



1954 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS: Left to right—Hugh Peery (Pittsburgh), Richard Govig (Iowa), Norvard Nalan (Michigan), Myron Roderick (Oklahoma A&M), Tommy Evans (Oklahoma), Bob Hoke (Michigan State), Joe Solomon (Pittsburgh), Ned Blass (Oklahoma A&M), Pete Blair (Navy), Gene Nicks (Oklahoma A&M).

# National Collegiate Championships

By HAROLD KEITH  
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Cinching the team championship before the finals started, Oklahoma A&M rolled to its 17th National Collegiate wrestling title in 24 years. Four thousand fans in the University of Oklahoma Fieldhouse saw the Aggies return to the throne room after a five-year absence.

Coach Art Griffith's orange-garbed torso-twisters from Stillwater, Okla., placed five men in the finals. Even if all five had been defeated in the last round, the Aggies would still have won decisively. But all of them weren't defeated.

Three of the five Aggie finalists won championships. Myron Roderick, rugged sophomore, decisively conquered the field at 137 pounds; Ned Blass repeated his last year's triumph at 177, although he had a close 5-4 brush with Royal Smith of Colorado in the finals and Gene (Ninety Seconds) Nicks, mighty 230-pound senior heavyweight, pinned one opponent and blanked two others to widely dominate the heavyweight division.

The total entry of 177 wrestlers was believed the largest ever to compete in a National Collegiate tournament. There were 50 schools in the competition, two less than the 1953 meet drew at Penn State.

Tommy Evans, Oklahoma's bashful 147-pound senior coached by Port Robertson, was voted by coaches the outstanding wrestler in the meet. Evans won the same distinction as a junior in 1952 but didn't compete last season owing to a knee operation. So complete and devastating was the offensive repertoire of this stout little welterweight that he scored 16 points in each of two different bouts of the tourney. No other wrestler scored more than 13.

Edwin Rooney, Syracuse 157-pound ace, won the fastest fall in the history of the big meet when he horizontaled John McMahon of Michigan in 31 seconds of a preliminary bout, breaking the former collegiate record of 38 seconds made by Alan Rice, Minnesota 128-pounder, over George Kelly, Wyoming, in the 1949 tournament at Fort Collins, Colo.

Hugh Peery, tiny Pittsburgh senior, won his third consecutive 115-pound title and his 48th collegiate bout in a row by decisioning Charles Ofsthun of Minnesota, 9-2, in the finals. The speedy little Panther ace got terrific competition in the semi-finals from Terrance McCann, tigerish Iowa wrestler. This was the meet's fastest bout. McCann's eternal aggressiveness earned him a 5-5 draw on the scoreboard but Peery's superiority in riding time gave him a 6-5 victory in this thrilling duel of fast-moving gnatweights. Peery's coach is his father, Rex Peery, who back in 1933-35 won three National Collegiate 118-pound titles wrestling for Oklahoma A&M.

Norvard (Snip) Nalan, Michigan's clever defending National Collegiate champ at 130, whose tumbling warmup didos in his corner prior to all his bouts rivals the pre-game antics of the Harlem Globe-Trotters in crowd pleasing quality, pinned three foes and gave only two points while decisioning two others as he defeated Ithaca's Jim Howard, 6-1, in the finals. Nalan has now won 35 bouts in a row.

Bob Hoke, an Oklahoma boy wrestling at Michigan State, upset Rooney, 11-6, in the 157-pound final, snapping a string of 20 consecutive victories by Rooney this year.

Joe Solomon of Pittsburgh gave Coach Rex Peery's Panthers a second individual title when he defeated hard-battling Ernie Fischer of Maryland, 6-2, in a hard-fought 167-pound bout.

Pete Blair of Navy decisioned Joe Comly of Lehigh, 10-5, to win the 191-pound title and finish the season with a 16-0 record that included 12 falls. Nicks finished the year with an 11-0 record, nine of them falls.

