

Moore is regional champion

By DEONE DRAKE
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Niagara County Community College Wrestling Coach Erie Knuutila is one man at the helm who believes in possitive thinking. He drills that into the heads of his Frontiersmen. And one can be sure that he practiced what he now preaches, as he once was a collegiate mat star himself. This is why he is pleased when things happen for the first time.

Last Friday, at the Region III Junior College finals in Corning, NCCC's wrestling team achieved a few firsts, which pleases Knuutila. It is the first time they won an award for team placing at the Regionals, by finishing fourth behind Delhi, Alfred, and Monroe, in that order. Willie Moore became NCCC's first two-time Regional Champion. And this is also the first time Knuutila can send four of his grapplers to the Nationals.

You win that honor (of going to the Nationals) by placing first, second, or third. Besides first-place winner Moore; Greg Grimmer finished third, Al Grimes took second, and local favorite Steve Marone "earned" his way into third place.

Niagara was in great shape at the end of Friday's wrestling, and in fact, at one time was leading the list of 16 teams. But the Frontiersmen ran out of luck and into trouble, and most of their men lost. Knuutila thought going into Saturday, that his team was fortunate to hang onto fourth place.

Here's how our local boys did this past weekend:

134: Willie Moore (Niagara Falls High product) — In the first round, he won by forfeit ... in the second round, he pinned Delhi's Jim White in 6:52 ... In the semi-finals, he decisioned Dave Snyder of Corning, 5-2 ... In the finals, he decisioned Mark Krug of Herkimer, 9-7 ... Everyone had a hollow feeling about Krug, because he does things unorthodox. Knuutila said, "It would take only a super wrestler like Willie to win against Krug's style."

142: Greg Grimmer (Niagara-Wheatfield) — Knuutila feels Greg should have won the whole thing, but he didn't wrestle well at all. In the first round, he pinned John Scenlon (Broome) in 4:19. The quarter-finals, he decisioned Frank Casalino (Cayuga), 13-2. In the semi-finals, he lost to John Ognobene (Jamestown). He wanted to win, so he fought his way up to third place through the wrestle-backs. He decisioned Kelly Geary (Delhi) and Frank Casalino again, 12-4.

150: Al Grimes (Grand Island) — Seeded seventh. In the first round, he pinned Clifton Robinson (Cayuga) in 6:42. In the second round,



WILLIE MOORE

he beat Ron Grubaugh (Monroe) 10-9. In the semi-finals, Al decisioned Mike McMillan (Morrisville), 7-2. He lost in the finals to All-American Phil Roblee of Jamestown, 11-0.

158: Russ Koithan (Niagara-Wheatfield) — didn't place ... won two and lost two, including a 4-3 decision to Marty Simons, who Russ whipped last week, 15-5.

167: Steve Marone (Tonawanda) — In the first round, he won by disqualification over Broome's Pat Bryons, who was stalling continuously because he was so far behind. He decisioned Scott Thurston (Herkimer), 3-2, in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, he lost to John Biller (Cobleskill), and was sent to the wrestle-backs. The best he could do was third place, but that was good enough to make the Nationals. In the first round, he decisioned Mike Baldensperger of Jamestown, 13-6. In the consolation round, which would decide third and fourth, he whipped Tim Mahor of Monroe, 16-4.

177: Chris Ness (Trumansburg) — In the first round, he drew a bye. In the quarter-finals, he lost to Morrisville's Walt Osier. He was winning 5-2 after six minutes, but the "Kipper" just died or ran out of gas ... He finished fifth.

190: Tom Darnley (Niagara-Wheatfield) — Didn't place. Knuutila said, "He hung with us. He did the best, a super effort. I'm very proud of him." He lost to Jim Burns, of Alfred, a Silver medalist at the 1976 Pan-American games.

Dave Sokolofsky (Starpoint) — Heavyweight ... didn't place ... won 1 ... lost 2.

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Delhi	107½
2. Alfred	86½
3. Monroe	80½
4. NCCC	74½
5. Jamestown	73
6. Morrisville	62
7. Cobleskill	52
8. Herkimer	50
9. Cayuga	35½
10. Broome	28½
11. Mohawk Valley	20½
12. Paul Smith	19
13. Hudson valley	15½
14. Corning	12½
15. Erie	9
16. Fulton-Montgomery	7½

INDIVIDUAL REGION III CHAMPIONS

118: Robin Parker	Delhi
126: Dave Hollerman	Herkimer
134: WILLIE MOORE	NCCC
142: Dave Stuplin	Alfred
150: Phil Roblee	Jamestown
158: Terry Allerton	Monroe
167: John Biller	Cobleskill
177: Van Wadkins	Delhi
190: Jim Burns	Alfred
Hvy: George Kuzma	Broome