

THE HILL NEWS

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Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiter Ron Patrick speaks to a crowd at Potsdam State University Tuesday, March 7. The presentation was dominated by students protesting CIA involvement in subversive and immoral activities worldwide. Among the protestors were 15 to 20 St. Lawrence University students.

Photo by Eric Williams

Connors Leads Wrestlers To National Title

By Eric Baist

The wrestling Saints brought home the Div. III National Team Championship this past weekend powered by individual champion Pat Connors. It was truly a Cinderella story for the Saints who wrestled a fantastic tournament to bring home their first ever team title, and only the third ever won by a St. Lawrence team.

S.L.U. went into the tournament ranked seventh with hopes of a top five finish for the team. No one thought the team could win though, and now that it's history people are still wondering if it really happened. Senior John Canty said "I can't believe it. I'm still waiting for someone to call me and say it's a joke!" Canty was one of five Saints to compete this weekend in the tournament held in Wheaton Illinois, all of whom earned All-America honors.

Pat Connors led the team, winning the heavyweight title as his brother had 4 years earlier. He did so by scoring a takedown, in the last 20 seconds of the match, to pull out a 3-2 victory over Kip Crandall of Millikin. It was Connors' third, 1 point victory in the tournament, where every match was a tough one.

Canty placed second. He walked through the early rounds, winning 9-1 and 15-2. John didn't have a close match until the semi-final bout, which he won 2-0 to propel him into the finals. He lost in the finals to three time defending champion, Tim Jacoutot from Trenton State.

The Saints had two other semi-finalists in Kevin Bishop and Dan Keating. Keating lost a heartbreaker in the semi's when, while winning his match 5-2, he was called for a body slam of his opponent. His opponent stayed down to claim a victory by disqualification, and eventually become the 150 pound titlist. Dan wrestled back to pin his last opponent. He placed third. Bishop took an 8-4 loss in the semi-finals, but also came back strongly to finish third with two impressive victories.

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Harding Traces Dream Deffered

By Doug McGill

What is the Afro-American dream? Is it dead, alive, or has it been deferred? "It's in your hands," said Dr. Vincent Harding as he addressed a near capacity audience in Gulick Auditorium Monday night.

Dr. Harding is noted historian and has served as chairman of the history and sociology department at Spelman College in Atlanta, director of the Martin Luther King Memorial Center, and chairman of the nationally televised "Black Heritage" series. He has been Professor of Religion and Social Transformation at the Iliff School of Theology at the University of Denver since 1981, and has written three books, the most recent entitled "There is a River."

Harding's presentation was the first of a series of lectures and performances that are part of this year's Steinman Festival of the Arts, the theme of which is Afro-America 88: The Dream Deferred?

"What we mean by Afro-America is what's going on with the children of Africa in the U.S.

today," said Harding. "In a festival like this we must first ask ourselves, what has been this dream?"

Speaking for nearly an hour and a half, Harding was often powerful and compelling as he traced the history and development of the Afro-American dream, saying it has been "an active vision, full of life and blood." The dream first began on the slave ships in the 17th century. "When freedom was stolen, dreams of freedom automatically began," he said.

Harding spoke of the First Continental Congress in 1774, when black people dreamed that white revolutionaries really meant it when they said they would abolish slavery if they could break free from England. He also cited the Declaration of Independence, saying, "Black people always took American proclamations of freedom and justice more seriously than the proclaimers themselves."

Describing the dream during the 19th century, Harding noted

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ST. LAWRENCE WRESTLERS BRING HOME NATIONAL TITLE

Brian Read rounded out the Saints placing, winning two come from behind victories along the way. In his first match, Read was losing to the sixth seeded wrestler 8-0, when he stormed back to win 17-8. He then wrestled his way to a sixth place finish, knocking off another seed along the way in come from behind fashion, 7-6.

The Saints all performed well throughout the tournament, but didn't realize they could win the team title until the end. They were in second place after the first day and joked about winning, but realistically aimed for a top three finish, and concentrated on a good first round the second day.

On the second day the Saints continued their winning ways, jumping into first place in the early afternoon. Coach John Clark said that at 3:00 p.m., just before the consolation finals, a coach told him that the Saints could lock up the title before the finals, if the three S.L.U. wrestlers in the consolations won.

Clark said, "the thought (of winning) had never occurred to anyone", but suddenly the Saints realized they could do it. The team came away with two wins here though, which left the team title undecided going into the finals.

When the finals started the Saints still led by 12.75 points, with second place Montclair State having the only chance at taking away the title. Montclair had three finalists who were all shoe-ins as champions, but in order for

Montclair to win, two of their three would have to win major decisions (by 8 or more points).

