



Wrestling Crown

Defending Champs Nose Out Spartans

Michigan State Wins Three National Titles
As Jennings Twins and Maxwell
Defeat Their Foes in Finals

By GEORGE S. ALDERTON
(Sports Editor)

Those agile, ambitious Aggies from Oklahoma have done it again.

Last night the powerful wrestling team from Oklahoma A. & M. college won their sixth successive national collegiate wrestling championship in the finals of the 15th annual tournament at Michigan State college.

The muscle boys from the Big Six successfully stood off the challenge of Michigan State for the second year. They scored 31 points to the Spartans' 26. State came home with three champions, winning in the first three weight divisions.

The Jennings twins, Merle, at 121 pounds and Burl at 128 pounds, successfully defended their titles in decision victories, and Bill Maxwell, a runner-up last year, climbed the 136-pound throne with a pin triumph.

State's hopes of unseating the Aggies suffered a fatal setback when Capt. Leland Merrill lost a decision to Theodore Seabrooke, the University of Illinois Big Ten champion, via a decision, in the semi-finals. Merrill returned to win third place in the eight during the consolation round. He scored three falls in his five bouts.

The Aggies returned their two defending champions, David (Buddy) Arndt, 145, and Virgil Smith, 165, to the championships. Dick DiBattista of the University of Pennsylvania kept his 175-pound title. Vernon Logan, another Aggie, won the 155-pound class. Logan was a champion in 1940 but did not compete last year.

Merl (Cut) Jennings successfully defended his 12-pound title by out-pointing Malcolm MacDonald of Purdue in an exceedingly close bout. The Spartan midget won by the margin of a single point. He made an escape and went behind MacDonald once. MacDonald made two escapes. They were on their feet most of the time. Jennings was the aggressor but found in MacDonald, a former high school teammate in Tulsa, Okla., an entirely capable opponent.

Jennings in the semi-finals won a decision over Dick Kpel of Michigan by a wide margin of points, 22-5, while MacDonald beat out Charles King, 8-3.

Burl (Bo) Jennings broke the Oklahoma Aggies' golden ring for the third time in the tournament when he conquered an old nemesis in the person of Captain Sid Marks of the champions. Marks had twice before defeated Jennings, in dual meets during the 1941 and the past season. Burl got an early lead by going behind from the stand, and later in the match escaped Marks and went behind with a lightning-fast elbow roll. "Bo" also had a minute time advantage.

He decisioned Mark Matovina, Big Ten champion, 9-5 in the semi-finals while Marks blinked Samuel Harry, of Penn State, 3-0.

Maxwell put on a slashing performance in winning the 136-pound bout from Fred Bishop of Cornell college. Runner-up last year, the lithe Spartan quickly asserted his mastery and had Bishop on the defensive. He was well ahead in points when he put on a guillotine pinhold. Bishop was helpless in the hold for 15 seconds before Maxwell finally got his shoulders on the carpet. This came in the second period. Bishop then went behind Maxwell in the third period and Maxwell at once came out, scored a near fall and retained the advantage until the bell rang.

David Arndt gave the Aggies their first championship by scoring a decisive decision victory over Manley Johnson of Michigan. Arndt was too strong and capable for Johnson who made a spirited fight in the early minutes but gradually succumbed to Arndt's mastery and barely escaped being pinned in the last minute. Johnson was a Big Ten champion.

Vernon Logan followed in Arndt's footsteps in beating Theodore Seabrooke of Illinois, Big Ten champion, in the 145-pound class. Except for a couple of escapes, Seabrooke was at a loss to meet Logan's versatile wrestling. Seabrooke decisioned Captain Leland Merrill in the semi-finals.

Virgil Smith, another Oklahoma A. & M. product, became the fourth defending champion to score a victory when he out-pointed W. P. Carmichael of the navy, 3-2. The bout was close as the score indicated. Smith had a clear edge but it required the time advantage in his favor to decide the bout.

Closest bout of the night saw Dick DiBattista, of Pennsylvania university, defend his 175-pound title. DiBattista earned a referee's decision over Leon Martin, of Iowa State Teachers college. The Penn strongman almost lost the bout, and the crowd, judging from the shouting and booing that greeted Referee Clyde Sharer's decision, thought so, too. The wrestlers stood at 4-4 at the end of the regular bout and it was 1-1 when the extension finished. DiBattista made an escape just before the regular bout ended to pull even. Otherwise Martin would have won.

