

The Crier Sports

Volume XI—Number 18

CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 6, 1972

Polo's Grapplers Are No. 1 C.C.C. Grapplers Take Regionals

by TOM MARTIN

Somewhere, on the extreme outskirts of rural America, and just one hundred miles from nowhere, is situated a quaint little burg called, for some unknown reason, Morrisville. Small shops adorn its one lonely street, a homey restaurant packs them in from miles around, and an agricultural and technical college supplies the village with hundreds of aspiring students.

Morrisville Tech was the site for the 1972 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III Wrestling championships February 25th and 26th. The officials of Region III played a little joke on member colleges when they named Morrisville as host. The hamlet has one motel, while the tournament included over 180 wrestlers from twenty junior colleges. Contestants and coaches found themselves accommodated in nearby villages such as Madison, Bouckville, and if that isn't bad enough, Chittenango.

The tournament managed to emerge as one of the best in region history (which dates back to 1963), however, as seven different colleges produced champions, a new record. Another record which fell by the wayside was the individual point record. Ivan Casavnat blitzed four opponents in under four minutes to become the 118 pound champion and the tourney's Outstanding Wrestler awardee. The little Cobleskill dynamo looks like he's on his way to a national championship.

After nine years of Region III competition, one particular team continually looked impressive. This team placed fourth in the first Region III tourney in 1963. Four times they finished third, including the past two years. Twice they finished second. This team, always tough, always favored, became the bridesmaid of the region. Never counted out, but never really considered the team to beat. Alfred had more balance. Delhi had more champions. Morrisville (there's that name again) had more class. No one had more heart.

As soon as anyone, when speaking of a team, starts throwing the word "heart" around, it is difficult not to assume that the team is a loser. When you speak of a winner, you mention its ability, its skill, its power, but never its heart. Heart is only something that the guy who finishes second has: Try as he may, he just can't win. Bull.

Corning Community College, with only one individual champion, walked off with the NJCAA Region III championships at Morrisville. The bridesmaid became the bride, sure, because of ability, because of skill, because of power, but mostly because of heart. You're now probably thinking to yourself, "What is all this corn about heart?" Well folks, as corny as it may sound, heart it is. Pure and simple, unadulterated heart.

Corning, the Red Menace, be-

came the first team in region history to win the title with one champion, (150 lb. Marc Gillespie), an indication of just what sort of team effort produced the victory. Although Casavant's record breaking performance brought in the Outstanding Wrestler award, my vote went to Corning's Pat Barnes. In his opening match, Barnes demolished Cobleskill's Larry Mechina in 3:45. In the first period of his quarter-final match, the 134 pound stalwart separated his shoulder. An injury such as this would have stopped any other man, but not Barnes. Not only did he win that match, but Barnes battled back after a hopeless semi-final loss to Morrisville's Jeff Rice to reach the finals of the consolations with a miraculous pin. If that wasn't enough, Barnes gave everything he had, found a miracle, and took third place in his division. Healthy, last year's second place finisher Barnes would have won it all. Top-seeded, once defeated (his only loss an early season disqualification), Barnes gave the most inspiring performance that I have ever witnessed. Somebody up there likes Pat Barnes.

Dave Folmar opened with a lop-sided victory in the pre-lims, but met defending champion Dean Yorton in the quarter-finals. Yorton was not to be denied and pulled out a narrow 2-1 victory over the valiant 118 pound Corning grappler. Yorton was upset, 9-8 in the semi's by Auburn's Tony LaValle, which put Folmar out of the consolations. Under NJCAA rules, only wrestlers defeated by one of the finalists are eligible for the consolation round. Yorton wrestled back to take third.

Rich Norton, Alfred's 126 pound region champion, continued his hex over Corning's Danny Bunner, as he defeated the Baron ace in the semi-final round, 10-6. Bunner, seeded third in the tourney, injured Paul Brzuskiwicz (no kidding) to move into the consolation finals. Adirondack's Mel Petteys was just a little better, however, and put Bunner into an even still respectable fourth place. Bunner was fourth in the region last year at 118.

The 142 pound bracket provided the tourney with its most surprises. The Red Menace had the lean and mean Tom McInerny, seeded second and expected to win, at this middle weight division. T. M. lost a close decision to Cantaw's eventual champion Doug Stewart, who was unseeded (the only unseeded champion in the tourney). McInerny walloped Alfred's Bruce Snider in the consolations before losing in the consolation semis. T. M. suffered from the pressure, and was the victim of his opponents' stalling,

resulting in his narrow defeat. A state champion in high school, McInerny will be virtually impossible to defeat next season.

Once again, as it was with the Baron's victory in the Roadrunner Invitational, all the marbles were brought home by undefeated Marc Gillespie at 150 pounds. Gillespie, whose slate now reads 22-0 on the season, was awesome through the semi-finals with two easy pins and one ridiculously easy decision. The finals did not show his talent as well, though, as the remarkable freshman gained an undeserved decision over Genesee's Lee Darusko, 6-5. Gillespie appeared jittery and unusually, for him, unaggressive. A last period surge pulled him out of it, with a reversal and fall predicament, worth four points. It must be said that Gillespie is a winner, won all season long, wiped up in the prelims, and in that respect was not a surprising winner. His performance in the final bout was surprising, but a victorious one, and that's what it's really all about. That's skill.