The S.L.U. team anxiously watched as the first Montclair wrestler got the needed superior decision in the closing seconds of his match. The second Montclair finalist won only by 7 though, putting the pressure on their 177 pounder. The whole Saints team watched intently as Montclair's last finalist went into the third period with a 7 point lead.

Coach Clark said of that third period "it was the longest two minutes in my life", as he and the team watched the time run out, with the Montclair wrestler only winning by seven points.

Finally, it was decided. The Saints were Team Champions. Brian Read jumped to his feet with his arms raised in the air, and John Canty raced to tell the news to Pat Conners, who was warming up for his final bout in another room. Conners then proceeded to win his final match, putting the final team tally at St. Lawrence 71 points, and Montclair State 66.75.

Coach Clark also received the Div. III Coach of the Year Award. Clark gave credit to assistant coach Mark Shortsleeve who "deserved at least 50% of the award". He also said, "We can be proud of the fact we won the National Championship with scholar athletes, people whose reason to be here is for an education."

Members of the team said everybody in the gym watched in

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

The athlete of the week is Heavy Weight National Champion Pat Conners. Pat who was seeded first, won all four of his matches, three by one point, on route to his title. He became the fifth National Champ in SLU wrestling history. Because of his performance Pat received an automatic bid to the Division I Nationals.

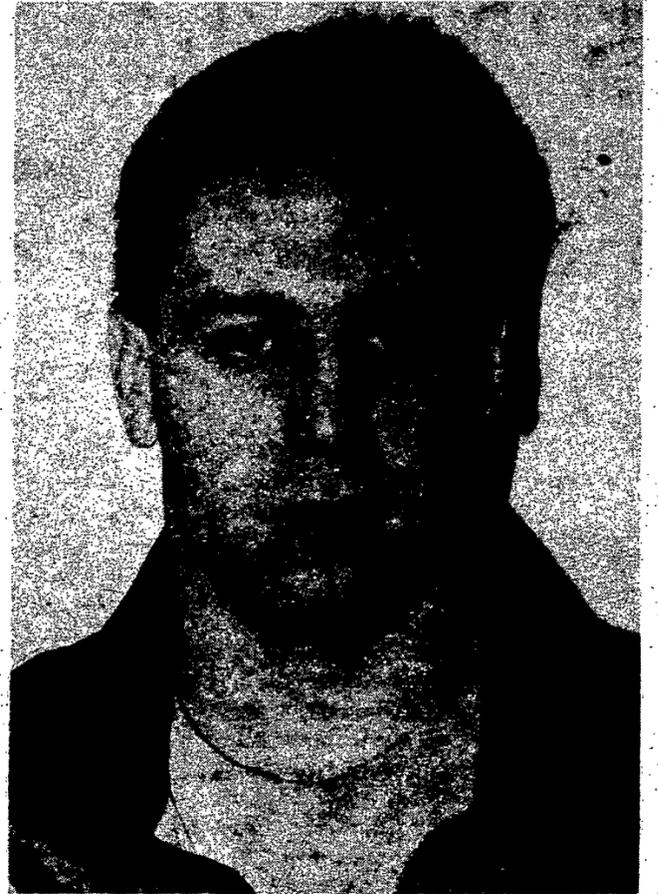


Photo by Brendan McLaughlin.

disbelief as the Saints, who weren't supposed to even be a contender for the title, won it.

The team agreed that the coaches advice to be intense, cool, and show no respect (meaning no matter who you're wrestling, you treat as a faceless, nameless opponent who has to earn every point he gets) was a big part of their success. There was a great overall team effort put forth by

the Saints. The spirit can be seen when Dan Keating said, of the individual Championship he might have won if he wasn't disqualified, "I'd trade the National Championship for the Team Title."

For now the team is still in shock. Conners and his team mates say they can't believe it really happened, at least until they read it in print. It did, and congratulations to the Saints.

Barbados

SPRING BREAK

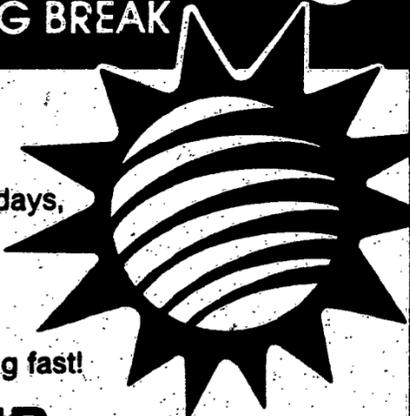
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