



DREAM TEAM CLASSIC



CLIFF KEEN ATHLETIC

Outfitting passion.

California Makes A Statement Dream Team wins, but not without a struggle

By David White
The Fresno Bee
Photos by Wyatt Schultz

Clovis High wrestler Troy Tirapelle struck a bodybuilder's pose, flexing his sculpted biceps toward the roaring crowd of 1,700 at Clovis West.

It symbolized the message from the California all-star team to its national all-star counterparts: left-coast wrestling is stronger than they thought.

"We made a statement," Tirapelle said. "They thought they were a little better before the match than they did after."

Did California win the Dream Team Classic on Saturday? Of course not.

The 38-12 loss was to be expected against a cherry-picked team of 14 seniors from nine states, including seven national number ones and six others ranked in the

top four.

Just don't think much came easy to the Dream Team, which left equally impressed and aggravated by the local uprising.

"I think they caught us off guard," said Matt Fields, the top ranked heavyweight from Iowa. "We took things for granted and underestimated our opponent. That's what killed us."

And No. 2 Jeff Jagers, a four-time state champion from Ohio?

"They're all right," he said after losing to Tirapelle 8-2 at 135 pounds.

The latter sentiment is why California wrestling has a complex over its national reputation.

California is recognized for excelling in flashy technique, but feels looked down

upon by Midwest programs that emphasize brute strength.

Local organizers brought the event to California for the first time to prove otherwise.

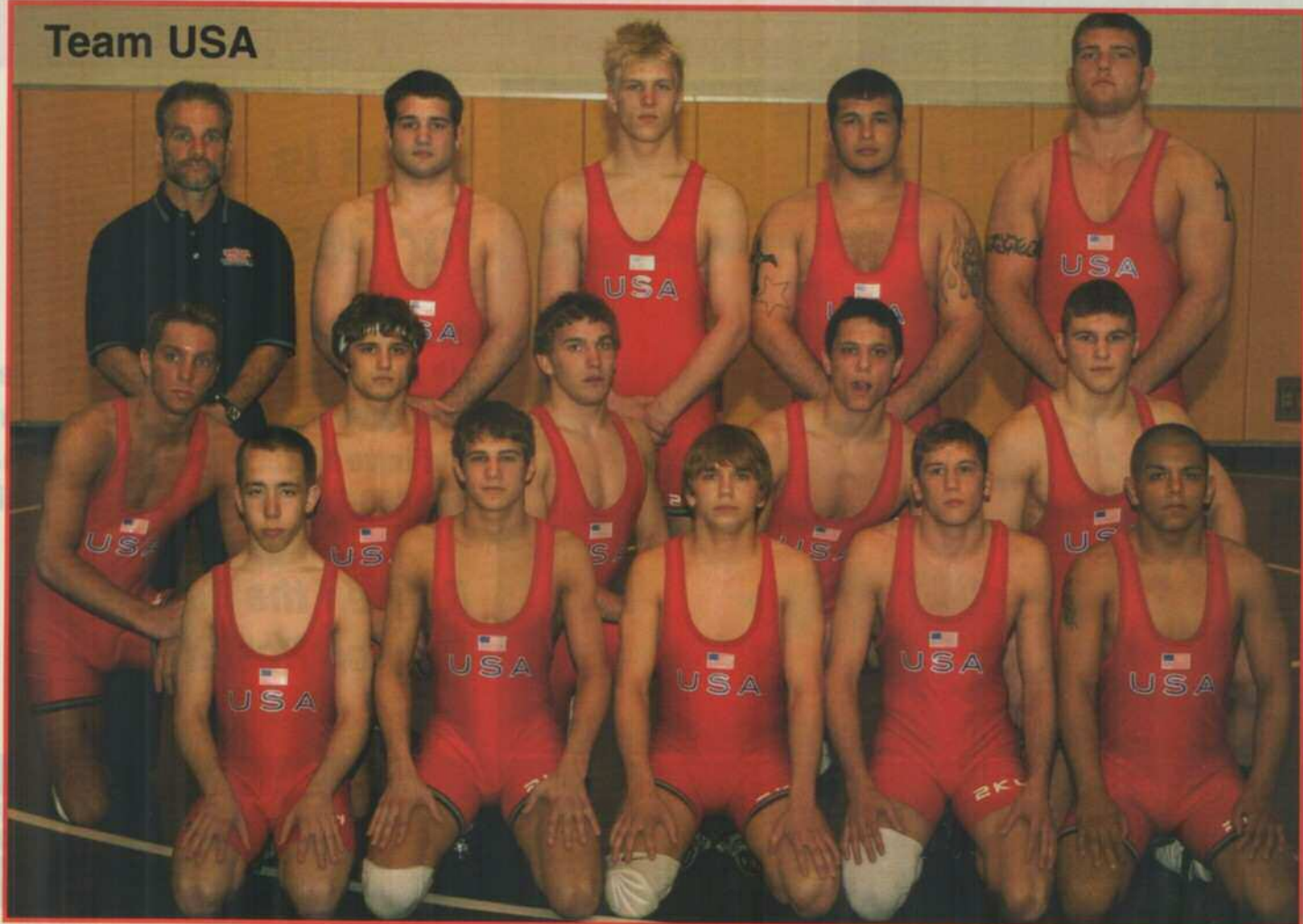
"It's always the Midwest battler versus California's slick style, and we don't always get the respect we deserve," said Fresno State assistant coach Gerry Abas.

