

## TRASSO AND DRAPPI WIN AT DOUG PARKER INVITATIONAL

BY GEOFF RICCIO  
ANCHOR SPORTS WRITER

The Rhode Island College wrestling team competed in the Doug Parker Invitational on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Springfield College. Year after year, the Doug Parker Invitational is one of the toughest tests for the Anchormen, and this year was no exception. Despite some struggles for the team throughout the day, there were two outstanding individual performances from junior Michael Trasso and senior Travis Drappi.

RIC senior Travis Drappi brought home the title in the 133 lbs. weight class, winning the tournament for the second consecutive year. Drappi won both his semi-final and finals match by a single point to bring home the title in his 32 man bracket.

Drappi was very pleased with his performance, and was able to bounce back after a tough loss last weekend in the semi-finals.

"After a great deal of reflection since my loss last week, I worked on changing my attitude," said Drappi after the victory. "Going into this tournament I felt great mentally and physically and I was confident that I was going to defend my title from last year.

"I told myself over and over that I was not going to lose this

weekend, and it is a great feeling when you actually do what you set out to do."

Drappi improved his overall record this season to 9-1 with the title victory.

Trasso battled back from a tough loss in the semi-finals to finish third at 141 lbs., going 6-1 to raise his overall record to a team-best 10-1 on the season. Trasso wrestled a total of seven matches in what was the biggest weight class of the tournament. Trasso has now placed in both competitions for the Anchormen this season.

The Anchormen finished 12th out of 18 teams totaling just 57 points. SUNY-Brockport won the invitational with a total team score of 102.5.

The Anchormen haven't quite had the start to the season that they envisioned, and were forced to wrestle without senior captain Kevin Sutherland for the first time this season.

RIC head coach Jay Jones agreed that the tournament was very difficult, but wants more out of his team.

"The Doug Parker Invitational was the toughest it has been in years. As a team we didn't respond to the level we needed to," said Jones after the meet. "We have to get better every day."

The team is already taking measures to improve their performance. They are

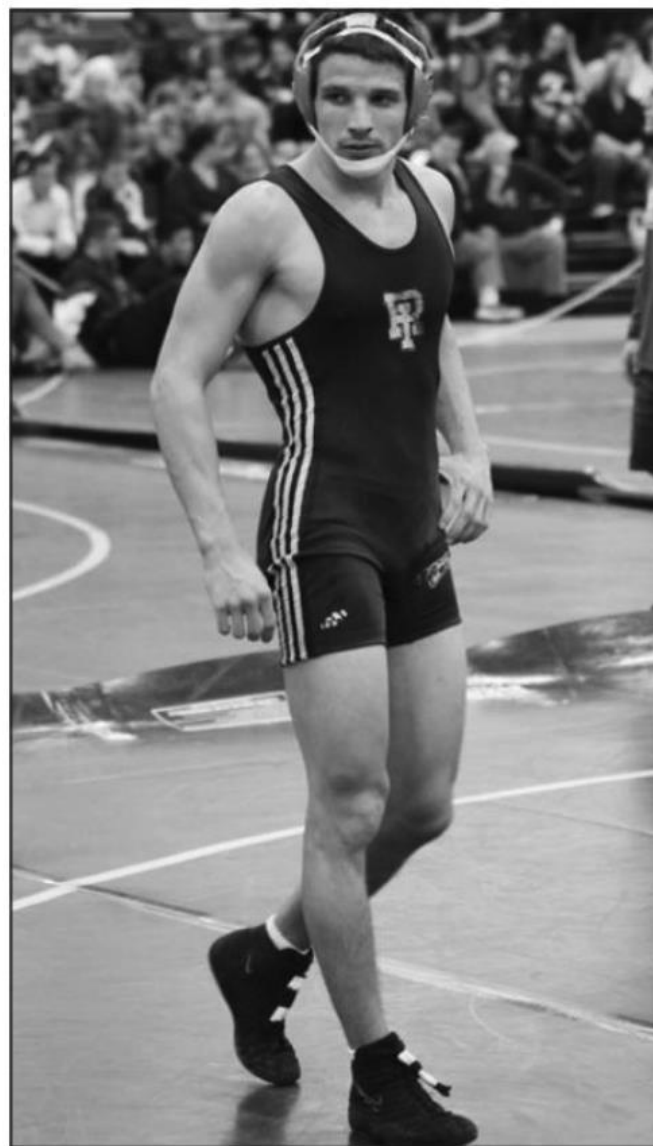
working on situations to build better awareness during matches and on pushing their opponent's stamina and being more physical. Each wrestler is also studying film from their matches in hopes of fixing their small errors in technique.

Despite the showing thus far from the Anchormen, Drappi is confident that they can pick it up after the break.

"Our performance on the whole does not accurately reflect our actual team potential. We are continuing to grow and learn as a team and had several great individual performances, especially from some of our underclassmen who really stepped it up and turned some heads," said Drappi.

"Although winning is great, a win right now is not as important as the wins we need at the end of the season come conference time. This is all practice for the big show. The individual efforts this weekend show that we are getting some quality practice out of these matches in preparation for later in the season."

The Anchormen enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday break, but will be back in action wrestling again on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at Plymouth State University for their first dual meet of the season.



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JUNIOR MICHAEL TRASSO TOOK HOME THIRD PLACE AT THE 141 LBS WEIGHT CLASS.