

Wrestlers finish the season with a very depressing loss

by Marshall Rosenthal
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The 1975-76 Wrestling Bulls completed their season on a sour note last weekend. In a year which produced victory, defeat, excitement and frustration, the Bulls entire season was compacted into two short days. Traveling to Penn State University, the grapplers competed in the first annual Eastern Wrestling League Championships.

The purpose of this tournament was to qualify as many wrestlers as possible for the NCAA Championships in Tucson, Arizona. At the Eastern League Championships, the Bulls met league opponents Penn State, Pittsburgh, Clarion, Lock Haven and Bloomsburg. When the season first began, it made little difference to the Bulls that every team in the league was from the state of Pennsylvania. But this proved to be the most significant aspect of the tournament.

Co-captain Bruce Hadsell was the only Buffalo representative who qualified for the national tournament. If Hadsell had not wrestled into the final round of competition, it is questionable if he would be on his way to Arizona. This is so, not because of his ability, but rather because he wrestles for Buffalo. When the tournament ended, it was apparent that the Buffalo wrestlers faced overwhelming prejudice from the partisan Pennsylvania Tournament Committee and coaches.

In the opening round of competition, the Bulls' Tony Oliveri started things off. Unseeded, Oliveri went against Bloomsburg's Dave McCollum. Both Oliveri and his Huskie counterpart wrestled a tight match but when the bout ended, Oliveri lost the match 8-7 on riding time. Next, Buffalo's Ray Pfeifer, who was seeded fourth, devastated his Pittsburgh opponent Craig Phillips, crushing

him 12-1. But the real devastation came later that evening when it was learned that Pfeifer had broken his jaw during the match. What made that situation more unfortunate, was that Pfeifer had an excellent chance of qualifying for the championships.

Wrestling for the injured Daymond Clark, freshman Ed Tyrrell went against third seeded Denny Sciabica of Penn State. With only two varsity matches under his belt, Tyrrell wrestled very well and gave his Nittany Lion opponent a tremendous scare, but he finally surcormmed to Sciabica and lost a 4-2 decision.

Tundo loses big

In the Bulls' biggest surprise of the contest, freshman Gene Tundo lost a 13-3 decision to Bloomsburg's Rich Rausa. Although this was possibly Tundo's worst performance of the season, he still has three more years of wrestling to make up for it.

With star wrestler Kirk Anderson unable to compete because of a chipped elbow, freshman Gary Devin took the mat against Clarion's third seeded Dave Coleman. With only two previous varsity matches behind him, Devin was handled easily and lost a 17-4 decision.

Going against Bloomsburg's Brian Weigle, who was seeded third, the Bulls' Paul Grandits also displayed a lot of talent in the first round. Toward the end of the match, Grandits was running out of gas, but he held on long enough to win his decision by the close score of 5-4.

At heavyweight, Jim Breed drew Penn State's third seeded Brad Benson. In a league which boasts many outstanding heavyweights, Breed faced tough going early in the match and the going got worse. Breed ended up losing the decision to Benson by the score of 13-3.

Five Bulls reach semis

Buffalo's Bruce Hadsell and Bob Martineck were each seeded second in their respective weight-classes and each received a bye in the first round. When the first round ended, Buffalo had five wrestlers entered for semi-final competition, but with Pfeifer's injury, the Bulls' possible qualifiers were cut down to four.

Once in the semi-finals, Hadsell was matched up against Chris Clark of the Clarion Golden Eagles. Throughout the first two periods the contest was dead even. In the third period, Hadsell quickly reversed Clark and then totally surprised him by pancaking him on his back for the pin.

In his semi-final matchup, Martineck went against Pittsburgh's George O'Korn. But Martineck's real opponent was his match official. At one point, Martineck had pinned his Panther counterpart, but the official unfortunately didn't call the pin. What the official did call was a one point penalty on Martineck for a dangerous hold, something Martineck never committed.

'Dangerous' Martineck

When the match ended at a 6-6 tie, Martineck and O'Korn wrestled in overtime. Martineck again was called for a dangerous hold, and the one point penalty

co-captain Erik Drasgow went against Bloomsburg's Steve Scheib. In one of the worst efforts by Drasgow during the year, it was apparent that Drasgow was not up to his usual tenacious self. Handling Drasgow like an unseeded wrestler, Scheib dealt Buffalo a tremendous blow by defeating his 10-2.

