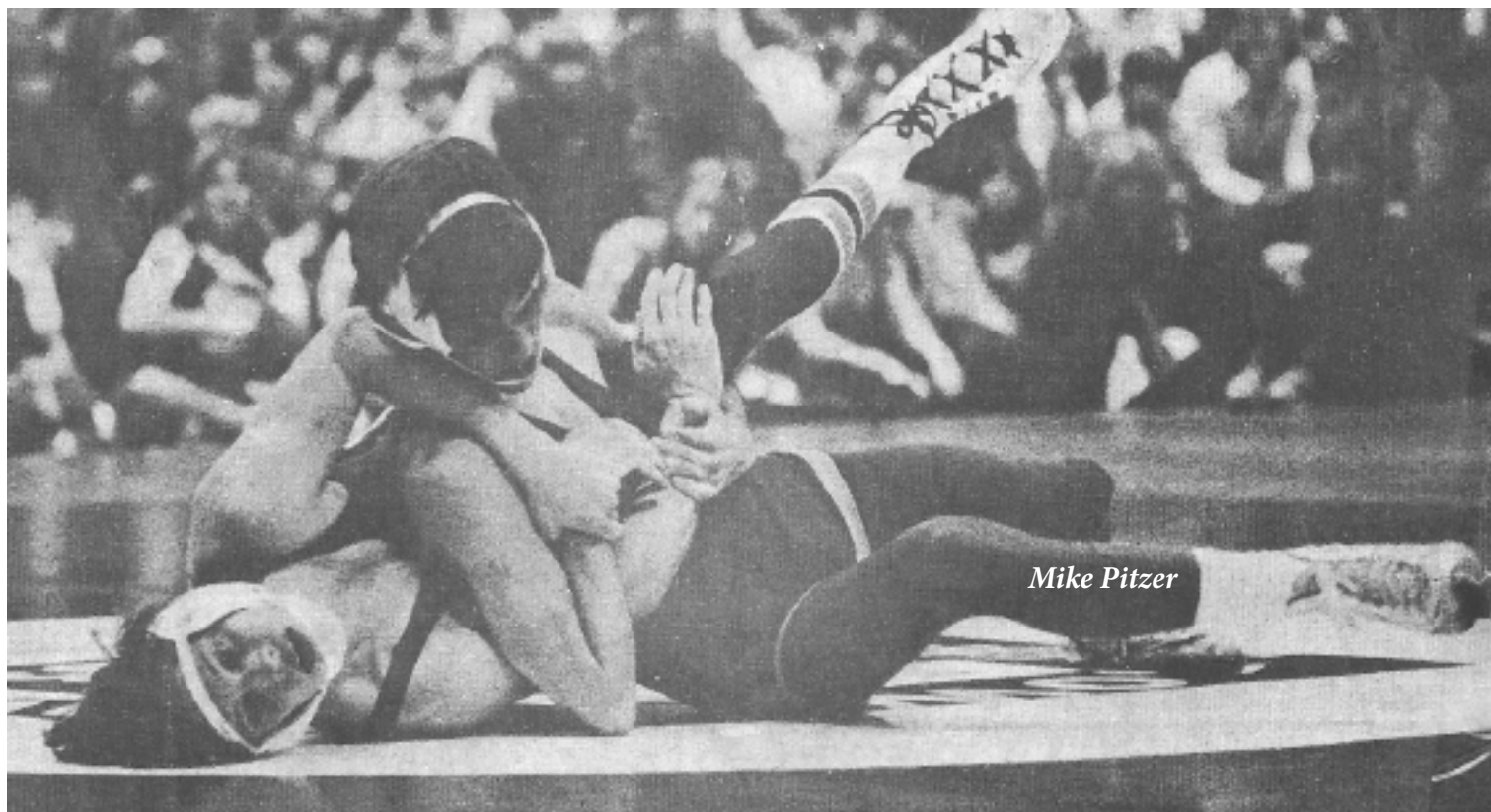
High Point's Mike Burko at 167, Gary Myzick at 118 and Don Whitehead in heavyweight were the only grapplers to win on fall. With the exception of one bout, all of Bowie's wins were by decision. Two Bulldog matmen, Pete On in the 98-pound class and Danny Pottorff at 126, won their bouts with superior points as both contribute five points to the team score.

In a mishap during the first period of the 138-pound bout, High Point's Steve Marlo sprained his ankle resulting in a default to Bowie's Jim Shilling.

