

# Sports

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 15, 1996

## Sports Wrap-up

Games played  
through February 13

### Boys' Basketball

Bayport-Blue Point 67, Rocky Point 59  
Mount Sinai 55, Bayport-Blue Point 46  
Central Islip 78, Connetquot 56  
Lindenhurst 61, Connetquot 55  
Copiague 62, Sayville 53  
Sayville 69, Deer Park 31

### Girls' Basketball

Bayport-Blue Point 59, Rocky Point 40  
Mt. Sinai 50, Bayport-Blue Point 37  
St. Francis Prep 41, Connetquot 36  
Connetquot 67, Central Islip 39  
Sayville 44, Deer Park 34  
Sayville 49, Copiague 37

### Wrestling

Miller Place 31, Bayport-Blue Point 25  
Bayport-Blue Point 66, Greenport 6  
Patchogue-Medford 45, Connetquot 17  
Sayville 45, Babylon 14  
Sayville 24, North Babylon 24  
Sayville 37, St. John the Baptist 17  
West Islip 46, Bayport-Blue Point 16

### Basketball playoff outlook

#### Locks

Bayport-Blue Point girls, 7-4  
Connetquot girls, 10-1  
Sayville girls, 8-2  
Sayville boys, 7-4

### PAL Softball registration

The Suffolk County Police Athletic League will be holding girls' softball registration for the upcoming spring season. The program operates in the Blue Point area and is open to all girls grades K-9. For further information, call 852-6112.

### Suffolk County offering lifeguard training program

Suffolk County will offer a nine week training program for prospective lifeguards who want to take the civil service lifeguard examination.

The training program will be conducted at the Sayville Junior High School on Johnson Avenue in Sayville from 7 to 10 p.m. on the following dates: March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 19, 26; and May 3, 10, 17.

For more information about the lifeguard training program and the test schedule for the examinations, please contact the Suffolk County Department of Parks at 864-4964.

## Phantom playoff hopes dashed

### Bayport-Blue Point boys' basketball loses 55-46 to Mount Sinai

by Hank Shaw

It would have been the Cinderella story of the year.

Had the Bayport-Blue Point boys' basketball team beaten Mount Sinai Tuesday night, it would have set up a showdown against League VI powerhouse Westhampton tomorrow. After losing 55-46 in Mount Sinai, though, tomorrow's game will merely be a contest to finish .500.

In effect, however, the Phantoms had been in a playoff mode since beating playoff-bound Shoreham-Wading River on January 30. Sporting a 2-5 record going into that contest, Bayport-Blue Point coach Bob Vacca knew he needed all five of his remaining games to earn a postseason berth — something no Phantom team had done in 19 years.

Shoreham went down. Then Comsewogue. Then, just last week, Rocky Point. Suddenly, Bayport-Blue Point was 5-5 and right in the hot seat for a playoff spot. The pressure might have rattled them, though, because their match against the Mustangs of Mount Sinai could not have been more important.

"It was an identical situation for both teams," Vacca said. "We both had to win our last two games, and we hadn't

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Bobby Haas (Number 42) lifts a jumper into traffic during the opening minutes of Bayport-Blue Point's 67-55 win over Rocky Point last Thursday.

Suffolk County News/Hank Shaw

## Sayville wrestlers League IV co-champions

by John Lee

In many ways, it was a miraculous case of symmetry. The last time a Sayville varsity wrestling team won a league championship was 13 years ago and a senior 119-pounder by the name of Gary Pesko was on the team. Now he's the coach.

This year, Pesko's first full season as varsity coach, the Sayville wrestling squad racked up a six-game league undefeated streak all season long, leading up to their final League IV match against equally undefeated North Babylon in Sayville Friday night.

"I'm happy, but disappointed," Coach Pesko said after his Flashes tied the Bulldogs 24-24. Happy at the way his team had performed all season long, disappointed that they hadn't won the championship free and clear.

What did he consider the highlights of the match? "Well," he said, "the level of

support was really gratifying. There were more than 350 spectators in the gym and there have never been that many before."

As far as the bouts were concerned, Pesko was most impressed by Michael Cox's win over Tony Dellauniversite at 98 pounds, because the North Babylon athlete had been winning all season long and he and his team expected an easy win. It should also be noted that Cox wrestled the final period with a taped, strained left thumb. The other win that especially pleased Pesko with was Jason Homestead's over Steve Pamiccioli at 105 pounds.

Sayville did well at the lighter weights and was buoyed up by Liam O'Keefe's come-from-behind win with 20 seconds left in the third period of the 138 pound bout. North Babylon, however, was equally fueled and replied with two quick pins. After the 167 pound bout, Sayville was trailing by six points, needing both heavyweight matches to win.

With two decisive bouts to go, the noise was deafening as both sides cheered on their respective teams. Bleachers rocked and the boards rang and groaned under thundering feet as the Flashes began to pull away.

Erich Hellmold, at 177 pounds, defeated John Simucik 10-3. Now it was down to heavyweight Jim Knote. If he could defeat the 215-pound Hassan McBroom, the match would end in a tie. If he lost...

When the final horn sounded the Flashes and their supporters in the stands erupted. Shoulders on the Babylon side drooped, though heads stayed high. They had thought they were going to win and the tie was bittersweet. Sayville had looked at defeat and had bullied past it. They were jubilant at the final score of 24-24.

Now it's on to the league and county tournaments and, hopefully, the state championships for some of the squad as the season's emphasis shifts from the team to the individual. ■