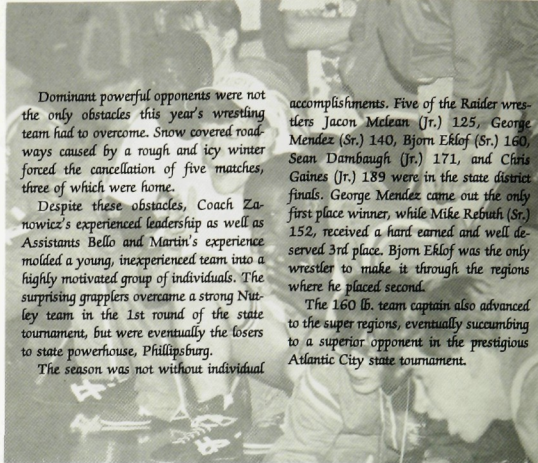
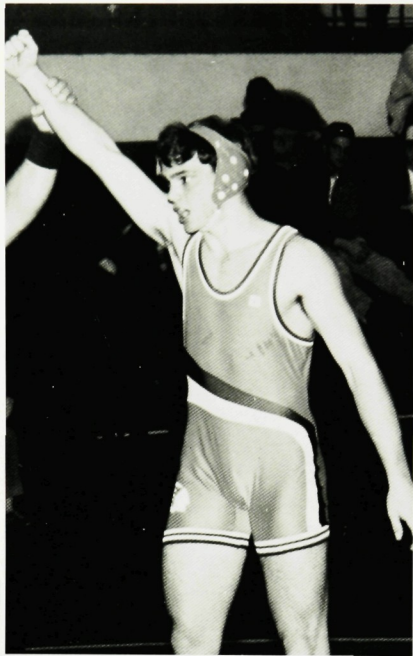


TAKEDOWN



Dominant powerful opponents were not the only obstacles this year's wrestling team had to overcome. Snow covered roadways caused by a rough and icy winter forced the cancellation of five matches, three of which were home.

Despite these obstacles, Coach Zanowicz's experienced leadership as well as Assistants Bello and Martin's experience molded a young, inexperienced team into a highly motivated group of individuals. The surprising grapplers overcame a strong Nutley team in the 1st round of the state tournament, but were eventually the losers to state powerhouse, Phillipsburg.

The season was not without individual

accomplishments. Five of the Raider wrestlers Jacon Melean (Jr.) 125, George Mendez (Sr.) 140, Bjorn Eklof (Sr.) 160, Sean Dambaugh (Jr.) 171, and Chris Gaines (Jr.) 189 were in the state district finals. George Mendez came out the only first place winner, while Mike Rebusi (Sr.) 152, received a hard earned and well deserved 3rd place. Bjorn Eklof was the only wrestler to make it through the regions where he placed second.

The 160 lb. team captain also advanced to the super regions, eventually succumbing to a superior opponent in the prestigious Atlantic City state tournament.