"This shows we're right up there with the best in the nation."

Consider Fresno State-bound Chris Martinez of Clovis West. He slipped from the national ranking, but used a takedown with 5 seconds left to stun top-ranked Trevor Chinn of New York at 145.

Unranked Californians David Naverette (103) and T.J. Dillashaw (119) beat

Team USA



opponents with four state crowns between them. Three other Californians lost by two or fewer points.

"They came in here, like, 'Aw, we're the No. 1 guys, we should go out there and roll through,' but it wasn't like that," Martinez said. 'Even when we didn't win, we're going out there and putting on a show."

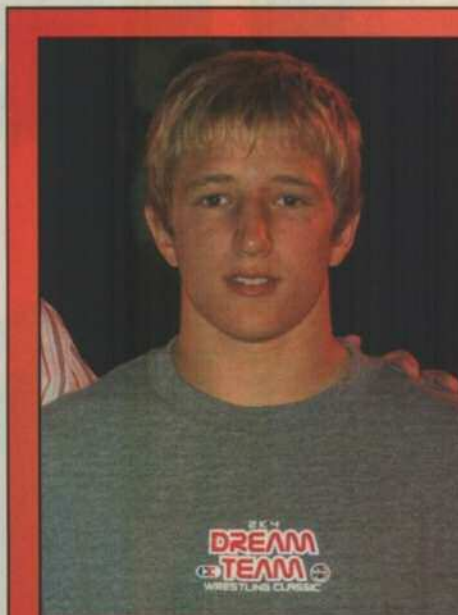
A show it was, from the smoke machine to the blaring sound effects and elevated strobe lights.

Big-name coaches Bobby Douglas of Iowa State and Jim Zelesky of Iowa were in attendance, along with staffs from Fresno State, Arizona State and Cal Poly.

California's four victories are the second-most by the home state and more than the past two hosts, Iowa and Minnesota, combined.

Eighth Annual Dream Team Classic Results

103- Joe Weygand (USA) 6-Dave Navarrete (CA) 10; 112-Paul Donahoe (USA) pin 5:12 Sabi Masuta (CA); 119-Charlie Falck (USA) 5-TJ Dillishaw (CA) 7; 125-Coleman Scott (USA) TF 15-Steven Juarez (CA) 0; 130-Joe Gomez (USA) TF 21-Aaron Mendenhall (CA) 4; 135-Jeff Jaggers (USA) 3-Troy



