

# Cavayero wins NCAA crown for Colonials

By FRANK ROESSNER

Steve Erber brought the national spotlight to SUNY-Binghamton. Then Steve Cavayero stole it.

Cavayero, the freshman sensation from Bellmore, became SUNY-Binghamton's first national wrestling champion last night with a hard-fought 7-6 triumph over Humboldt (Cal.) State's Jim Luster in the 142-pound title bout of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III tournament.

Brockport State, meanwhile, became the fourth school in as many years to win the team title, chalking up 99½ points to beat out California challenger Humboldt State by 6¼ points.

Cavayero's pulse-pounding come-from-behind victory, capped by a takedown with 1:42 remaining and a point for riding time, brought down the house.



Steve Cavayero

The crowd of nearly 2,000, which had greeted Cavayero with a thunderous ovation during the introductions, rewarded the Colonial ace with deafening applause and a standing ovation at the end of his bout and then shook the walls with another prolonged salute when he mounted the victory stand.

But nobody's smile was any broader or brighter than Erber's. The Colonial coach, who stepped onto the Binghamton campus eight years ago and said "Let there be wrestling," had two more dreams come true this weekend, first by hosting the nationals and then by helping Cavayero make history.

Elizabethtown (Pa.) star Eric Mast beat top-seeded Scott Puzia 12-8 in the 118-pound finals to finally reclaim the national crown he won three years ago as a freshman and John Carroll's Jim Weir added the 167-pound crown to the 158 title he won last year, but former champ Brad Bowman of John Carroll was upended 5-4 by Brockport's Rich Sippel at 177.

The 126-pound title and Outstanding Wrestler award went to Millersville's (Pa.) brilliant Andy Zook, now 30-0, who mauled Jeff Mase of defending team champ Montclair (N.J.) State, 12-2.

The Colonials had another All-America in Mike Carra, who finished fourth at 167, while former area high school stars Rick Armstrong (Whitney Point) and Jim Hauptfleisch (Maine-Endwell) also achieved A-A status with sixth-place finishes. Both Cortland State 158-pounder Armstrong and Oswego State heavyweight

Hauptfleisch were forced to default their fifth-place bouts because of injuries suffered earlier in the day.

Cavayero, whose face bore some gruesome reminders of tournament warfare, needed only four seconds to take down Luster, whose face was masked because of a previous nose injury.

Both wrestlers were hit for stall points in the second period, then Cavayero got penalized again in the final period as Luster took a 6-4 lead. Erber was fuming at the call, but Cavayero rectified things seconds later when he hit a single leg takedown to tie the match. He controlled Luster the rest of the way to earn the winning time-advantage point.

All ten champions and four "wild card" selections — Puzia, Cortland's Pete Rossi (134) and Bob Menz (190) and Bowman — will take part in the NCAA nationals March 17-19 at the University of Oklahoma.

**TOURNEY TRIVIA:** There were more SUNY-Binghamton fans in the corner adjacent to the mat for Cavayero's semifinal than there were for most of the team's dual meets this season. Winningest matchup was at 118, where 34-1 Puzia met 33-2 Mast. Mast suffered a dislocated finger in his 20-14 semifinal triumph over Upper Iowa's Joe Smith. Cavayero's second victim of the tourney, William Penn's Gary Wood, wrestled back to finish third. Former Spencer-VanEtten Coach Brian Roberts one of the tourney officials. Finals didn't get under way until 9:07. Erber's tournament staff deserve orchids for a mammoth job well done. It took 533 bouts to whittle down the 387 wrestlers from 93 schools (74 of which scored tourney points).