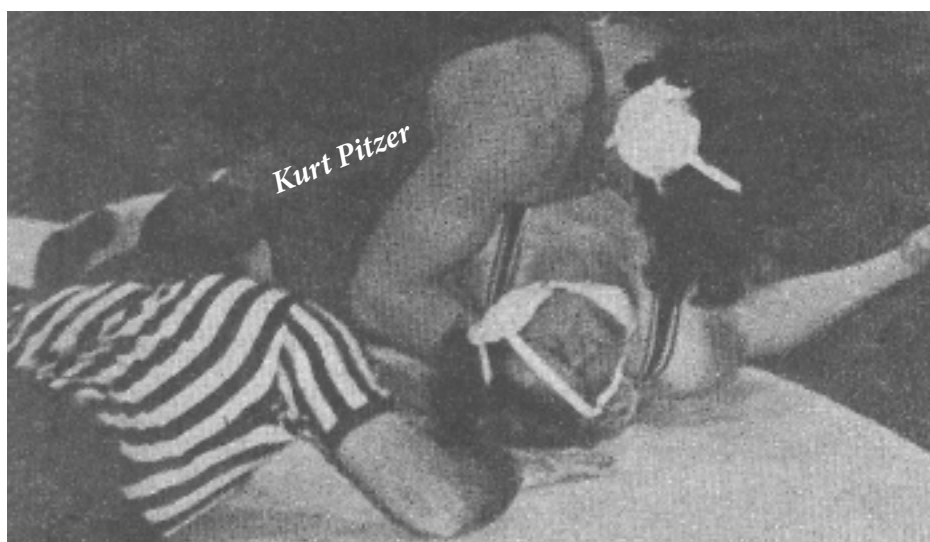
The win over High Point Bowie's eighth, came three days after the Bulldog defeated previously undefeated DuVal, 39-21. High Point, which had suffered only one loss before the Saturday meet, downed Bladensburg, 40-12.

For Northwestern winning continued to be the order of the day as the Wildcats downed both Surrattsville, 30-21, and DuVal, 31-19, last week.

1975 -- 1976 Season



The Sentinel
January 14, 1976



The laurel leader
February 14, 1976

1975 -- 1976 Season



Season Highlights

Roger Plaskon. Behind by 15 points going into the final bout, Bowie conceded the heavyweight class to Laurel.

Six Easy Wins

After beating Bowie the Spartans were assured of the dual-meet title if they could win the remaining contests. The schedule ahead presented little challenge as Laurel destroyed Parkdale, Surrattsville, Bladensburg, Friendly, Duval, Fairmont and Potomac by a combined score of 304 to 72.

The wins of mid-January were fairly routine, but the overall performances of the team showed improvement with each match. The lower weight classes continued to pulverize all challengers. The middle classes wrestled with marked consistency, with stars Mike Pitzer and Smallwood crushing everyone in sight. The upper weight classes, which suffered some problems early in the season, won when they had to.

Emerging as determined wrestlers during this period were seniors Vic Holland and Roger Plaskon. Both did junior varsity duty during the season, but put on some sparkling performances in varsity competition. Plaskon recorded the only pin over Bowie by beating Mark Wiant in 2:28, and Holland devastated Parkdale and Bladensburg and Duval opponents, winning three superior decisions by a combined score of 44-3.

Also in the final meets of the season, there was evidence of the Spartans' determination to win and their commitment to bringing a championship to Laurel. Andy Verrone injured his arm in a match earlier in the season and was unable to finish his bout with Parkdale's Bill Goulart. Verrone bounced back quickly from the injury by winning 11-6 decision against DuVal and a 4:54 pin against Friendly.

Much of the Spartan's hopes were placed on the devastating grapple of senior John Smallwood. He began the season with four straight pins and built up a 10-0 record. He was ill when

1975 -- 1976 Season



Season Highlights

Continued

5 Laurel traveled to Friendly,
1 but wrestled anyway, and
2 won a 17-4 decision. The next
3 day his doctor diagnosed his
4 illness as pneumonia and will
5 not allow him to wrestle in
6 tournament competition.
7 Not only did it dim the
8 Spartans' chances for a state
9 title, but it ended early the
10 career of a fine high school
11 wrestler.

Outstanding Wrestlers

After each dual-meet, the opposing coach picks who he feels was the outstanding Laurel wrestler of the meet. A tribute to the team balance of the Spartans is the variety of wrestlers picked for this honor throughout the season.

Outstanding wrestlers this season were John Smalwood, Central; Mike Pitzer, Largo and Gwynn Park; Don Cumberland, Northwestern; Kirk Wiedel, High Point; Bob Bigbee, Bowie; Smalwood, Surrattsville; Steve Smith, Parkdale; Vic Holland, Bladensburg; Gerald Wilson, Friendly; Cumberland, Fairmont; and M. Pitzer, Potomac.