Team California Outstanding Wrestler
T.J. Dillishaw

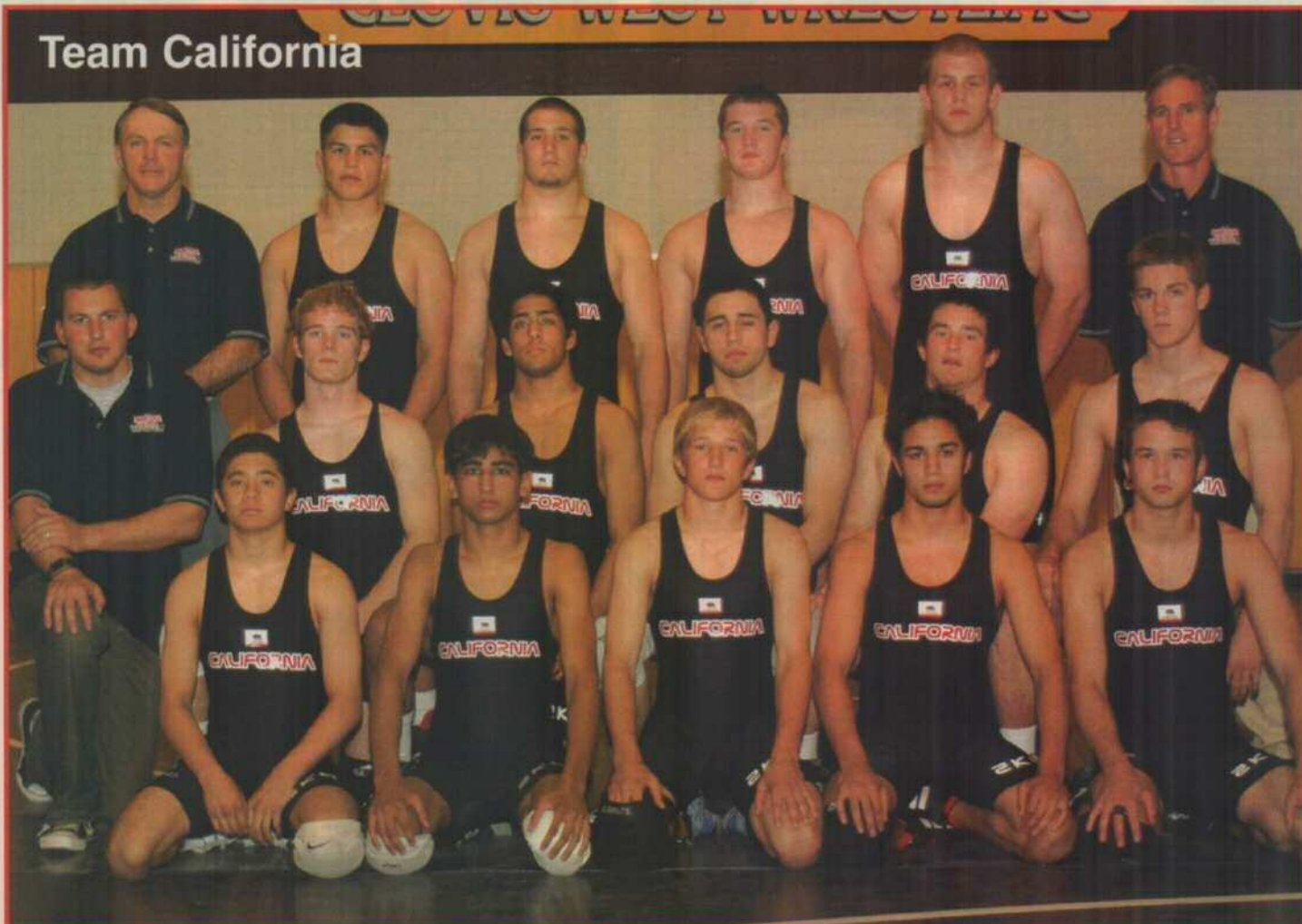


Team USA Outstanding Wrestler
Coleman Scott

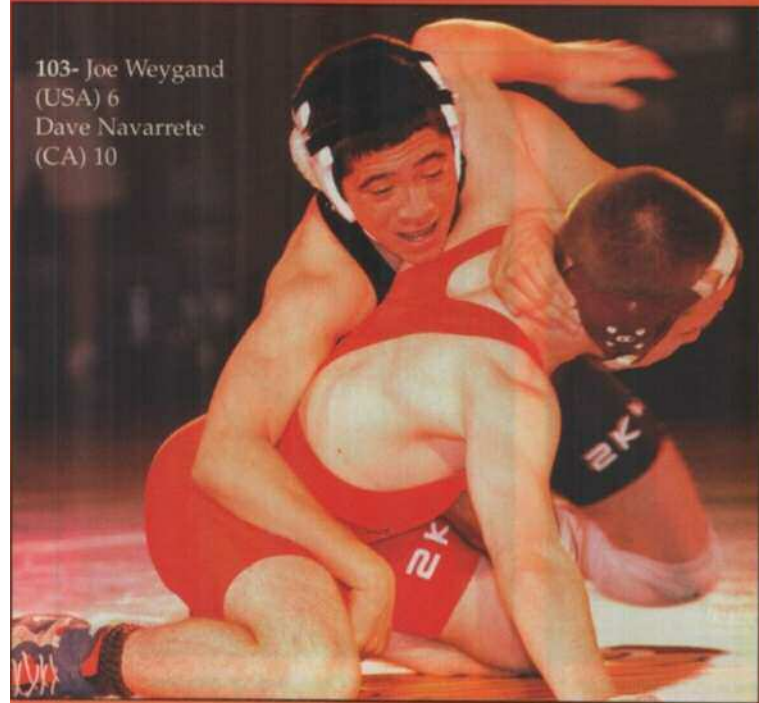
Tirapelle (CA) 8; 140-Alex Tsirtsis (USA) 9-David Juaregui (CA) 7; 145-Trevor Chinn (USA) 3-Chris Martinez (CA) 4; 152-Mike Poeta (USA) 3-Ryan Williams (CA) 2; 160-Steve Luke (USA) 6-Calvin Devault (CA) 4; 171-Kurt Brenner (USA) pin 2:57-Marcus

