

1966 State ...



**STEVE BEIER**  
157-Pounder



**GEORGE BRANCO**  
165-Pounder

News-Messenger Photos

## Beier, Branco Carry City Colors In State Mat Meet

St. Joseph's first district champion and another in a long line of Ross wrestlers to go this far will be competing in the state wrestling tournament this weekend. The Crimson Streaks will be represented in the state meet by Steve Beier, district 157-pound champion. George Branco, runnerup to state champion Joe Green of Scott at district, will compete in the 165-pound class for the Little Giants.

Beier, only the second St. Joseph wrestler to qualify for state, goes into the big weekend at Columbus with a season mark of 21 wins, no losses.

Branco's only two losses in the past two seasons have been in district competition. He is currently 19-1 for this season with his only loss being to Green in the district finals. A year ago Branco broke a collar bone and was forced in defeat to drop from the district competition.

Branco and Beier will be joined from the area by Jerry Biddle, Lakota 112-pounder, who won the consolation bracket at district.

Only other Crimson Streak wrestler to gain state tournament chance was Tim Weltin. Weltin was district runnerup and competed in 1959 at Columbus. This was the first year of competitive wrestling at the Croghan street parochial school.

Coach Mal Mackey has had a long line of wrestlers move to state at Ross. There have been four Little Giants win positions at State and one state champion, Jim Mooney, 120 pounds, 1960.

Others to place in the state tournament all placed in 1959 when Ross made its strongest push since the state tournament has been in Columbus. That year Dick Swedersky took a second, while Jim Otermat and Paul Overmyer each placed fourth.

Most recent to make the state tournament from Ross was Mike Frantz in 1964. In 1963 three Little Giants went to state, Larry Kelley, Glen Haas and Ralph Starr, according to Mackey.

State wrestling begins with preliminaries Friday at 1 p.m. Semifinals will be the same day at 7 p.m. Saturday will feature the semifinals at 1:30 and finals at 7:30 p.m.

## College Scores

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tournaments  
NCAA College Division  
(Quarter-finals)

Akron 74, Long Island U. 68  
North Dakota 63, Abilene  
Christian 62  
Ky. Wesleyan 84, Central  
Connecticut 76  
Southern Ill 93, Fresno St. 70

## ***Injuries Cut County Pair's Mat Bid Short***

COLUMBUS — Injuries will deprive two area wrestlers from a second chance at a position in the Ohio high school wrestling championships. Three wrestlers from Sandusky county were in competition at the state meet.

Two of them, Steve Beier of St. Joseph and George Branco of Ross, lost their first matches. Jerry Biddle of Lakota fell in the second round. The boys who defeated the county grapplers remain unbeaten, thus keeping alive the hopes of Beier, Branco and Biddle to get a berth in the consolation round. All wrestlers beaten by the two in each weight class to reach the finals are given the second chance in the consolation.

Despite the results of today's semifinal matches it is unlikely that Branco or Biddle will be able to compete again. Both fell victim to injury that forced default. Branco was leading Steve Scipio, 168-pound match, when he suffered a rib separation. The injury brought an end to the bout.

Biddle decisioned Wiley Patton of Copley in the first round. In the quarterfinals he suffered an arm injury, giving a default win to Ron Sheer of Cleveland Heights in the 112-pound class.

Beier had an equal heart-breaker in battling Canton McKinley's Bill Nucklos to a 0-0 draw in two overtimes only to lose on a referee's decision. Nucklos went on in the 157-pound quarterfinals to decision Len Jackson, Dayton Roth, 4-3.

Most successful area wrestler was Genoa's Lynn Spaulding who advanced to the 103-pound semifinals with two decisions. Belknap of Port Clinton won his first match but went to the sidelines in an 8-2 loss to Mike Milkovich, Maple Heights.

Maple Heights appeared in good shape to annex its fifth state high school wrestling championship. Maple Heights, which finished second last year, held the early lead with Cleveland Heights after the first two rounds. Both posted seven points and each had three competitors left for today's semifinals and finals.

Bedford, early favorite with six entries, showed four points after the first day, but only had two performers left.

John Marshall, Canton McKinley and Parma Valley Forge all registered six points.

## Maple Heights Captures Fifth State Mat Title

COLUMBUS — Cleveland area schools won three of the top four spots Saturday in the state high school wrestling championships, with Maple Heights winning its fifth state title.

Three Sandusky County wrestlers didn't get a second chance in the consolation after losing in early competition Friday. One of the three, George Branco of Ross, would have had a consolation chance, but a rib injury prohibited him from competing.

Branco suffered a rib separation and had to default in his first match to Steve Scipio, Martins Ferry. Scipio advanced to the finals before falling to Joe Green of Toledo Scott. Green was one of two to win second state championships. Green was state title holder at 157 pounds last year. The other repeater was Frank Romano, Maple Heights, at 103 pounds.

Steve Beier of St. Joseph lost his second chance when his conqueror by referee's decision, Bill Nucklos, Canton McKinley, fell in the semifinals to Jim Eiben, Cleveland John Marshall, 9-1. Nucklos then fell a second time in the consolation to Bruce Vanderbunt of Wauseon in the battle for third place, 4-0. Vanderbunt was a victim of Beier in the district tournament at Toledo.

Jerry Biddle of Lakota had won a first match but suffered an arm injury to eliminate him from further competition in the quarterfinals. His foe in that match then lost the next time out, 2-1, to Mike Milkovich, son of Maple Heights coach.