**Top twenty teams:** Brockport 99½, Humboldt 93, Millersville 65½, Montclair 61½, John Carroll 57, Cortland 50, St. Lawrence 44½, Lycoming 39½, Elizabethtown 39½, Maryville 37½, Coe 37¼, Binghamton 36¾, Wartburg 35, Upper Iowa 33¾, Trenton 32½, Ashland 30¼, Oswego 28¼, Mass. Maritime 24½, Hiram 16, Gettysburg 11¾.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

118—Eric Mast (Elizabethtown) dec. Scott Puzia (Trenton), 12-8.  
126—Andy Zook (Millersville) dec. Jeff Mase (Montclair), 12-2.  
134—Ken Mallory (Montclair) dec. Pete Rossi (Cortland), 12-9.  
142—Steve Cavayero (Binghamton) dec. Jim Luster (Humboldt), 7-4.  
150—Fran Presley (Maryville) dec. Craig Savitsky (Lycoming), 10-4.  
158—Mitch Brown (St. Lawrence) dec. Mike Karges (Humboldt), 10-4.  
167—Jim Weir (John Carroll) dec. Kris Henry (Humboldt), 5-2.  
177—Rich Sippel (Brock.) dec. Brad Bowman (J.C.), 5-4.  
190—Eric Woolsey (Humboldt) dec. Bob Menz (Cort.), 5-3, 3-1 OT.  
Hwt—Mack Tyndall (Brock.) dec. Gary Long (Coe.), 7-4.

## SEMIFINALS

118—Puzia dec. Jerry Goodfellow (Brock.), 7-2; Mast dec. Joe Smith (U. Iowa), 20-14; 126—Mase dec. Mike Arnold (Ash.), 6-3; Zook pinned Doug Englert (Cornell), 3:40; 134—Mallory dec. Steve Deike (Wartburg), 3-1; Rossi dec. Steve Holley (August.), 8-2; 142—Luster ref's decision over Scott Hill (Brock.) after 3-3, 1-1 OT; Cavayero dec. Duane Shaw (Lycoming), 9-4; 150—Savitsky dec. Kevin Brandenburg (Hiram), 7-7, 7-0;

Presley pinned Dick Krueger (U. Iowa), 4:01; 158—Brown dec. Bill Rawding (Swarthmore), 10-3; Karges dec. Rick Armstrong (Cort.), 6-4; 167—Weir dec. Jim Bruck (Coe), 8-1; Henry pinned Matt Staples (Plymouth), 3:45; 177—Bowman dec. Al Callahan (Ursinus), 15-4; Sippel dec. Mike Paquette (Union), 6-3; 190—Menz dec. Leon Dunnam (Mass. Mar.), 9-1; Woolsey dec. Bob Valentine (Maryville), 10-4; Hwt—Tyndall dec. Jim Hauptfleisch (Oswego), 8-2.

## THIRD PLACE

118—Smith dec. Goodfellow, 0-0, 2-1 OT; Steve Cella (Brock) dec. Ralph Melia (Maryville), 7-2; 134—Deike dec. Holley, 4-0; 142—Gary Wood (Wm. Penn) dec. Shaw, 9-4; 150—Bob Brenton (Brock) dec. Mike Harr (Humb.), 7-2; 158—Jeff Freedman (Ashland) dec. Rawdings, 6-2; 167—Bruck dec. Mike Carra (Bing.), 4-1; 177—Wayne Dunn (Maryville) dec. Paquette, 9-5; 190—Paul Guillaume (Wartburg) pinned Valentine, 1:46; Bill Kahl (J. Carroll) dec. Art Sopsela (Mont.), 6-4.

## FIFTH PLACE

118—Bob Ortenzio (Gettys.) dec. Keith Fabrizi (Hiram), 8-5; 126—Englert by default over Arnold; 134—Gary Helm (E-town) dec. Dan Ireland (M-ville), 5-2; 142—Hill dec. Charles Breithoff (Trenton), 4-1; 150—Krueger dec. Brandenburg, 3-2; 158—Steve Borja (Lycom.) by default over Armstrong; 167—Staples dec. Bill Genther (St. Law.), 4-1; 177—Tom Littauer (Wheaton) by forfeit over Callahan; 190—Dunnam pinned John Truscello (Leb. Valley), 5:52; Hwt—Andrew by default over Hauptfleisch.