



CROWN WINNERS IN DIVISION III: L-R, front—Mast (Elizabethtown), Zook (Millersville State), Mallory (Montclair State), Cavayero (Binghamton State), Presley (Millersville State); back—Brown (St. Lawrence), Weir (John Carroll), Sippel (Brockport State), Woolsey (Humbolt State), Tyndall (Brockport State).



NATIONAL DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fruition Of Brockport State's Dream Made With Down To Earth Hard Work

By FRANK ROESSNER

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The 1977 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III wrestling tournament may have set a new record for making dreams come true.

Though it turned out they didn't go on to make much noise in the national championships at Norman, Oklahoma, the 10 Division III champions certainly had to be elated over their achievements in earning national recognition.

As for Brockport State coach Don Murray, there's no doubt that he dreamed often of the day when he would step forward to accept a national team trophy. To be able finally to receive that trophy so close to home with so many of his school's fans on hand must have been doubly satisfying.

And Steve Erber, coach of the host State University of New York at Binghamton team and choreographer of the Division III festivities, saw two dreams become reality.

NOT ONLY DID HE BRING THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT to his school, but he also was in the coaching chair when Binghamton State 142-pounder Steve Cavayero became the school's first national champion.

But for every smile of satisfaction there has to be a frown of frustration, and those, too, were evident during the marathon tournament that attracted 387 combatants from 93 schools. There were five former champions in the field, but only two of them—118-pounder Eric Mast of Elizabethtown and 167-pounder Jim Weir of John Carroll—were able to regain top honors in 1977.

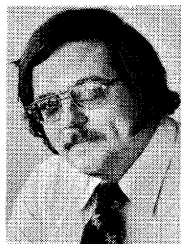
And what of the two schools which had so dominated the previous two tournaments, defending champion Montclair State and 1975 kingpin John Carroll? Both were reduced to also-ran status this time as Brockport State and California challenger Humboldt State surprised all the experts by breaking away from the pack early and engaging in a two-team race for the crown.

Ten wrestlers entered the tournament with unblemished records, but only one—Millersville's brilliant Andy Zook—went home the same triumphant way.

ZOOK, SEEDED SECOND to 1975 champ Craig Helmuth of Gettysburg, was a juggernaut at 126 pounds as he pinned four opponents and then mugged Montclair's Jeff Mase, 12-2, in the title bout.

Zook's superb showing, particularly in the quarterfinals when the red-headed whiz overcame an 8-2 deficit to pin Brockport's Steve Cella, made

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A two-time winner of the Keystone Press Award for writing in his home state, Roessner has spent his career working in hotbeds of amateur wrestling—first in central Pennsylvania and now in New York's southern tier region.

Formerly a sports writer for his home town newspaper and a sports editor in Lewiston, Pa., he joined the staff of The Evening Press in October of 1974.

DIVISION III INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS AND PLACE WINNERS

Weight	Champion	Runner-up	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
118-LB	MAST <i>Elizabethtown</i>	Puzia <i>Trenton St.</i>	Smith <i>Upper Iowa</i>	Goodfellow <i>Brockport St.</i>	Ortenzio <i>Gettysburg</i>	Fabrizi <i>Hiram</i>
126-LB	ZOOK <i>Millersville</i>	Mase <i>Montclair St.</i>	Cella <i>Brockport St.</i>	Melia <i>Maryville</i>	Englert <i>Cornell</i>	Arnold <i>Ashland</i>
134-LB	MALLORY <i>Montclair St.</i>	Rossi <i>Cortland</i>	Deike <i>Wartburg</i>	Holley <i>Augustana</i>	Heim <i>Elizabethtown</i>	Ireland <i>Millersville</i>
142-LB	CAVAYERO <i>Binghamton St.</i>	Luster <i>Humboldt St.</i>	Wood <i>William Penn</i>	Shaw <i>Lycoming</i>	Hill <i>Brockport St.</i>	Breithoff <i>Trenton St.</i>
150-LB	PRESELEY <i>Millersville</i>	Savitsky <i>Lycoming</i>	Brenton <i>Brockport St.</i>	Harr <i>Humboldt St.</i>	Krueger <i>Upper Iowa</i>	Brandenburg <i>Hiram</i>
158-LB	BROWN <i>St. Lawrence</i>	Karges <i>Humboldt St.</i>	Freeman <i>Ashland</i>	Rawdings <i>Swarthmore</i>	Borja <i>Lycoming</i>	Armstrong <i>Cortland St.</i>
167-LB	WEIR <i>John Carroll</i>	Henry <i>Humboldt St.</i>	Bruck <i>Coe</i>	Carra <i>Binghamton St.</i>	Staples <i>Plymouth St.</i>	Genthert <i>St. Lawrence</i>
177-LB	SIPPEL <i>Woolport St.</i>	Bowman <i>John Carroll</i>	Dunn <i>Maryville</i>	Paquette <i>Union</i>	Littauer <i>Wheaton</i>	Callahan <i>Ursinus</i>
190-LB	WOOLSEY <i>Humboldt St.</i>	Menz <i>Cortland St.</i>	Guillaume <i>Wartburg</i>	Valentine <i>Maryville</i>	Dunnam <i>Mass. Maritime</i>	Truscello <i>Lebanon Valley</i>
HVYWT	TINDALL <i>Brockport St.</i>	Long <i>Coe</i>	Kahl <i>John Carroll</i>	Sopelsa <i>Montclair St.</i>	Andrew <i>Upper Iowa</i>	Hauptfleisch <i>Oswego</i>