Winning Slogan

Most teams develop a slogan at the beginning of the season that proclaims their aspirations for the campaign. Most slogans prove to be unrealistic when the season ends, many even ludicrous in their false optimism.

ends, many even ludicrous in their false optimism.

Beryle Cohen's slogan for 75-76 was simple, but it accurately stated not only his team's performance this season but the entire tradition of what he has brought to Laurel:

"When you think of wrestling, you think of Laurel. When you think of Laurel, you think of wrestling. When

you think of

you think of Laurel wrestling, you think of champions."

Season Highlights

- Dual meet Champions (13-0)
- Section III Champs, 2nd in District and 2nd in Regional

1975 -- 1976 Season



The Laurel High wrestlers moved easily through the county sectional tournament last weekend at Parkdale, capturing three individual titles and advancing the entire team to the District.

Winning the final matches for the Spartans were Mike Pitzer (119), Chris Orsborne (145) and Vic Holland (155). Four other Laurel wrestlers made it to the finals but were defeated.

In team points, Laurel was the runaway winner. The Spartans collected 150 points, followed by second place Surrattsville with 79. Duval totalled 71, Potomac 68, Parkdale 61, Central 46, Bladensburg 25, Gwynn Park 20 and Fairmont Heights 16.

There were a few surprises in the championship rounds as Laurel lost four of seven matches. Robert Bigbee (98) was upset by Curt Hosler of Potomac, 5-4. Just a week ago in the last dual meet of the season, Bigbee had defeated Hosler, 7-3.

Also upset was Steve Smith (126), losing to former state champion Mike Walsh of Parkdale, 9-2. In regular season competition, Smith beat Walsh, 6-4.

Don Cumberland (105) lost his first match of the season against Duval's Bill Wensel, 3-0. Roger Plaskon (185) was pinned by Duval's John Meyer in 5:17.

Mike Pitzer had the first finals victory for the Spartans by decisioning Parkdale's Paul Robey, 12-4. Orsborne downed Don Hreskio of Parkdale, 11-4, and Holland defeated Chris Anrose of Potomac, 8-2.

Winners of the other finals were Anthony Williams (112), Central, over Robert King, Surrattsville, 5-1; Percy Dixon (132), Fairmont Heights, over Ralph Carnahan, Potomac, 5-1; Devin Catizzi (138), Duval, over John Jenkins, Surrattsville, 13-2; Dominic Antonoli (167), Surrattsville, over Robert Dunn, Central, 13-0; and heavyweight Curtis Skinner, Bladensburg, over Tony Smith, Duval, 4-2.

Laurel will advance all 12 of its wrestlers to the District

County Results

tournament this Friday and Saturday at Largo High School. The top four finishers of the Parkdale sectional will compete against the top four from the Bowie sectional to determine a county tournament champions.

Besides Bigbee, Cumberland, Mike Pitzer, Smith, Orsborne, Holland, and Plaskon, Laurel will also be represented at the District by Gerald Wilson (112) Marshall Hand (132), Guido Vandrunen (138) Kurt Pitzer (165) and Kent McDonald (166).

First Round

In the opening round of competition at Parkdale on Thursday night, Laurel won 11 of 12 matches. Recording pins were Bigbee, Cumberland, Mike Pitzer and McDonald. Winning on decisions were Wilson, Smith, Hand, Orsborne, Holland and Plaskon. Vandrunen advanced to the semi-finals with a bye and only Kurt Pitzer was defeated.

Semi-Finals

The competition began to stiffen on Friday, but the Spartans held firm despite a few losses. Bigbee and Cumberland won again, but Wilson was decisioned by Williams of Central. Also dropping semifinals matches were Hand to Dixon of Fairmont, 8-4; Vandrunen to Jenkins of Surrattsville; and McDonald to Smith of



Cohen and Roger Plaskon confer at mat-side in the action. Plaskon finished second over of Duval in the finals. Photo By Mike

1975 -- 1976 Season



Duval.

Advancing to the championship rounds with semi-final wins were Mike Pitzer over Mills of Bladensburg, Smith over Stram of Potomac, Orborne over DiMitchele of Surrattsville, Holland over Mueller of Gwynn Park and Plaskon over Moore of Surrattsville.

Consolations

All of the Spartans who lost were beaten by wrestlers who eventually competed in the finals, so they were given an opportunity to win third or fourth place in the consolation rounds. By this means, the entire team made it through the tournament.

In the consolations, Wilson decisioned Eschove of Potomac, 7-3; Hand won by forfeit over Prince of Central; Vandrunen decisioned Jefferson of Potomac, 5-0; McDonald pinned Williams of Parkdale; and Kurt Pitzer pinned Dunnam of Bladensburg.

Bowie Sectional

The sectional tournament at Parkdale was just one of two held in the county last weekend. Half the teams competed at Parkdale, the other half at Bowie.

