

# Brockport Captures "Tough" State Mat Tourney

BY LENSENECAL

Tournament director Neil Johnson called it "some of the best wrestling in the East." A Brockport manager said it was the toughest competition the top-rated Eagles have faced all year, and Cornell's Mark Murray, voted the outstanding wrestler, said the field, "was pretty good." He added, "there weren't many slouches here." One thing is for certain, the 1979-80 New York State Collegiate Wrestling Tournament this past weekend was no two-day rest stop at Potsdam State University.

As expected Brockport State came out on top when the final points had been tabulated, outdistancing runner-up Cornell by a narrow 144 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 134 $\frac{1}{2}$  margin. An elated coach Don Murray said "I'm glad it's over," moments after the clinching points had been obtained at 190 following a default by Binghamton's Bill Francke, adding that the competition at the two day gathering "was tough as hell." "I was pleased with the performance of some of the kids," the coach of the top ranked Division III club said, "the veterans did it." Brockport emerged with state champions at four weight classes; 142, 150, 167, and 190, and also accumulated second place points in the 124, 158, and 177 pound finals.

Binghamton State finished a distant third behind the Eagles and Big Red with 98 points, followed by Columbia (82), Colgate (73 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), St. Lawrence University (72 $\frac{1}{4}$ ), Army (60 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), RIT (56 $\frac{3}{4}$ ), Clarkson College (21 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), and Oswego State (20) in the top ten. University of Buffalo (17), Potsdam State (16), Cortland State (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), St. John Fisher (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), Oneonta State (11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), Ithaca (9), Geneseo State ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), and RPI (0) were the other N.Y.S. Tournament placers.

John Parisella's 9-4 decision over



**FIFTH PLACE FINISHER** — Freshman Todd Read from Clarkson College appears to be contemplating his next move as he battles a 150 pound competitor during consolation action at the New York State Collegiate Wrestling Tournament. Read finished in fifth place for his weight class during the two day affair, which was held at Potsdam's Maxcy Hall. (Len Senecal photo)

Darrell Leslie of RIT produced the only repeat championship at 142, with the Brockport standout being joined by teammates Joe Gianni (150), Tony Smith (190), and Woody Vondenburg (167) in the winner's circle. Colgate's Steve Leslie took the 158 pound honors with a 17-6 effort to capture his third consecutive state championship, moving up from his 150 pound heroics of 1978-79.

Besides Mark Murray's 12-6 win over Howie Rabin of Colgate at 118, the Big Red had a champion at 126 in Sam Edwards, and second place finishes at 134, 150, and the unlimited ring from Bill Patterson, Tim Harrison, and Angelo Tramontelli. Murray, tabbed as the tournament's outstanding wrestler,

battled his way past fourth seed Mark Palzer in a 17-13 decision and dumped top seeded Tom Jacoutot of U.B. by an identical score on his way to the 118 pound laurels. When asked his reaction to the high individual honor, Murray said he thought he "might have a chance at it," after he had won the championship bout, adding, "when I came in here I had no idea."

Joe Belucci, last year's outstanding wrestler at 158 almost made the big step up to the 167 pound honors before he fell to Brockport's Vondenburg 9-7 in the finals. Greg Locke was the overall

champion at 134 with a 12-5 decision over Cornell's Patterson, with St. Lawrence 177 pound competitor Rick Roberts salvaging some dignity for the defending New York State Tournament Champion Saints with his 13-10 victory over Green of Brockport. In the unlimited finals Jay Craddock scored a convincing decision over Tromontelli of Cornell to pick up first place points for Columbia University.

Many wrestling followers had anticipated a runaway victory for the Brockport team, but the tournament was everything except a rout for last year's Division III National runner-ups. Going into the finals the Eagles led by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  points, 136 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ , and going into the final three weight classes the same margin existed between Brockport and the Big Red, with the Eagles in front 136 $\frac{3}{4}$  to 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ . The default by defending 190 pound champion Francke at 190 made it official for the green and gold grapplers, the first of three major tournament titles had fallen their way. "I hope we do as well in the conference and in the nationals," coach Murray said following the N.Y.S. victory, "I hope we finish in the same standing."

## CCT, SUCP Placers

Although there were no local college competitors in the championship finals, two Clarkson and one Potsdam State wrestler emerged in the top six places at the two day tourney. Todd Read captured fifth place in the 150 pound ring and Scott Cook took sixth at 158 for the CCT grapplers, while Potsdam's John Deluca finished fifth at 124. This Saturday, fans will have an opportunity to witness the tournament finals on Channel 12 WNPE-WNPI at 1 p.m.

## Knights Bomb Terriers 12-7,