



On Friday, December 1, the day of open registration this quarter, the RIT Wrestling team was busy elsewhere. For the past week they had been practicing twice daily, preparing for their weekend tournament. But this time instead of traveling away to some distant college, it was RIT's turn to play host.

Fourteen colleges from around the country, including Division I powerhouse Kent State were invited to this season's RIT

Invitational Wrestling tournament. This would be the second major meet for the young, aggressive squad which had placed 11th at the Ithaca Invitational. The team, coached by Earl Fuller, was ready to take on all opposition, ready to win at home.

Saturday started out slowly for RIT, as Dwayne Henry (129-lb. weight class) and Morgan Esser (153 lbs.) both lost close matches and failed to advance in the standings. RIT also watched as Jeff Frisk (161 lbs.) battled back from a first-round defeat with a win in his second match. Frisk could not continue his success and was pinned and eliminated from competition in his third match. Co-captain Rich Perry's match, delayed due to a protest, did not take place until late on Saturday. Time took its toll, as Perry was pinned halfway through the round and failed to place in the top six.

The team was down but not out as co-captain Brain Hart and Ilaia Diakomihalis both coasted through early round competition and continued on into the finals on Sunday. Heavyweight Chris Mohr lost his opening match, 3-4, but defeated the rest of his opponents to advance to the finals. Dave Ciocca (170 lbs.) and co-captain John Boyd (180 lbs.) both wrestled well enough to continue on and take part in next day's competition.

Sunday's wrestling included five RIT athletes battling for the top places in their weight classes. Ilaia Diakomihalis wrestled impressively en route to first place by defeating his final two opponents by decisions. Diakomihalis leads RIT with a 10-1 match record. Chris Mohr continued his success and finished up third, winning two of his four wins by pinning his opponents. Brain Hart wrestled hard on Sunday but lost in the championship round, 1-3, and ended the invitational in second place. Dave Ciocca and John Boyd dropped their final decisions but placed sixth in each of their weight divisions.

As the invitational came to a close, RIT examined its results. The team finished up in sixth place, defeating all other Division III opponents. Individually the team did well, taking first, second, third and two sixth-place finishes. They gained experience from the meet, experience that would help them along into the rest of the season. But for now, it would be more practicing, more drills and more stretching.

RIT Wrestling Hosts Tournament