The rules committee will recommend to the executive committee that the 1955 tournament be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

## INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS AND PLACE WINNERS

Class	Champion	Second	Third	Fourth
115-lb. ....	Peery (Pittsburgh)	Ofsthun (Minnesota)	McCann (Iowa)	Love (Kent State)
123-lb. ....	Govig (Iowa)	Lobaugh (Oklahoma A&M)	Vega (Purdue)	Anderson (Minnesota)
130-lb. ....	Nalan (Michigan)	Howard (Ithaca)	Sinadinos (Mich. State)	Kozy (Pittsburgh)
137-lb. ....	Roderick (Okla. A&M)	Leichelberger (Lehigh)	Maurey (Penn State)	Kaul (Michigan)
147-lb. ....	Evans (Oklahoma)	Thompson (Okla. A&M)	Corwin (Cornell Col.)	Bronstein (Colo. State)
157-lb. ....	Hoke (Mich. State)	Rooney (Syracuse)	TenPas (Illinois)	Eagleton (Oklahoma)
167-lb. ....	Solomon (Pittsburgh)	Fischer (Maryland)	Gattuso (Navy)	Davis (Okla. A&M)
177-lb. ....	Blass (Okla. A&M)	Smith (Colorado)	Kruka (Penn State)	Weaver (Kansas State)
191-lb. ....	Blair (Navy)	Comly (Lehigh)	Oberly (Penn State)	Shining (Iowa)
Hvywt. ....	Nicks (Okla. A&M)	Konovsky (Wisconsin)	Kitzelman (Nebraska)	Ellis (Kansas State)

## TEAM SCORING

Oklahoma A&M 32, Pittsburgh 17, Penn State 13, Navy 12, Iowa 12, Michigan State 11, Oklahoma 10, Michigan 10, Lehigh 9, Syracuse 6, Purdue 5, Illinois 5, Minnesota 5, Ithaca 4, Maryland 4, Nebraska 4, Wisconsin 4, Colorado 4, Kansas State 3, Kent State 2, Cornell Col. 2, Colorado State 1, Springfield 1, Toledo 1, Brigham Young 1, Texas A&M 1.

## National Championship Tournament Results

## 115-Pound Class

FIRST ROUND—Peery (Pittsburgh) pinned Joe Landholm (Kansas State) in 3:55; Bowlin (Okla. A&M) d. Pihakis (Indiana) 4-2; Corr (Oklahoma) d. Whelan (So. Illinois) 9-6.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Peery pinned David (Auburn) in 4:00; McCann (Iowa) d. Bowlin, 13-4; Torgerson (Colorado) d. Corr, 11-6; Ofsthun (Minnesota) d. Love (Kent State) 7-5.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Peery d. McCann, 6-5; Ofsthun d. Torgerson, 7-1.

FINAL ROUND—Perry d. Ofsthun, 9-2. Consolation—McCann pinned Love in 1:38.

## 123-Pound Class

FIRST ROUND—Vega (Purdue) won by forfeit from Pawlik (No. Carolina); Govig (Iowa) d. Levin (CCNY) 9-0; Bredehofft (Cornell Col.) d. Royce (Wyoming) 6-5; Lobaugh (Okla. A&M) d. Stubblebine (Springfield) 4-0; McCreary (Temple) d. Blubaugh (Oklahoma) 4-1.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Govig pinned Allen (Texas A&M) in 4:31; Vega d. Bredehofft, 7-1; Lobaugh defeated Anderson (Minnesota) 6-3; Ontiveros (Illinois) d. McCreary, 3-0.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Govig d. Vega, 4-3; Lobaugh d. Ontiveros, r.d.

FINAL ROUND—Govig d. Lobaugh, 5-1. Consolation—Vega d. Anderson, 9-5.