Bowie won its sectional with four individual champions and 117½ team points. Crossland placed second with three champions and 91½ points. High Point finished with 77½ points. Northwestern 67½, Friendly 65, Oxon Hill 55, Largo 43, Suitland 9½ and Dougless 3.

County Results

Continued

1975 -- 1976 Season



John Smallwood

All Smiles for Tournament Victory

John Smallwood is all smiles as he clutches the first place trophy his Laurel High teammates won at the county sectional tournament at Parkdale on Saturday. Smallwood would have been the top seeded wrestler in the tournament, but he could not compete because of illness. The team gives him a ride on their shoulders as a tribute to his outstanding performance during the regular season. The Spartans won the tournament and advanced the entire team to the District tournament this weekend at Largo. Complete details and photos of the victory appear on page A-13. Photo By Mike Teems.

The Laurel Leader
February 12, 1976



Photo by: Mike Teems

1975 -- 1976 Season



WRESTLING TEAM

RECORD 13-0-0

P.G. COUNTY DUAL MEET CHAMPIONS

SECTION IV CHAMPIONS

COACH: BERYLE COHEN

KIT BUCKINGHAM

*** *Robert Bigbee	*** ** *Mike Pitzer
Joe Culmone	Kurt Pitzer
Donald Cumberland	Roger Plaskon
Mike Dorsey	Kent McDonald
Marshall Hand	Steve Sacks
Mark Harris	John Smallwood
Steve Kellogg	Steve Smith
Jeff Krionderis	Bruce Snowden
*Victor Holland	Mike Teems
Frank Mabry	Steve Trout
Tom Miligan	Guido Vandrunen
Steve Moe	Mike Vawter
Steve Nuzback	Kirk Wiedel
** *Chris Orshorne	Gearld Wilson
Scott Pasolli	Walter Zook

* Section IV Champion
** District III Champion
*** Region II Champion

1975 -- 1976 Season



Laurel Wrestlers Win Title

Laurel and Bowie, which wrestled to a tie in dual meet season, waged a two-way battle in the Prince George's County Sectional at Crossland last night with Laurel a winner, 192½ to 178.

Laurel finished with five champions and four runners-up. Bowie tied and four runners-up. Bowie, the defending county champ, had four winners and four second place. Potomac was third with 36½ points and DuVal finished fourth at 62½.

A near-upset occurred at 132 when Dave Potorff, third in the state last season, face Steve Smith of Laurel. Smith in a dual meet, was awarded a Potorff had posted a 13-0 win over referee's decision after a tie through overtime.

- 98—John Ong, Bowie, pinned Mike Pearson, Parkdale, 29.
- 105—Pete Ong, Bowie, dec. Robert Bigbee, Laurel, 8-5.
- 112—Bill Kenzel, DuVal, dec. Andy Stone, Bowie, 10-5.
- 119—Ron Sinclair, Bowie, dec. Mike Vawter, Laurel, 3-2.
- 126—Mike Pitzer, Laurel, dec. Doyle Bigsby, Suitland, 4-1.
- 132—Dave Potorff, Bowie, referee's dec. Steve Smith, Laurel.
- 138—Joe Holland, Bowie, dec. Dave Scheid, Oxon Hill, 19-11.
- 145—Joe Culmone, Laurel, dec. Ed Mayhew, Bowie, 4-2.
- 155—Guido Van Drunen, Laurel, dec. Tom Devlin, Bowie, 8-4.
- 167—Mike Hardman, Suitland, OT dec. Bruce Snowden, Laurel, 6-4.
- 185—Roger Plaskon, Laurel, pinned Paul Lucic, Parkdale, 5:41.
- HEAVYWEIGHT**—Kent McDonald, Laurel, pinned Ed Williams, Parkdale, 2:40.

23

- 98—Ken Kertesz, Friendly, dec. Clark Bess, Largo, 20-4.
- 105—Nat Thorn, Largo, dec. Tony Morisi, Surrattsville, 7-4.
- 112—Paul Del 'Isola, Friendly, dec. Anthony Williams, Central, 2-0.
- 119—Steve Chapman, High Point, dec. Mike Brown, Friendly, 4-2.
- 126—Pat Donovan, Crossland, dec. Kevin Friday, High Point, 7-1.
- 132—Bill Nowacki, Crossland, dec. Tony Dockett, Largo, 9-7.
- 138—Rich Ryan, Northwestern, dec. Daryl Thorne, Largo, 7-6.
- 145—Steve Marlo, High Point, dec. Tom Davis, Largo, 6-1.
- 155—Zan Dodson, High Point, pinned Mike Sutton, Largo, 3:22.