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Wrestlers 6th in New York

By Matt DeFillipis

This past weekend the Columbia Wrestling team finished sixth at the New York State Tournament in Cortland, N.Y. as seven of the ten Lion wrestlers who competed placed in the top eight of their weight classes.

Senior Todd Johnson finished highest for the Lions, placing fourth in the 126 lbs. class, while Wrede Kirkpatrick (hwt.), Khari Freeman (177 lbs.), and Cory MacCaslin (142 lbs.) all finished fifth in their division. Adam Condo, the team's 118 lbs. standout, was ranked first in his class, but was forced to retire from the tournament in the quarterfinal round due to a rib injury.

“Although the loss of Adam
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Condo was dissappointing, the team wrestled well over all," said Head Coach Ron Russo. "It was also a pleasant surprise to see our younger wrestlers, especially Khari Freeman and Cory McCaslin, do so well. Our hard work is paying off."

Russo also gave credit to frosh grapplers Brian Pardue, who finished eighth at 167 lbs. and 190 pounder Brian Shaklee. Other Lion wrestlers who competed were Tom Yankanich, placing seventh at 134 lbs., 150 lb. Joel Cramer, and co-captain Toby Johnson who was eighth in the 158 lbs. catagory despite suffering a shoulder injury late in the

tournament.

Senior heavyweight Kirkpatrick, who took third place at the East Stroudsberg Invitational earlier this season, said, "With the exception of one loss late in the tournament, I thought that I, along with most of the team, wrestled well."

Johnson, who placed second in last year's state tournament, said he still felt good about his performance, despite the lower finish. "I had some tough matches, but I feel I'm wrestling as well, or better, than I was last year."

When the two-day, 23 team tournament came to an end, Army dominated the tourna-

ment, taking home the team championship, followed by Cornell, with Syracuse in third.

"Although some individuals would have liked to do better," co-captain Yankanich said, "we did pretty well considering we didn't have Adam Condo."

Columbia will open their homestand this Saturday, in a tri-meet with N.Y.U. and Kings Point. The meet will begin at 10:00 a.m. The team hopes that the weekend will be the start of a successful month as regular season matches begin this weekend, and the Ivy season begins in only two weeks.