## 130-Pound Class

FIRST ROUND—Hart (Oklahoma) d. Linn (Iowa State) 11-3; Lemyre (Penn State) d. Hunt (Minnesota) 7-5; Nalan (Michigan) pinned Simmons (Okla. A&M) in 7:25; Sinadinos (Mich. State) pinned Weight (BYU) in 4:18; Day (Colo. A&M) d. Murray (Cornell Col.) 7-0; Howard (Ithaca) d. Kozy (Pittsburgh) 1-0; Hockley (Wyoming) d. Koch (Iowa Teachers) 2-0; Whitney (Purdue) d. Kikuchi (California) 10-4.

SECOND ROUND—Hart d. Mangus (Lehigh) 10-2; Lemyre d. Mancuso (Kansas State) 8-6; Nalan pinned Beattie (Texas A&M) in 1:50.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Sinadinos d. Day, r.d.; Nalan pinned Hart in 5:18; Hockley d. Lemyre, 2-1; Howard d. Whitney, 8-5.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Nalan d. Sinadinos, 4-1; Howard d. Hockley, r.d.

FINAL ROUND—Nalan d. Howard, 6-1. Consolation—Sinadinos d. Kozy, 8-2.

**137-Pound Class**

FIRST ROUND—Turner (Illinois) pinned Cappel (Texas A&M) in 4:15; Eichelberger (Lehigh) pinned Young (Oklahoma) in 4:42; Deprenger (Cornell Col.) d. Loucks (California) 6-0; Roderick, (Okla. A&M) pinned Rollins (BYU) in 4:11; Matthews (Pittsburgh) d. Dwayne (Auburn) 9-0; Casalichio (Mich. State) d. Datteri (Colo. A&M) 8-3; Maurey (Penn State) pinned Chatfield (Kansas State) in 1:35; Ruzic (Iowa State) d. Hairston (Lincoln, Pa.) 7-0. ✓

SECOND ROUND—Kaul (Michigan) d. Turner 7-1.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Eichelberger d. Deprenger, 9-5; Kaul d. Matthews, 6-3; Roderick d. Casalichio, 11-4; Maurey d. Ruzic, 6-2.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Eichelberger d. Kaul, 8-2; Roderick d. Maurey, 5-2.

FINAL ROUND—Roderick d. Eichelberger, 8-4. Consolation—Maurey d. Kaul, 8-2.

**147-Pound Class**

FIRST ROUND—Frey (Penn State) d. Keith (Oregon State) 5-4; Spicher (Kansas State) d. McGee (No. Carolina) 8-0; Bronstein (Colo. State) d. Carothers (Lincoln, Pa.) 7-0; Evans (Oklahoma) d. Whitman (West Chester) 16-8; Bock (Springfield) pinned McEwan (Kent State) in 5:11; Lockwood (Colo. A&M) d. Tambo (Mich. State) 6-0; Ellingson (Iowa State) d. Uram (Pittsburgh) r.d.; Thompson (Okla. A&M) d. Corwin (Cornell Col.) r.d.

SECOND ROUND—Frey pinned Henson (Texas A&M) in 1:36.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Evans d. Frey, 8-3; Bronstein d. Spicher, 4-2; Lockwood d. Ellingson, 4-2; Thompson d. Bock, 8-2.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Evans pinned Bronstein in 7:34; Thompson d. Lockwood, 3-1.

FINAL ROUND—Evans pinned Thompson in 4:15. Consolation—Corwin d. Bronstein, 5-1.