Garcia (CA); 189-Ryan Goodman (USA) 19-Jeff May (CA) 9; 215-Joe Dennis (USA) 10-Brandon Halsey (CA) 4; 275-Matt Fields (USA) 12-Wade Sauer (CA) 1
Final score
USA DREAM TEAM 42 CALIFORNIA 12

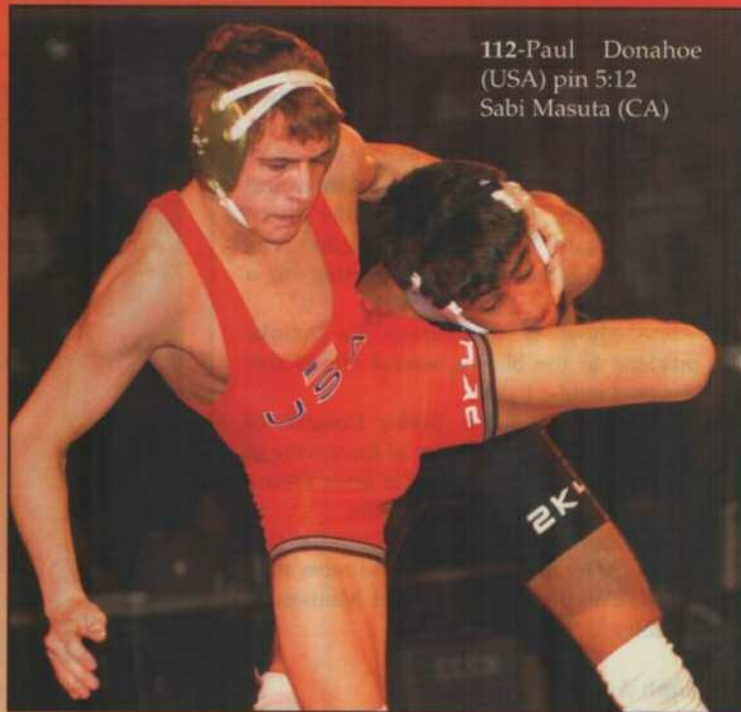
Team California



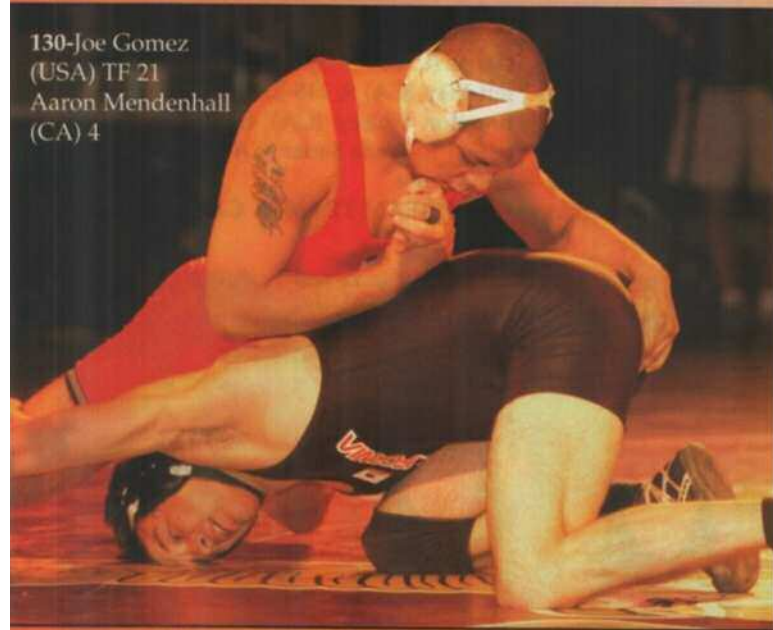
103- Joe Weygand
(USA) 6
Dave Navarrete
(CA) 10