The Red Menace's second third place finisher was a much improved Dan Franchi in the 158 pound bracket. Franchi, wrestling only in the second semester, submitted Auburn's Joe Goss and Fulton-Montgomery's Kevin Woznek, 13-1 and 15-6 respectively before being pinned by Alfred's champion, Larry Finch. The bull-like strong Franchi then proceeded to destroy Erie's Tim Philbin and Morrisville's Art Bennet to capture the third place crown. That's strength.

Jim Brown, of the calculated style school, was pinned (twice, because of an official ruling which made the first one void) by eventual champion Paul Avizo in the quarter finals. Brown battled back in the consolations and creamed Cobleskill's Dave Lawrence. Dan Tracy, the third place finisher, squelched Brown's hopes of placing with a decision in the semi-finals, 18-8. Brown, who still has another year of eligibility, will not be back next year, because of graduation.

Now we come to the Lebanese Wonder. Undefeated, seeded second, an impressive winner into the regional finals, Emad Faddoul looks like a champion. Confident, plotting and very, very businesslike, Faddoul has that rare quality that is the picture of success. Every match for him is no contest; he gains control, keeps it, and wins. Every time. Morrisville had a man at 177 who was undefeated, seeded first, an impressive winner into the regional finals. Ed White looks like a champion: confident, businesslike, a picture of success. Faddoul and White wrestle the same style, almost down to the last fundamental move. These two men, so much alike, so similar in credentials, met for the championship of Region III. White tallied four points, Faddoul two. It could easily have gone the other way. The wish for a rematch is irresistible. One of the most incredible per-

formances of the weekend came from Corning's 190 pounder, Paul Tompkins. Tompkins, who placed second in the Roadrunner Invitational, posted a so-so record in dual meet action this season. But somehow, and this is where heart comes in, Tompkins always pulls something from the depths of his guts and finishes big in tourney competition. Tompkins lost to Auburn's Paul Manslank in the semi-finals, but came back to take third place by pinning Cobleskill's Bill Lamb in 38 seconds. That's power.

Heart, if you're not tired of the word by now, is what a man has when he puts out everything he can for his team in spite of personal sacrifice. Pat Barnes for example. Heart is when a heavy-weight wrestler, with an asthma problem, diabetes and a bad cold, fights himself into a collapse. Mark Donahue is that man. After nearly four minutes of exhaustive wrestling, Donahue collapsed. Artificial respiration was required to revive him, and he spent the night in the hospital. Donahue

nearly gave his life for his team. That's heart.

Corning Community College is the 1972 Region III Wrestling Champion. With seven freshman returning, it appears as though the Red Menace will remain the Red Menace next season. All it takes is a little ability, a little power, and a little strength and a lot of heart.

W.A.A.

The Women's Athletic Association is sponsoring their Spring 1972 intramural program in the gym.

Offered this semester are:
Mondays—1:00—Basketball
Wednesday—1:00—Basketball
Thursday—1:00—Tennis (Starts in April)
Friday—1:00—Co-ed Badminton
Wednesday—4:15—Co-ed Bowling—Corning Bowl

All girls interested in coming for fun and recreation please feel free to join.

Also any girls interested in trying out for the C.C.C. Girls Varsity Basketball team please attend practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 - 5:00 in the gym.

Place Winners in 1972 Region III Championships By Weight Class

- | | |
|------|---|
| 118 | 1. Ivan Casavant, Cobleskill; Outstanding Wrestler; new record, 17 pts.
2. Tony LaValle, Auburn
3. Dean Yorton, Morrisville; defending champion |
| 126 | 1. Rich Norton, Alfred
2. Norb Sitmk, Auburn
3. Mel Petteys, Adirondacks
4. Dan Bunner, Corning; 4th in '71 at 118 |
| 134 | 1. Jeff Rice, Morrisville
2. Dave D'Amour, Canton
3. Pat Barnes, Corning; second in '71 |
| 142 | 1. Doug Stewart, Canton
2. John Bain, Genesee
3. Jim Giles, Paul Smith's |
| 150 | 1. Marc Gillespie, Corning
2. Lee Darusko, Genesee
3. Ozell Bemby, Mohawk |
| 158 | 1. Larry Finch, Alfred
2. Matt Clark, Genesee
3. Dan Franchi, Corning |
| 167 | 1. Paul Avizo, Hudson Valley
2. Tim Harris, Delhi
3. Dan Tracy, Alfred |
| 177 | 1. Ed White, Morrisville
2. Emad Faddoul, Corning
3. Gordie Daniels, Hudson Valley |
| 190 | 1. Dick Zeitler, Alfred
2. Paul Manslank, Auburn
3. Paul Tompkins, Corning |
| Hvt. | 1. Doug Smith, Tompkins
2. Keith Rose, Jeffersonville
3. George Von Pless, Morrisville |

REGION III WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Morrisville Ag.-Tech.

February 25-26

Champions—Corning Community College, 61 pts.

Second—Alfred Ag.-Tech., 59 pts.

Third—Morrisville Ag.-Tech., 55½ pts.

GO
BARONS