**NATIONAL CHAMPS AND PLACE WINNERS, 1954:** Left to right; first row—Peery (Pittsburgh), Govig (Iowa), Nalan (Michigan), Roderick (Oklahoma A&M), Evans (Oklahoma), Hoke (Michigan), Solomon (Pittsburgh), Blass (Oklahoma A&M), Blair (Navy), Nicks (Oklahoma); second row—Ofsthun (Minnesota), Lobaugh (Oklahoma A&M), Howard (Ithaca), Eichelberger (Lehigh), Thompson (Oklahoma A&M), Rooney (Syracuse), Fischer (Maryland), Smith (Colorado), Comly (Lehigh), Konovsky (Wisconsin); third row—McCann (Iowa), Sinadinos (Michigan State), Maurey (Penn State), Corwin (Cornell College), TenPas (Illinois), Gattuso (Navy), Krufka (Penn State), Oberly (Penn State), Kitzelman (Nebraska); fourth row—Love (Kent State), Anderson (Minnesota), Kozy (Pittsburgh), Kaul (Michigan), Bronstien (Colorado State), Davis (Oklahoma A&M), Weaver (Kansas State), Shining (Iowa), Ellis (Kansas State).



*THE TOURNAMENT'S BEST*—Champion Tommy Evans (right), 147-pound star from the University of Oklahoma, receives the national collegiate outstanding wrestler award from Michigan's Coach Clifford Keen, who was elected president of the American Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association.

### 157-Pound Class

**FIRST ROUND**—Hoke (Mich. State) pinned Bauer (BYU) in 5:55; Bormuth (Wyoming) d. Cobbins (Lincoln, Pa.) 4-1; Rooney (Syracuse) pinned Utter (Springfield) in 8:33; TenPas (Illinois) pinned Bradshaw (No. Carolina) in 1:38; Brandt (Wartburg) d. Downey (Auburn) 3-0; Eagleton (Oklahoma) d. Jenkinson (Iowa) 12-2; DeWitt (Pittsburgh) d. Larsen (Iowa State) 7-4.

**SECOND ROUND**—Rooney pinned McMahon (Michigan) in 31 seconds; Zimmerman (West Chester) d. Bormuth, 5-2; Hoke d. Beattie (Okla. A&M) 6-3.

**QUARTER-FINAL ROUND**—TenPas d. Brandt, 9-2; Hoke d. Zimmerman, 7-1; Rooney d. Greenhalge, 7-0; Eagleton d. DeWitt, 12-3.

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**—Hoke d. TenPas, 6-2; Rooney d. Eagleton, 7-6.

**FINAL ROUND**—Hoke d. Rooney, 11-6. Consolation—TenPas d. Eagleton, 2-1.

### 167-Pound Class

**FIRST ROUND**—Gattuso (Navy) pinned Rial (Texas A&M) in 1:48; Davis (Okla. A&M) d. Cedarberg (Kansas State) 6-2; Fischer (Maryland) d. Wem (Toledo) 4-2; Broughton (Colo. A&M) d. Hanks (Purdue) 4-1; Solomon (Pittsburgh) pinned Gregory (No. Carolina) in 3:59; Hockley (Wyoming) d. Miller (Cornell Col.) 6-1; McGhee (Wash. State) d. Rosenmayer (Colorado) 10-8; Cunningham (Oklahoma) d. Winder (Iowa) 9-6.

**SECOND ROUND**—Davis d. May (Iowa State) 4-2; Gattuso d. Perrone (Mich. State) 10-5.

**QUARTER-FINAL ROUND**—Fischer d. Broughton, 3-1; Davis d. Hockley, 8-6; Gattuso d. McGhee, r.d.; Solomon d. Cunningham, 13-8.

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**—Fischer d. Davis, 4-3; Solomon d. Gattuso, 5-2.

**FINAL ROUND**—Solomon d. Fischer, 6-2. Consolation—Gattuso d. Davis, 3-1.

### 177-Pound Class

**FIRST ROUND**—Blass (Okla. A&M) d. Bonacci (Toledo) 11-2; White (Oklahoma) pinned Segura (Cornell Col.) in 1:24; Krufka (Penn State) d. Draayer (Utah State) 7-0; Anthony (Indiana) d. Soscia (West Chester) 3-0; Senol (Purdue) pinned Marshall (Colo. A&M) in 3:49; Smith (Colorado) d. Gallaher (Lehigh) 6-0; Weaver (Kansas

State) pinned Moravec (So. Dak. St.) in 8:50; Beresford (Pittsburgh) pinned Nickens (Middle Tenn.) in 1:28.