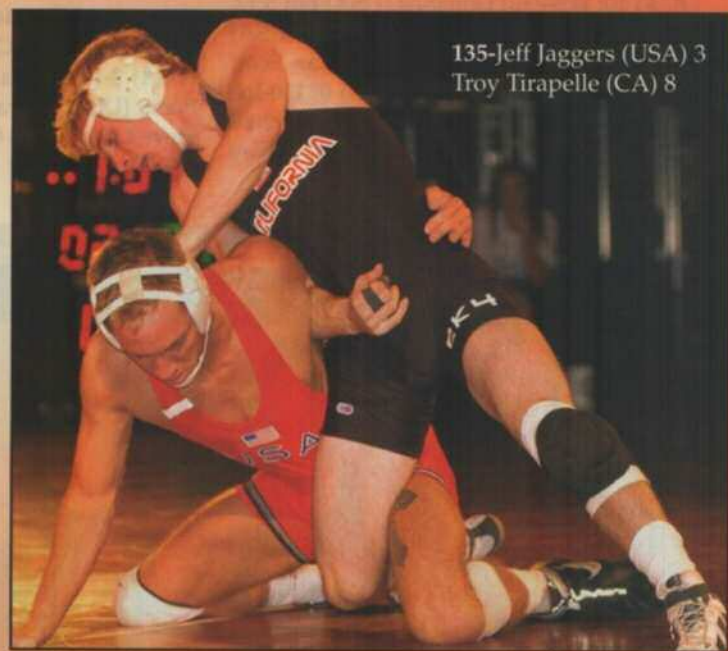
112-Paul Donahoe
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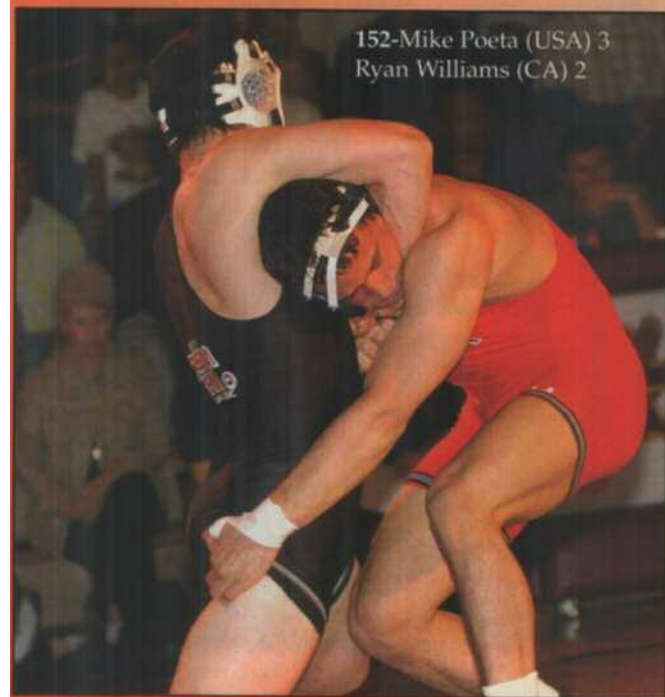
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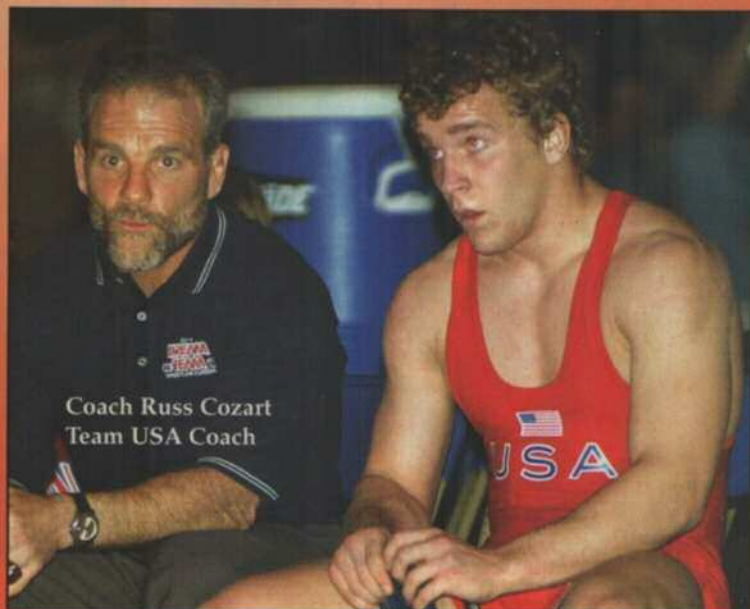
135-Jeff Jaggers (USA) 3
Troy Tirapelle (CA) 8

