

# Kovalick Becomes State Champ With Unbeaten Mark

Bellaire High senior wrestling star Mike Kovalick accomplished a rare feat Saturday night at Ohio State University's St. John Arena.

The 185-pound high school champion in the state of West Virginia last year when he was competing for Weirton, Kovalick won the Class AA-Class A title at the same weight in the giant Ohio schoolboy tournament last night before a crowd of over 10,000 fans.

Thus, young Kovalick, the son of Coach and Mrs. George Kovalick, has become champion in two different states in a two-year period.

Defeated only once in two seasons, Mike finished his senior season with a perfect record in 28 starts as he scored a 4-2 triumph in the Ohio finals over Mike Lowe, of Licking Heights, who had won 31 straight matches.

Kovalick, who was never taken down nor turned on his back during the entire two-day tournament, Coach Denny Bowman pointed out, scored a first-period takedown and was ahead all the way. He rode out his strong rival in the second period, scored a reverse in the third period and thus was able to absorb two penalty points and still retain a winning margin.

The Eastern Ohio district had a total of six place-winners in the Class AA-



**MIKE KOVALICK**  
... Ohio champion

Class A competition. Randy Davia, the 175-pound Cadiz junior whose string of 26 straight victories was broken in the semi-finals when he was pinned by Mike Won, of Ashville Teays Valley, suffered two more pins in the consolation bracket and finished sixth in his class.

Bridgeport's Dick Primovic (26-4) bounced back from a Friday loss to take third place in the 155-pound class with three straight Saturday victories. He got into the consolation finals by pinning Mike Kristoff, of Columbus DeSales, in 4:25 and then got revenge against Carrollton's Jeff Fox, who

had bested him in both the sectional and district tournaments, by taking a 4-2 verdict.

Two Belmont County rivals, Union Local's Kelly Wallace (24-4) and Barnesville's Rick Drake (24-4), met in the state finals in a battle for fifth and sixth place in the 98-pound class and the mites put on a sterling match which Wallace won, 3-2.

The team championship in Class AA-Class A went to Medina Highland, which had 52 points to second runnerup Painesville Harvey's 34.

Eastlake North nipped defending champion Maple Heights, an 11-time Ohio titlist, for triple-A team laurels.

On Friday, Kovalick defeated Ron Clark (23-2), of Cincinnati Deer Park, 4-1, and on Friday night he bested the previously unbeaten Jeff Smucker, of Archibold, who had won 24 in a row, 4-1. Then on Saturday afternoon, he scored a convincing 9-3 decision over Bruce Hensley, of Rootstown, who had captured 15 in a row without a defeat.

After scoring two pins on Friday night to extend his winning streak to 26, Davia, first Cadiz wrestler ever to perform at the state tourney, sustained his initial loss when he was pinned by Mike Wilson (29-1), of Asheville Teays Valley, in 3:15 at Saturday's semi-finals.

Also in the semi-finals, Union Local's Wallace was yielding to unbeaten Dave Fisher, of Beechwood, 8-0, and Barnesville's Drake was being pinned by Tony

Constantinos, of Cleveland Orange, in 3:45. Constantinos thus took a 20-2 record into the finals while Fisher was 25-0.

In the consolation bracket, Wallace bowed to Larry Thompson, of Bellefontaine, 8-2, and Drake was a 13-7 loser to Chuck Tisdale, of Rossford.

Several other local wrestlers appeared in the consolation bracket, with Mike Davis, 105-pounder from Bellairé St. John's, being pinned by Stan Herbert, of Loveland, in 4:50; John Vrotsos, Martins Ferry 119-pounder, being decided by Mike Irving, of Painesville Harvey, 16-4; Bridgeport 155-pounder Dick Primovic scoring over Terry Nichol, of Eaton, 7-4, and Bellaire 167-pounder Brian Regoli carrying Dave Roach (28-1), of Delta, through overtime before losing on a referee's decision.