SECOND ROUND—Blass pinned Gerdes (Iowa State) in 5:10.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Krufka won by default from White; Blass d. Anthony, 5-1; Smith d. Beresford, 3-1; Weaver d. Senol, 4-2.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Blass d. Krufka, 8-2; Smith d. Weaver, 3-2.

FINAL ROUND—Blass d. Smith, 5-4. Consolation—Krufka pinned Weaver in 5:40.

#### 191-Pound Class

FIRST ROUND—Blair (Navy) pinned Robinson (BYU) in 1:49; Oberly (Penn State) pinned Hearon (Oklahoma) in 7:35; Evans (So. Dak. St.) d. Mills (Okla. A&M) 5-2; Shining (Iowa) d. Reid (Colo. A&M) 4-2; Krick (Indiana) d. Hitchcock (Wash. State) 10-4.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Gatto (Iowa Teachers) d. Evans, r.d.; Blair pinned Oberly in 3:39; Comly (Lehigh) d. Shining, 4-1; Sotir (Springfield) d. Krick, 5-4.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Blair d. Gatto, 9-1; Comly d. Sotir, 2-0.

FINAL ROUND—Blair d. Comly, 10-5. Consolation—Oberly d. Shining, 6-1.

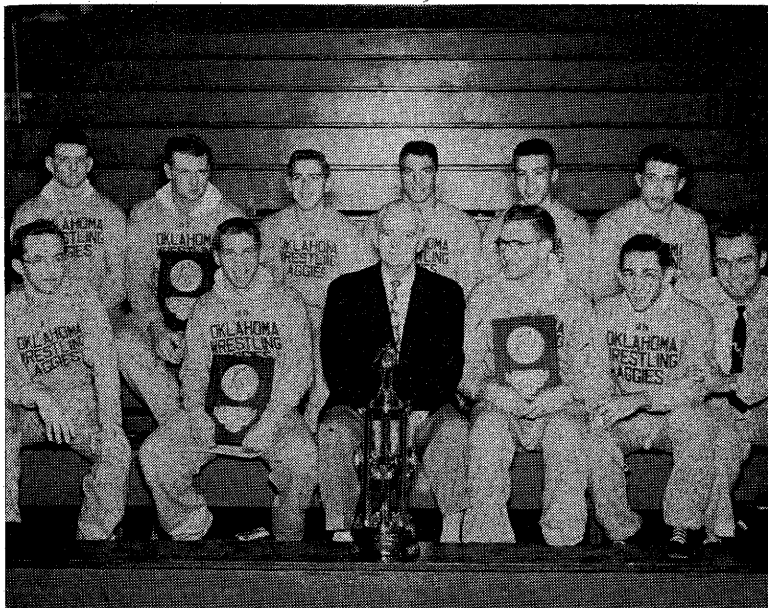
#### Heavyweight Class

FIRST ROUND—Fowler (Mich. State) d. Holland (Colo. A&M), r.d.

QUARTER-FINAL ROUND—Kitzelman (Nebraska) pinned Hunter (Pittsburgh) in 5:07; Nicks (Okla. A&M) pinned Fowler in 7:00; Konovsky (Wisconsin) d. Hix (Middle Tenn.) 6-0; Ellis (Kansas State) d. Ellena (UCLA) 5-4.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND—Nicks d. Kitzelman, 6-0; Konovsky d. Ellis, 3-0.

FINAL ROUND—Nicks d. Konovsky, 7-0. Consolation—Kitzelman pinned Ellis in 3:30.



TEAM CHAMPIONS—OKLAHOMA A&M: Left to right, front row—Bowlin, Roderick, Griffith (coach), Blass, Lobaugh, Rogers (trainer); back row—Thompson, Nicks, Simmons, Davis, Beattie, Mills.