

COLLEGE POWERS

S.U.N.Y. COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

Location: Brockport, NY

Enrollment: 7,000

Conference: SUNYAC

Colors: Green and Gold

Nickname: Golden Eagles

Wrestling Coach: Don Murray

President: Dr. John Van de Wetering

By Ross Conti

Brockport, New York, a small town located 25 minutes west of Rochester, is home of one of the many four-year schools in the State University of New York system. It is also the home of a national wrestling powerhouse.

Under head coach Don Murray's guidance, the Golden Eagle wrestling program has soared to lofty levels. Since Murray took the helm in 1970, the Brockport wrestling team has captured ten SUNYAC titles, three New York State Championships ('73, '80, '83) and four Division III National Championship titles.

Three of the National trophies have come in the last four years ('80, '82, '83) while the first was gained in 1977. Brockport also has two runner-up National trophies, missing out on the gold in 1979 and in 1981 (the former year by a heartbreaking 1/4 of a point.)

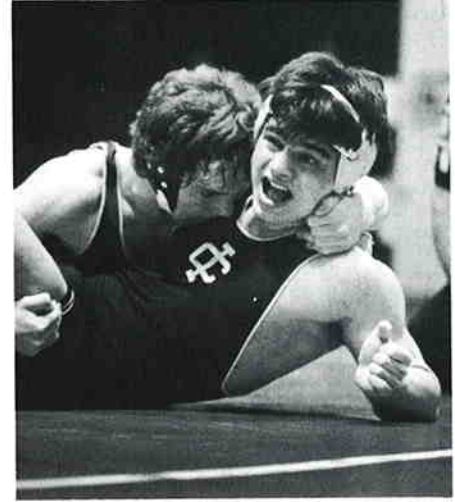
Murray believes that one of the main ingredients to the success of the wrestling program is the level of academic success that his student-athletes have achieved. The Brockport team has been featured for their formula of "doing it in school before you do it on the mat." For example, the combined cumulative grade point average for the seniors on the team is over a 3.

1983 proved to be a banner year for Brockport. Led by senior All-Americans Frank Famiano, at 126, Ron Winnie at 150, and Anthony Conetta at 177, the mat squad achieved a rare triple crown by winning the State, SUNYAC, and Division III National titles all in the same season. Brockport is the only team to have ever accomplished this feat and has done so not only once, but twice, as they also turned the "hat trick" in 1980.

As winning individual titles at the Division III Nationals, Famiano, Winnie, and Conetta qualified for the Division I tournament in Oklahoma

City. Famiano proved that his 1982 fifth-place finish was no fluke as he placed sixth in an extremely tough 16 lb. weight class. Joining Famiano for Division I All-American honors was Ron Winnie who placed eighth. Conetta, a three time Division III All-American, barely missed earning a certificate in Oklahoma as he won three matches, including a 5-3 thriller over second seed Jim Sheer of Nebraska, before being eliminated.

The success of 1983 now gives Don Murray credit for 50 Division III All-Americans (a record), and three Division I All-Americans. Murray's accomplishments have not gone unrewarded. He was recognized by his peers as New York State Coach of the Year for 1978-79, National Division III Coach of the Year in 1980, and SUNYAC Coach of the Year in 1981 and 1983.



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