TEAM SCORING

Brockport St. 99½, Humboldt St. 93, Millersville 65¼, Montclair St. 61½, John Carroll 57, Cortland St. 50, St. Lawrence 41½, Lycoming 39¾, Elizabethtown 39½, Maryville 37½, Coe 37¼, Binghamton 36¾, Wartburg 35, Upper Iowa 33¾, Trenton 32½, Ashland 30¼, Oswego 28¼, Mass. Maritime 24½, Hiram 16, Cornell 14½, William Penn 12½, Swarthmore 12¼, Olivet 12¼, Gettysburg 11¼, Augustana 11½, Union 10¾, Mansfield 10, Wheaton 9, Salisbury St. 8½, Plymouth St. 8, Kutztown 7½, Ursinus 7½, Lebanon Valley 6½, York 6½, NY Maritime 6½, Glassboro St. 6, RIT 5½, St. Thomas 5, Washington & Jefferson 4¾, Allegheny 4, Hamline 3½, Case Western 3½, Delaware Valley 3, Adrian 3, Luther 3, Western New England 3, Ferris St. 3, North Central 3, Stanislaus 2¾, Moravian 2½, Capital 2½, Grove City 2½, Oberlin 2, Marietta 2, Oneonta 2, Amherst 2, Ohio Northern 2, Lynchburg 2, St. John Fisher 2, Potsdam 2, Albany St. 2, Washington & Lee 2, MacMurray 1½, Thiel 1½, Mt. Union 1½, Ripon 1½, Baldwin-Wallace 1½, Geneseo 1, Coast Guard 1, Buena Vista ½, Lawrence ½, Lowell ½.

the outstanding wrestler balloting a mere formality. Nobody else came close.

The Zook-Helmuth showdown never materialized because Trenton State's Terry Coleman upended Helmuth, 8-7, in the third round.

And the wrestler who won the 126-pound crown and outstanding wrestler trophy in 1976, Montclair's Vince Tundo, wasn't even in attendance. He was unable to meet the entrance qualifications after a season marred by personal problems and knee surgery.

Another defending champ from Montclair bowed out in the third round as 142-pounder Rick Freitas suffered an 8-4 loss to Jerry Oberst of Oswego State.

John Carroll's Weir endured, however, after moving up from 158 to 167. A smooth technician, Weir posted five decisions en route to his second crown and dealt Humboldt's title aspirations a big setback when he bested Kris Henry in the finals, 5-3.

ELIZABETHTOWN'S MAST ENDED a three-year quest by regaining the 118-pound title he won as a freshman at the inaugural Division III tourney in 1974. Mast effectively countered most of Scott Puzia's repertoire for a 12-8 triumph over Trenton's No. 1 seed.

John Carroll's Brad Bowman, a champion in 1975, had to settle for runner-up honors at 177 for the second straight year in a bout which decided the close team race.

Brockport's Rich Sippel, seeded seventh at the start of competition, stepped onto the mat with Bowman knowing that the team trophy was on the line. "Coach told me the only person who was going to beat me was myself," he said. "I wanted it. We worked hard all year, so we deserved the title."

He wanted it, and he got it. Though he trailed, 4-3, after two periods, Sippel already had earned a riding time point. He escaped quickly in the final period for a winning point and then thwarted Bowman's repeated takedown tries to prevail, 5-4.

THAT BOUT CLOSED THE DOOR ON THE SCRAPPY Humboldt team that had traveled so far and had done so well. Humboldt sent four men into the finals, two more than Brockport, and was hoping to overtake the Eagles in the homestretch.

It wasn't to be. Jim Luster bowed to Binghamton's Cavayero at 142; Mike Karges lost to Mitch Brown of St. Lawrence at 158, and Henry yielded to Weir.

Eric Woolsey's overtime win against Cortland State's Bob Menz at 190 only could soothe the sting of the previous losses.

Brockport heavyweight Mackey Tyndall closed out the tournament with a 7-4 victory over Coe's Gary Long to give the Eagles a final total of 99.25 points. Humboldt finished with 93 points in the closest team race in the tourney's four-year history.

This tournament was noteworthy for a number of reasons besides producing the fourth new team champion in as many years. The number of schools and wrestlers entered were both records, as was the number of schools (74) earning tournament points. Proof of the tournament's growth is that only one 64-man bracket was required in 1976, but this tournament needed 64-man brackets at every weight but heavyweight.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TOURNAMENT FOR LOCAL YOKELS, naturally, was the scintillating performance of Cavayero, a freshman from Long Island. Trailing 6-4, he notched a takedown with 1:42 remaining and rode Luster marvelously for the winning time point. The crowd began its ovation with 10 seconds left; and by the time Cavayero flew joyously into Erber's arms, the walls were vibrating from the roar.

Millersville, third in the team race, matched Brockport with two champions as 150-pounder Fran Presley joined Zook with a 10-4 triumph over Lycoming's Craig Savitsky.

Montclair kept its individual championship streak alive as Ken Mallory outlasted Cortland's Pete Rossi, 12-9, in the 134-pound finale to become the school's seventh champion in four seasons.

Weir will return to vie for his third straight championship when the tournament switches to Wheaton College in Illinois this season, and he won't be alone when it comes to crown-defending. Zook and Woolsey won their titles as juniors, Mallory as a sophomore and Cavayero and Presley as freshmen.

And just because their dreams came true once doesn't mean it can't happen again.