The Bulls other semi-final round wrestler, Paul Grandits was matched up against Penn State's star Bill Bertrand. Grandits, who wrestled at 190, actually weighs a light 170. Considering the weight difference and the Nittany Lion's strength, Grandits did quite well although he lost his decision 10-2.

Hadsell loses in the finals

Once the semi-final round was complete, the Bulls had one wrestler in the finals, and three in the consolation matches. In the finals, Hadsell went against the number one seeded wrestler from Penn State, Dave Becker. Wrestling strongly only at times, Hadsell could not gain the upper hand and Becker eventually won, 6-1.

In his consolation match, Martineck must still have been thinking about his semi-final loss to O'Korn, because Bloomsburg's Andy Cappelli manhandled him 8-2, placing him fourth in the tournament. Next, Drasgow went out on the mat and wrestled the way he had done all year. Avenging his semi-final round loss to Cole, Drasgow pinned Dave Grau of Pittsburgh. In his consolation match, Grandits was to face Austin Shanfelter of Lock Haven, but he was hurt and forfeited the match to Grandits. Both Drasgow and Grandits each placed third in their respective weight class.

Seven wrestlers were voted on by a meeting of the coaches and the tournament committee. As third place finishers, both Drasgow and Grandits should have been considered for wild-card spots. But that's not what happened. Coach Michael pointed out, "Drasgow and Grandits weren't even considered. They proved to be the winning point for O'Korn, since the match ended at a 2-0 in O'Korn's favor.

Fresh off a first round victory over Clarion's Chris Cole,

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Women's bowling

Wrestlers...

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gave every possible excuse as to why Erik and Paul should not go to Arizona."

When questioned, tournament head, Edward Czekaj said, "It was decided by the coaches and I think that Drasgow and Grandits would not help us as well as some of the other wrestlers." When asked about any prejudice toward Buffalo, Czekaj commented, "There was no prejudice in any way to the Buffalo wrestlers," but Czekaj did agree that since Buffalo was the only non-Pennsylvania school, "it was easier to pick wrestlers we've seen in our own conference."

Bulls Coach Ed Michael believed that there was prejudice, but he pointed out, "We also did it to ourselves. We knew there would be some kind of prejudice here and we had to win. We didn't do as well as we should have." Another reason for the lack of Bulls' success was due to injuries. Anderson and Clark, starters

throughout the season, were hurt during the latter part of the year, keeping them out of the tournament along with Bill Bartosch who separated his shoulder earlier in the year.

During the next week,

Buffalo's only representative to the NCAA Championships, Hadsell should hopefully do well. Hadsell has wrestled consistently the entire season and next year he again will be returning to the Bull lineup.

Statistics box

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Buffalo	5	1	1	1	26
Buffalo State	2	4	0	2	22
Canisius	0	2	4	1	17
Niagara	1	1	2	4	15

First Annual Big Four Swimming and Diving Championships, Feb. 27, 28 and 19, 1976.

Final Score: Buffalo State 631, Canisius 331, Niagara 327, Buffalo 305.

400 Individual Medley: 1) Craig Rung (BS) 4:31.04* 2) Dennis Oscar (BS); 200 Freestyle: 1) Jim Walczak (BS) 1:48.8, 2) Mike Foley (NU); 100 Butterfly: 1) John Turner (BS) 55:15* 2) George Finelli (B); 100 Backstroke: 1) Mike Brabowski (BS) 57:50 2) Ted Brenner (B); 100 Breaststroke: 1) Rick Scherer (BS) 1:04.05 2) Tony Palombo; 800 Freestyle Relay: 1) Buffalo State* 2) Niagara University; 1650 Freestyle: 1) Craig Rung (BS) 17:36.40* 2) Richard McGuire (NU); 100 Freestyle: 1) Jim Walczak (BS) 49:00* 2) Rick Scherer (BS); 200 Backstroke: 1) Mike Brabowski (BS) 2:05.21 2) Ted Brenner (B); 200 Breaststroke: 1) Tony Palombo (BS) 22:19.9 2) Steve Myers (BS); 200 Butterfly: 1) John Turner (BS) 2:03.54* 2) George Finelli (B); 3 Meter Diving: 1) Steve LaRue (BS) 432.80 2) Kell Wurl (B); 1650 Freestyle: 1) Karl Schachtner (B) 2) Kathy Keating (BS); 400 Freestyle Relay: 1) Buffalo State 3:04.15 2) Niagara University.

* Big Four Record