

# Letchworth Central High School Wrestling History

by Wayne Robbins, Coach

Letchworth Central High School's participation in inter-scholastic wrestling has left a legendary mark on the history of that sport in western New York. Alumni have often stated the feats of wrestlers during their years in school and their anecdotes prompted this research into the subject. Relying on the records maintained by former Athletic Director Ron Smith I was able to construct a chronology of the wrestling tradition at this school. The record is far from complete but it is a start toward one which I hope can be more detailed. Apologies are offered for any omissions or errors that follow and any help in adding to or correcting this history will be appreciated.

It is a long way from the days when Letchworth competed against teams like Spencerport and Orchard Park (Imagine the travel!) but in seeing those names one is impressed by the reputation the Indians enjoyed. Recent teams have not maintained those level of successes but theirs should still serve as an incentive to our community to encourage current students to match or exceed them. Wrestling rules and styles have changed over the years and as the number of participants have increased so has the level of competition. Still, three ingredients remain in common between the champions of today with those of the past: dedication, desire and pride. This history is offered in an effort to honor those who exhibited such traits during their years at Letchworth.

1947-48 Coach Leo Benigl (no record available)

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1949-50 Coach John Clark Record: 12-2 Wyoming County Champions; Individual Champions: Wyoming County: 98-Barney Balmas; 127-Doug Bliss; 133-Art Shearing; 138-Ken Hance; 145-Steve Balmas; 154-Robert Cartwright; 165-Doug Smith; 175-Crandall

1950-51 Coach John Clark, Record 11-0-0 (6-0 league) Wyco Champions. Individual Champions: Wyoming County: Don Smith, Ken Hance, Carl McMaster, Robert Rutherford, Ken Swyers, Art Shearing, Don Dumbleton and Ralph Miller. Sectionals: Don Smith, Ken Hance, Carl McMaster, Ken Swyers, and Art Shearing.

This was the first undefeated team in Letchworth's history. It placed 8 wrestlers in the Section V quarter-finals, 7 men in the semi-finals, 7 in the finals and won 5 NYSPHAA Championships in Rochester on April 7, 1951.

1951-52 Coach Record: Overall, 10-2 League, 4-0 Wyco Champions. Individual Champions: Wyco: 117-Ken Swyers; 133-Ralph Mucher; 145-Bob Rutherford; and 175-Carl McMaster. Sectionals: Ralph Miller, Carl McMaster and Bob Rutherford

1952-53 Record: 11-1-1 Individual Champions: Wyco: 103-Gil Mucher; 133-Barney Balmas; 145-Dick Vincent; 154-Don Dumbleton; 175-Carl McMaster; and 127-Ken Swyers. Sectionals: Gil Mucher, Barney Balmas, Dick Vincent, Don Dumbleton, and Carl McMaster.

1953-54 Coach Eugene O'Donnell (record incomplete) Wyoming Co. Champions.

1954-55 Coach Agana (record incomplete) Wyoming Co. Champions.

1955-56 Coach Kellogg Nelson Record: Overall, 11-1, League 7-1, Wyoming Co. Champions. Individual Champions: Wyco: 127-Don Tavernier; 138-Dave Cox; 154-Ron Carmichael; and 175-Ron Eddy. Sectionals: Don Tavernier and Ron Carmichael.

1956-57 Coach Nelson Record: Overall 12-1, League 8-0, Wyoming Co. Champs. Individual Champions: 138-Bill Miller; 163-Ken Smith; 180-Dave Weiss; and UNL-

Harold Kemp Sectionals: Dave Weiss, 1957-58 Coach Nelson Record: Overall 11-1, League 8-0, Wyoming Co. Champs. Individual Champions: Wyco: 120-Jerry Barlow; 138-Doug Bliss; 154-Duane Shearing; 165-Ken Smith; and UNL-Gary Hale. Sectionals: Doug Bliss and Gary Hale.

1958-59 Coach Nelson Record: Overall 12-1, League, Wyoming Co. Champs.

1959-1960 Coach Nelson Record: Overall 15-0, League, Wyoming Co. Champs.

Individual Champions: Wyco: 95-Lew Bannister; 133-Ed Marquart; 138-Phil Mucher; 165-Robert Shearing; and UNL-Gary Hale. Sectionals: Lew Bannister and Gary Hale.

1960-61 Coach Nelson Record: Overall 9-5-1, League, Individual Champions: Wyco: 95- ---- Broughton; 103-Lew Bannister; 112-Coulson Mucher; and UNL-Joe Uevino. Sectionals: (3rd), (2nd), (2nd) and Joe Uevino.

1961-62 Coach Nelson, Asst. by J. Lonsberry. Record: Overall, 9-4-1, League, 5-3-0. 2nd in League. Individual Champions: Wyco: 123-George Ehresman; 136-Coulson Mucher; and UNL-Joe Uevino. Sectionals: Coulson Mucher and Joe Uevino.

1962-63 Coach Nelson, Asst. by T. Torcello. Record: Overall, 11-3, League, 6-2. 2nd in league. Individual Champions: Wyco: 127-Warren Weaver; 154-Andy Uevino; and UNL-Tom Kral.

1963-64 Coach John Degrood, Asst. by R. Torcello. Record: Overall, 8-4, League, 5-3. Individual Champions: Wyco: 168-Andy Uevino. Sectionals: Andy Uevino

1964-65 Coach Degrood, Asst. by Torcello. Record: Overall, 11-3, League 7-1. Co-champions of the League with Attica. Individual Champions: Wyco: 145-Mike Mattingly and 180-Andy Uevino. Sectionals (3rd) and Andy Uevino.