Oklahoma Aggies

Win Sixth National

THE FINALS

121 Pound

Merle Jennings (Michigan State) d. Malcolm MacDonald (Purdue), decision, 3-2.

128 Pound

Burl Jennings (Michigan State) d. Sidney Marks (Oklahoma A. & M.), decision, 5-3.

136 Pound

William Maxwell (Michigan State) d. Fred Bishop (Cornell college), fall, 5:16.

145 Pound

David (Buddy) Arndt (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Manley Johnson (Michigan), decision, 18-5.

155 Pound

Vernon Logan (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Theodore Seabrooke (Illinois), decision, 9-4.

165 Pound

Virgil Smith (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. W. P. Carmichael (Navy), decision, 2-1.

175 Pound

Dick DiBattista (Pennsylvania) d. Leon Martin (Iowa State Teachers), referee's decision, overtime.

Heavyweight

Lloyd Arms (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Walter Porowski (Kent State), decision, 7-5.

THE SEMI-FINALS

121-Pound

Merle Jennings (Michigan State) d. Richard Kopel (Michigan), decision, 22-5.

Malcolm MacDonald (Purdue) d. Charles Ridenour (Penn State), decision, 8-3.

128-Pound

Sidney Marks (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Samuel Harry (Penn State), decision, 3-0.

Burl Jennings (Michigan State) d. Mark Matovina (Purdue), decision, 9-5.

136-Pound

Bill Maxwell (Michigan State) d. Dillard Talbutt (Oklahoma A. & M.), fall, 5:39.

Fred Bishop (Cornell) d. Duane Hague (Kent State), decision, 12-5.

145-Pound

Buddy Arndt (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Arlo Ellison (Cornell), fall, 7:36.

Manley Johnson (Michigan) d. Glen Alexander (Penn State), decision, 5-0.

155-Pound

Vernon Logan (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Milton Bennett (Navy), decision, overtime, 6-1.

Theodore Seabrooke (Illinois) d. Leland Merrill (Michigan State), decision, 5-2.

165-Pound

W. P. Carmichael (Navy) d. Norman Anthonisen (Illinois), decision, 5-4.

Virgil Smith (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. William Courtright (Michigan), decision, 6-4.

175-Pound

Richard DiBattista (Pennsylvania) d. Paul Chronister (Kansas State), decision, 6-4.

Leon Martin (Iowa State Teachers) d. James Galles (Michigan), decision, 8-5.

Heavyweight

Lloyd Arms (Oklahoma A. & M.) d. Shuford Smith (Navy), decision, 7-2.

Walt Porowski (Kent State), d. Mearl Greene (Alfred), decision, 6-0.

THE CONSOLATION

121—Charles Ridenour (Penn State) d. Dick Kopel (Michigan), fall, 5:42.5.

128—Samuel Harry (Penn State) d. Mark Matovina (Purdue), decision, 6-5.

136—Dillard Talbutt (Oklahoma A.

Wrestling Summary

TEAM SCORES

Oklahoma A. & M.	31
Michigan State	26
Penn State	10
Michigan	8
Navy	7
Kent State	7
Purdue	7
Pennsylvania	6
Illinois	6
Iowa State Teachers	5
Cornell College	4
Kansas State	2
Nebraska	2
Princeton	1

THE CHAMPIONS

121—Merl Jennings, Michigan State.

128—Burl Jennings, Michigan State.

136—William Maxwell, Michigan State.

145—David Arndt, Oklahoma A. & M.

155—Vernon Logan, Oklahoma A. & M.

165—Virgil Smith, Oklahoma A. & M.

175—Richard DiBattista, Pennsylvania.

Heavyweight—Lloyd Arms, Oklahoma A. & M.

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& M.) d. Warren Taylor (Purdue), decision, 11-7, overtime.

145—Glen Alexander (Penn State) d. Newton Copple (Nebraska), decision, 6-4.

155—Leland Merrill (Michigan State) d. Milton Bennett (Navy), decision, 5-4.

165—William Courtright (Michigan) d. Robert Bader (Kent State), decision, 5-4.

175—Paul Chronister (Kansas State) d. Kenneth Berry (Illinois), decision, 5-4, overtime.

Heavyweight — Frank Ruggieri (Purdue) d. Shuford Swift (Navy), decision, 11-4.

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