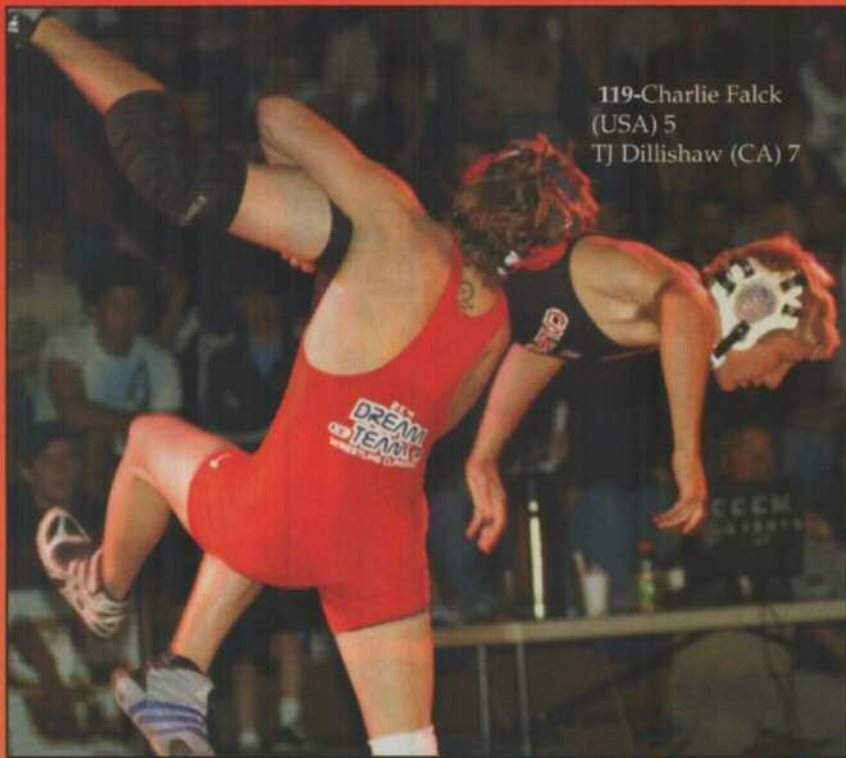


152-Mike Poeta (USA) 3
Ryan Williams (CA) 2

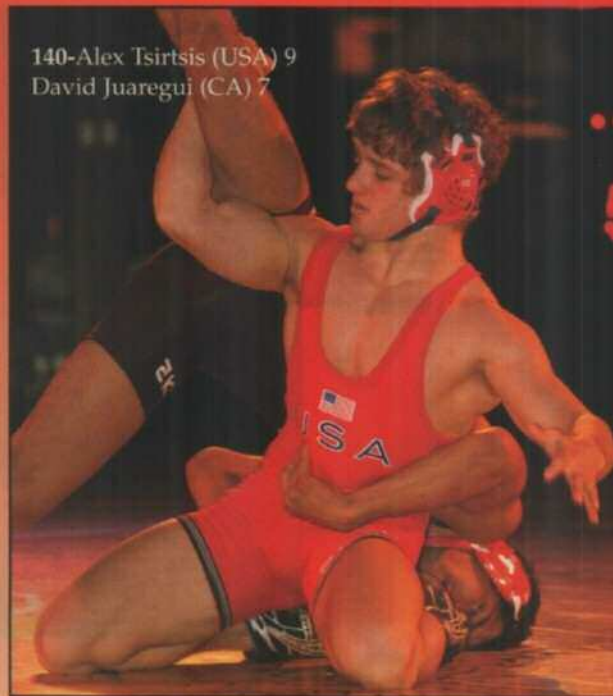


Coach Russ Cozart
Team USA Coach

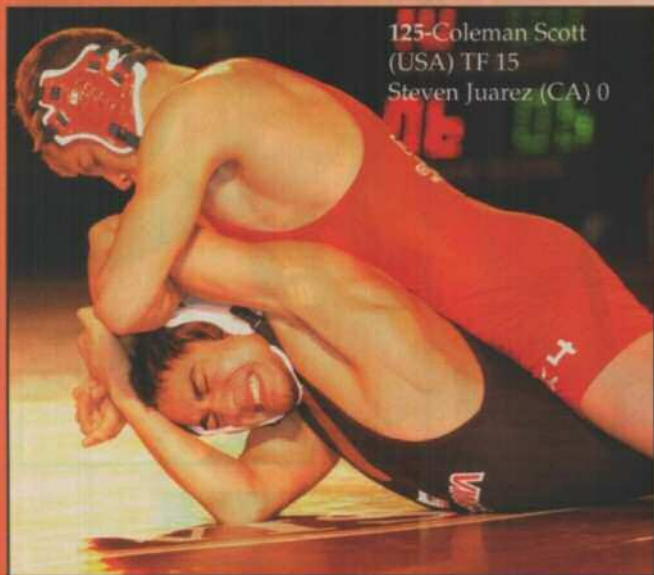




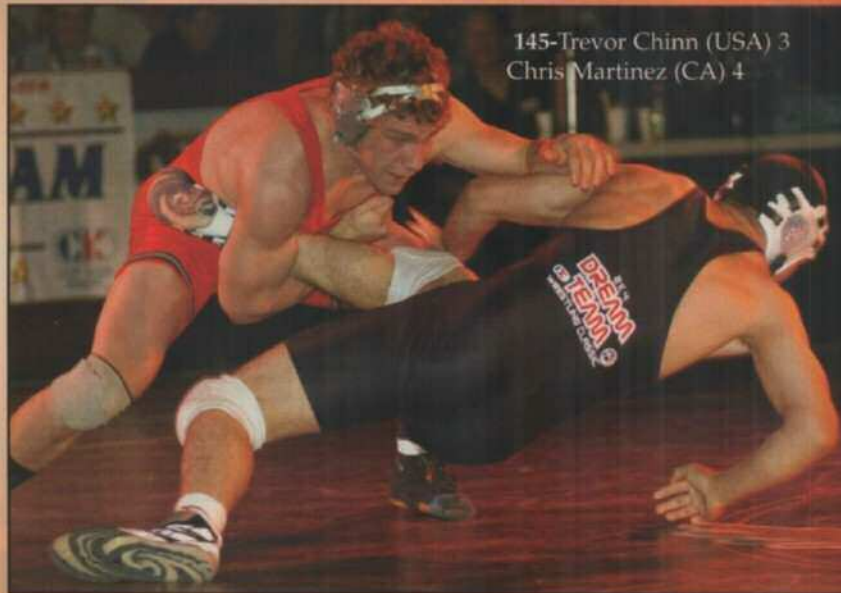