1965-66 Coach Degrood, Asst. by Torcello. Record: Overall, 9-3, League, 5-3. Individual Champions: Hornell Invitational: 1st-Robert Robinson, Andy Uevino and Jim Beaumont; 2nd-John McDonald; and 3rd-Ken Mattingly, Steve Armendinger and Martin French. Individual Champions: Wyco: 127-Ken Mattingly; 180-Andy Uevino; and UNL-Jim Beaumont. Sectionals: Andy Uevino and Jim Beaumont.

1966-67 Coach Degrood, Asst. by Torcello. Record: Overall, 7-6-0, League, 4-4. Individual Accomplishments: Wyco: Tom Swyers, Martin French, and Jim Beaumont Sectionals: Jim Beaumont.

1967-68: Coach Degrood, Asst. by Galloway. Record: Overall, 9-5, League, 4-4 (2nd in league). Individual Accomplishments: Hornell Invitational: Tom Swyer. Wyco: 145-Del Aiken.

1968-69 Coach Degrood, Asst. by Stoddard. Record: Overall, 5-8, League, 5-6. Individual Accomplishments: Wyco: Jeff Flint (2nd).

1969-70 Coach McMaster, Asst. by Stoddard. Record: Overall, 2-12, League, 2-9.

1970-71 Coach McMaster, Asst. by Stoddard. Record: Overall, 7-6; League, 5-6. Individual Accomplishments: Wyco: Jeff Flint (2nd) and Dan Beaumont (2nd). Section V, Class B: Jeff Flint (3rd).

1971-72 Coach McMaster, Asst. by Stoddard. Record: Overall, 2-9-2, League, 2-8-1. Individual Accomplishments: Wyco Jeff Flint, 1st and Ken Johnston, 2nd. Sectionals: Jeff Flint, 2nd, and Ken Johnston, 3rd.

1972-73 Coach McMaster, Asst. by Stoddard. Record: Overall, 2-13; League, 1-10.

1973-74 Coach McMaster. Record: Overall, 5-9, League, 2-8.

1974-75 Coach McMaster, Asst. by Robbins. Record: Overall, 2-12; League, 1-10.

1975-76 Coach Robbins. Record: Overall, 3-11-1, League, 2-9. Batavia Christmas Tournament: 2nd-John Shelnut, 128; 2nd-Todd Miller, 140; 3rd-Joe Barber, 100; 3rd-Jim Kemp, 217; and 4th-Tim Walton,

177. Individual Accomplishments: Wyco: 4th-John Shelnut, 129; 3rd-Tim Walton, 180 Section V, Class A: 4th-Tim Walton.

Best Records:

Tim Walton .737 0(14-5) L (8-3)

Jon Shelnut .632 0(12-6-1) L (6-4-1)

Jim Kemp .579 0(11-7-1)

Joe Barber .563 0(9-7)

Fastest Pin: Jim Kemp, :55

Most Pins: Tim Walton, 8

Team Points: Tim Walton, 66

1976-77 Coach Robbins. Record: Overall,

5-9, League 4-6. Individual Accomplish-

ments Batavia Christmas Tourney: 2nd-

Todd Miller, 157; 2nd-Tim Walton, 179;

2nd-Jim Kemp, 217; and 3rd-Mike Krause,

107. Wyco: 2nd-Tim Walton, 180; 3rd-

Todd Miller, 158; and 4th-Jim Kemp, 217.

Section V, Class B: 2nd-Tim Walton and

4th-Jim Kemp.

Best Records:

Tim Walton .769 (0,20-6; L,12-2)

Jim Kemp .708 (0, 17-6; L 11-1-1)

Todd Miller .700 (0, 14-5-1; L 10-3-1)

Fastest Pin: Jim Kemp, :12

Most Pins: Tim Walton and Jim Kemp: 8

Team Points: Tim Walton, 67

1977-78 Coach Robbins. Record: Over-

all, 4-9; League 4-8. Individual Accom-

plishments: Batavia Christmas Tourna-

ment: 2nd-Mike Krause, 119; and 2nd-Jim

Barber, 105.

Best Records:

Jim Barber .706 (0, 12-5; L, 10-5)

Joe Barber .667 (0, 8-4; L 8-2)

Cal Sampson .533 (0, 8-7; L 7-5)

Fastest Pin: Jim Barber :23

Most Pins: Jim Barber: 6

Team Points: Jim Barber 60

## ASSIGNED DUTY IN JAPAN

Airman Jon S. Rissinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford L. Rissinger of 4825 Heritage Rd., Warsaw, has graduated with honors at Keesler AFB, Miss., from the U.S. Air Force technical training course for morse systems operators.

Airman Rissinger, now skilled in the operation of electronic equipment used to monitor Air Force communications systems, is being assigned to Misawa AB, Japan, for duty with a unit of the U.S. Air Force Security Service. Completion of the course earned the individual credits towards an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

The airman is a 1978 graduate of Letchworth Central High School.

## SHEEHAN SERVING IN ENGLAND

George R. Sheehan, son of Edward Sheehan of Warsaw, has been promoted to staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

The sergeant, an explosive ordinance disposal specialist at Lakenheath RAF Station, England, serves with a unit of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Sergeant Sheehan is a 1974 graduate of Warsaw Central High School.

## ON DEAN'S LIST

Sherry Lynda Rosa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rosa of 107 East Buffalo St., Warsaw, has attained a position on the fall 1978 Dean's List at Sullivan County Community College. Sherry, a Warsaw High School graduate, is in the commercial art program at SCCC.

## Silver Springs

On Sunday evening, February 18th at 7:30 p.m. the United Methodist Women will observe the call to Prayer and Self-Denial. The Gainesville Church will also be participating. The Service will focus on prayer and the interior life, with special music and a "quiet time." Refreshments will be served after the meeting.