

# Brockport's 1st title wasn't easy

When Brockport State's Rich Sippel stepped onto the mat Saturday night in the 177-pound finals at Binghamton, he knew the Division III national team wrestling championship was on the line.

"The coach told me the only person who was going to beat me was myself," Sippel said. "I wanted it. We worked hard all year, so we deserved the title."

Sippel proceeded to defeat former Division III champion Brad Bowman of John Carroll of Cleveland, 5-4 to give the Golden Eagles their first national crown, 99¼ points to 93 for runner-up Humboldt (Calif.) State.

But the championship wasn't without its anxious moments. Sippel trailed, 4-3, in the third period.

"I had riding time, so the score was actually tied," he said. "I knew he had to take me down to win. So I was ready when he shot in. I counted, the clock ran out, and that was it."

"The whole team went crazy," said senior Steve Cella, who placed third at 126 pounds. "Rich came running off and we all hugged him."

"It was a lot of work. The coach worked us hard but it all paid off. He made us a close-knit team. We couldn't let him down."

"I've been to the Olympics and World Championships," said the Eagles' coach, Don Murray, "but this is my greatest thrill ever. You go through all of their sweating, tears and threats to quit. But they learned how to overcome defeat and make it all worthwhile. I loved every minute of it."

Heavyweight Mackey Tyndall followed Sippel with a national title of his own, 7-4 over Gary Long of Coe, Ia.

Four other Brockport wrestlers finished as All-Americans (top six). Cella (126) and Bob Brenton (150) placed third, Jerry Goodfellow (118) fourth and Scott Hill (142) fifth.

Humboldt State had four finalists but none of them won, allowing Brockport to gain first place. Tyndall and Sippel will compete in the Division I championships beginning March 17 in Norman, Okla.

In the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling championships at Syracuse, Lehigh won the team title for the third straight time but Syracuse's 134-pound George Medina was named outstanding wrestler. Lehigh had 155 points, Navy 95, Penn 86, Wilkes 85 and Syracuse 73.5.

**HOCKEY:** Cornell whipped Penn, 7-1, to win the Ivy League championship and RPI topped Colgate, 7-5, to earn a spot in the ECAC Division I tournament.

—RUDY MARTZKE