119-Charlie Falck (USA) 5
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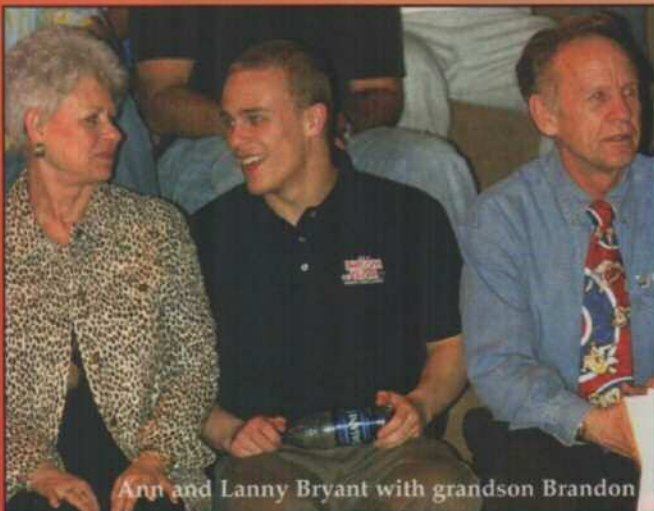
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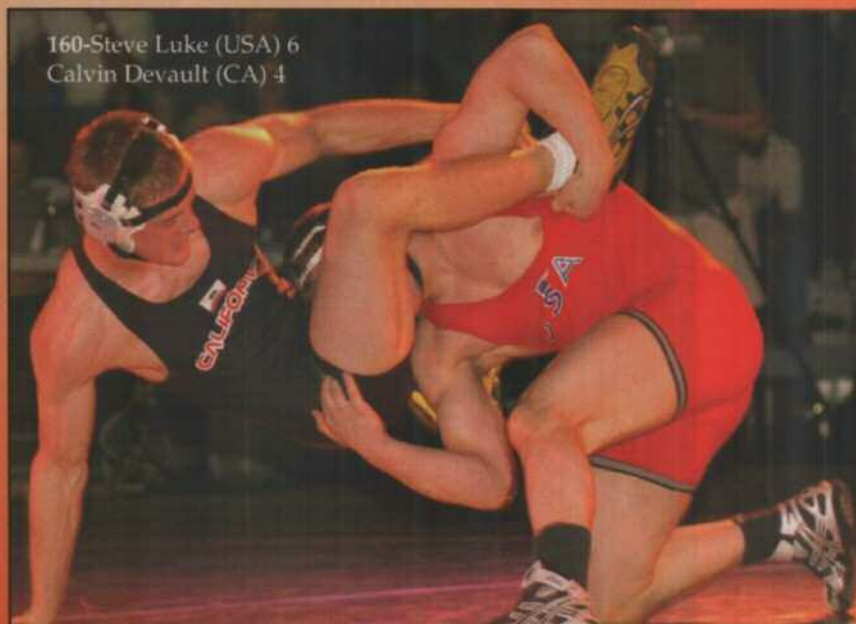
125-Coleman Scott (USA) TF 15
Steven Juarez (CA) 0



