

Juco mat nationals open Thursday

A field of approximately 300 wrestlers will turn Worthington, Minn., into the nation's top wrestling mecca this weekend as the National Junior College wrestling tournament starts on Thursday.

North Iowa Area Community College will send eight wrestlers in a bid to unseat Clackamas, Oregon, as the defending champion. Clackamas was an unranked team going into the nationals and then the Oregon club sent six men into the semifinals and grabbed two titles.

A tremendous effort by NIACC pulled the Trojans into second place in the final points standings, nine points back of Clackamas. The Trojans were also second in 1970.

NIACC has qualified eight men for this year's national tournament but not a single one has experienced the rigors of a big-time college tournament. There's only one sophomore in the group.

Coach Kaye Young does have some individuals that could earn high places in the final meet of the season.

In a pre-tournament All-American listing by the national junior college office (top three men for each weight class), sophomore Tom Garcia was listed No. 2 at 134.

Garcia, a transfer from the University of Northern Iowa, has an overall record of 20-3-1 but against junior college competition has suffered just one defeat and had a tie. The Trojans wrestle against major college junior varsity teams and enter tournaments to wrestle against 4-year schools.

Garcia, an ex-Mohawk, had a 34-7-1 record his final two years at Mason City.



TOM GARCIA

National recognition

Joe Corso (118), freshman from West Des Moines, has a 24-2 overall mark and was a Central Zone qualifier in St. Louis. He has not lost in dual meets. Corso was third in the UNI tournament and second in the Iowa Invitational.

Les Simpson (167) of Algona started the season strong with a victory in the Iowa Invitational and then, on the Trojans' swing east to Muskegon, Mich., he became sick. He's 20-3 and the three losses came during the trip. Simpson was voted the most valuable wrestler in St. Louis.

Simpson and Steve Eidness of Osage also won titles in St. Louis. Eidness, down to 190, is 12-5 overall.

Garcia, Bill Williams, Dedric Doolin, John Sadler and Dan Peterson were second in the zone qualifying.

Simpson dropped to 167 for tournaments and that let fresh-

man Dan Peterson in at 177. The Wisconsin native had been Young's handyman, wrestling any weight from 177 through heavyweight. His one loss in dual meets was to Iowa's Jim Witzleb at heavyweight. Peterson is 17-4 overall.

Doolin is bothered by an injury and Young's not quite sure how the Cedar Rapids freshman will do in the tournament. Doolin has a 14-4 mark and his one dual meet loss was Steve Natvig of Iowa 7-5. He will be at 126.

Bill Williams took over at 142 when Garcia dropped to 134. He is 12-5. John Sadler (12-7-1) had a fine tournament in St. Louis

defeating Ellsworth standout Van Graham and then losing in the 158-pound finals.

The tournament will start a noon Thursday with first-round matches. Second-round matches will be in the evening. Friday's schedule is quarter-finals at noon and semifinals at 7:30. Following the consolations Saturday afternoon, the matches for third and fourth will be at 7 p.m. and the championship finals at 8:15.

Each of the 10 weight classes will have a bracket of 32. There could be 31 men in each weight. The top-seeded wrestler gets a first-round bye.

Grand Opening

Continues Through March 4

Pledged to bringing you the finest in country - western entertainment and guaranteed fun . . . COME JOIN US!

★ GRAND OPENING SPECIAL ★
By Popular Request . . . Direct from
Nashville, the Home of Country Music

The
"CHUCK HOWARD

and the
BALONEY SANDWICH"

Featuring the Inimitable Chuck Howard

Also Featuring in the
WELLS FARGO LOUNGE

The Mysterious
"MISTY MONET"

Matinee 4-6 p.m. — Free Hors d'oeuvres

MINNESOTA'S WONDER SHOW PLACE

TERP
AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd
Have Fun Go Dancing to
GENE THOMAS

and the
JOLLY BROTHERS