

NCCC matmen are honored

Niagara County Community College's 1976-77 wrestling team was honored Sunday evening at a dinner held at the home of its coach, Eric Knuutila.

Coach Knuutila, who presented several awards to his grapplers, announced that four of them had attained Academic All-American status in junior college ranks.

They are Greg Grimmer, Niagara-Wheatfield, 3.54; Tom Darnley, N-W, 3.51; Russ Koithan, N-W, 3.31 and Norm Simon, Tonawanda, 3.02. To attain this honor, a wrestler must maintain a 3.0 or better scholastic average and be an active member of his team. Knuutila said his team's overall average was 2.77.

Four team members also received their plaques for participating in the National Junior College championships last month. They included Willie Moore of Niagara Falls who won his national title in the 134 pound ranks, Grimmer, Al Grimes of Grand Island and Steve Marone of Tonawanda.

Darnley also received a plaque as team captain for 1976-77.

Marone, who wrestled at the 167 pound weight, was singled out for a special plaque "for all the records he broke at NCCC." For his two-year career he has the most match points —200, most

predicaments —11, most near falls —12 (tie), most major decisions —2 (tie), second most take-downs —46, fourth most reversals —12 (tie), second least number of team points given up —19, second most escapes —34, second most major or superior decisions —4, second most falls in dual meets —7, second most wins —39, second most team points —106.

Coach Knuutila also presented the traditional "Pizza Award" to Chris Ness, who dropped in weight class from 190 to 177 when the need arose on the team for a 177-pounder. His reward...a special pizza to be baked by his coach's wife, Linda.

The "Coach's Award" went to Tony Distefano, Lockport, a non-starter who worked extra hard for the team this past winter. He wrestled during some dual meets.

The Most Valuable Player award went to Greg Grimmer as voted by his teammates.

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