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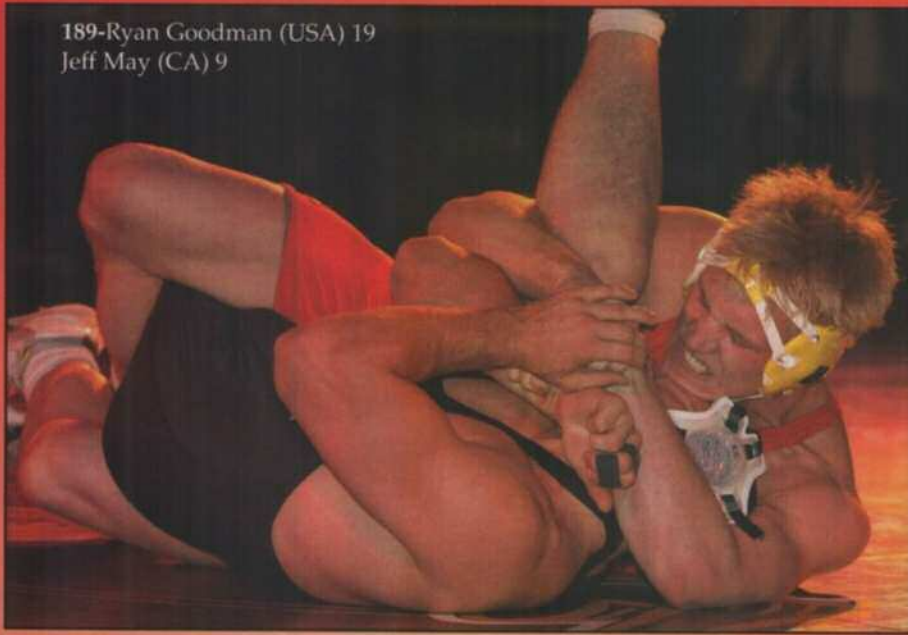


Ann and Lanny Bryant with grandson Brandon

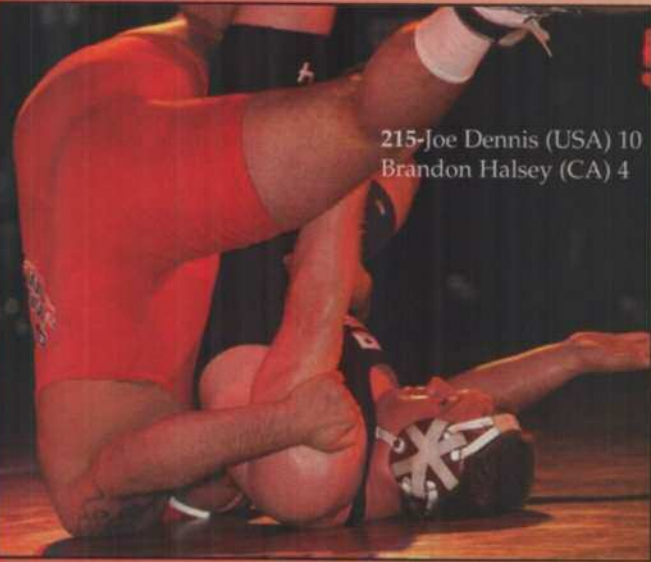


160-Steve Luke (USA) 6
Calvin Devault (CA) 4

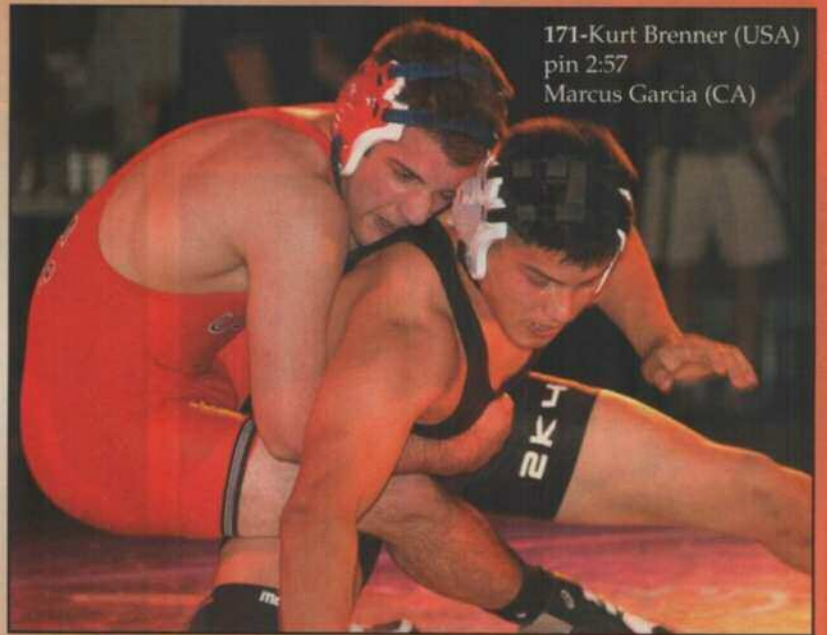
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