

Six 1958 Individual Champs to Defend Titles:

# Oklahoma State, With Five Placers Back, Mat Choice

By RUSS L. SMITH  
Courier Assistant Sports Editor  
Oklahoma State University, considered stronger this year than when it won the National Collegiate wrestling championship last year, will be an odds-on favorite to win its 20th title when the 30th annual national collegiate meet opens in Iowa City Thursday.

Oklahoma State won only two individual titles last year, the same number as runnerup Iowa State, but Oklahoma State was the only team in the meet at Laramie, Wyo., with a full 10-man squad. It had placers in six weights to set an all-time tournament scoring record.

The Cowboys will be back 10-strong and in the group are their two 1958 champions, two 1958 runnerup and a fourth place winner along with five sophomores, one a potential champion and the other four all possible placers.

In all, there will be six defending NCAA champions returning, but three of them have suffered at least one defeat in dual meet competition and none is considered infallible.

**IF OKLAHOMA STATE** has any challengers for the team title in what figures to be the biggest and best NCAA tournament in history, they probably will be Iowa State and Oklahoma which finished in that order behind the Cowboys in the Big Eight Conference tournament.

Iowa State won the Big Eight last year and has its two 1958 national champions back. Ron Gray, at 147 pounds, is a strong favorite to repeat.

Les Anderson at 130, however, has been defeated twice this year by Stan Abel of Oklahoma, who was third in the weight last year.

Cyclones Don Webtser of Cresco (115), Dave Jensen of Charles City (123), Ellie Watkins (157), Ron Meleney (177), Roger Pohlmann (191) and Jan Schwitters of Iowa Falls (heavyweight) are considered possible scorers in their weights.

Oklahoma lost heavily by graduation after last year, but it is entering an eight-man team with hopes in seven weights. Paul Aubrey, the Sooners' defending 137-pound champion, has lost to Jerry Frude of Wyoming in a dual meet and to Shelby Wilson, the 1958 runnerup from Oklahoma State, in the Big Eight finals.

However, in addition to Abel at 130, they have potential champions in Bob Taylor at 115 and Duwayne Miller, a sophomore who is given a chance to succeed Paul Powell of Pittsburgh, the 1958 champion, at 123. Oklahoma split two dual meets with Oklahoma State.

**OUTSIDE OF THE Big Eight**, Minnesota's Big Ten champions, Iowa, which placed fifth last year in the NCAA, and Michigan State, fourth in 1958, all of the Big Ten, may be leading challengers.

The home mat advantages didn't help Iowa successfully defend its Big Ten title against the Gophers. Minnesota won the loop title with only one individual champion and may not be able to muster enough balance to be a factor in the NCAA.

The one individual champion—Bill Wright of Waterloo—is considered a top favorite for the 177-pound title with Jim Craig of Iowa, a placer last year, among the possibilities at that weight.

Two other placers from last year—Tim Woodin of Michigan State and John Dustin of Oregon State—have moved up to

191 where they will challenge Oklahoma State's Adnan Kaisy, a native of Baghdad, and Iowa's Gordon Trapp of Waterloo among others.

Vince Garcia (123) and undefeated Gene Luttrell (137), the latter from Waterloo, are two other Hawkeyes rated among the top choices in their weights. Both Aubrey and Wilson went up to 147 to avoid Luttrell in Iowa's dual meets in Oklahoma.

Outside of the midwest, the top teams appear to be Lehigh, Pittsburgh and Penn State in the East and Oregon State in the West.

Coaches, however, might cast a wary eye toward Colorado State College of Greeley, Colo., which tied Oklahoma 12-12 at Greeley and pushed Oklahoma State before bowing 16-10 at Stillwater, Okla., in dual meets this year. The little Colorado teachers college is entering a five-man squad including 115-pounder Don Huff, a former state champion from West Waterloo High. Colorado State College's only dual meet loss was to the Cowboys.

**LEHIGH, COACHED** by Iowan (Osage) Germ Leeman, won the Eastern intercollegiate meet this year for the first time in 11 years. Oregon State is the Pacific Coast Conference champion.

Mankato, Minn., Teachers and Southern Illinois, the winner and runnerup, respectively, in last weekend's National Assn. of Intercollegiate Athletics tournament at DeKalb, Ill., will be represented and probably will score well, but don't appear to be threats to the top-rated big schools.

In addition to Powell (123, Anderson (130), Aubrey (137) and Gray (147), the defending champions are Dick Beattie

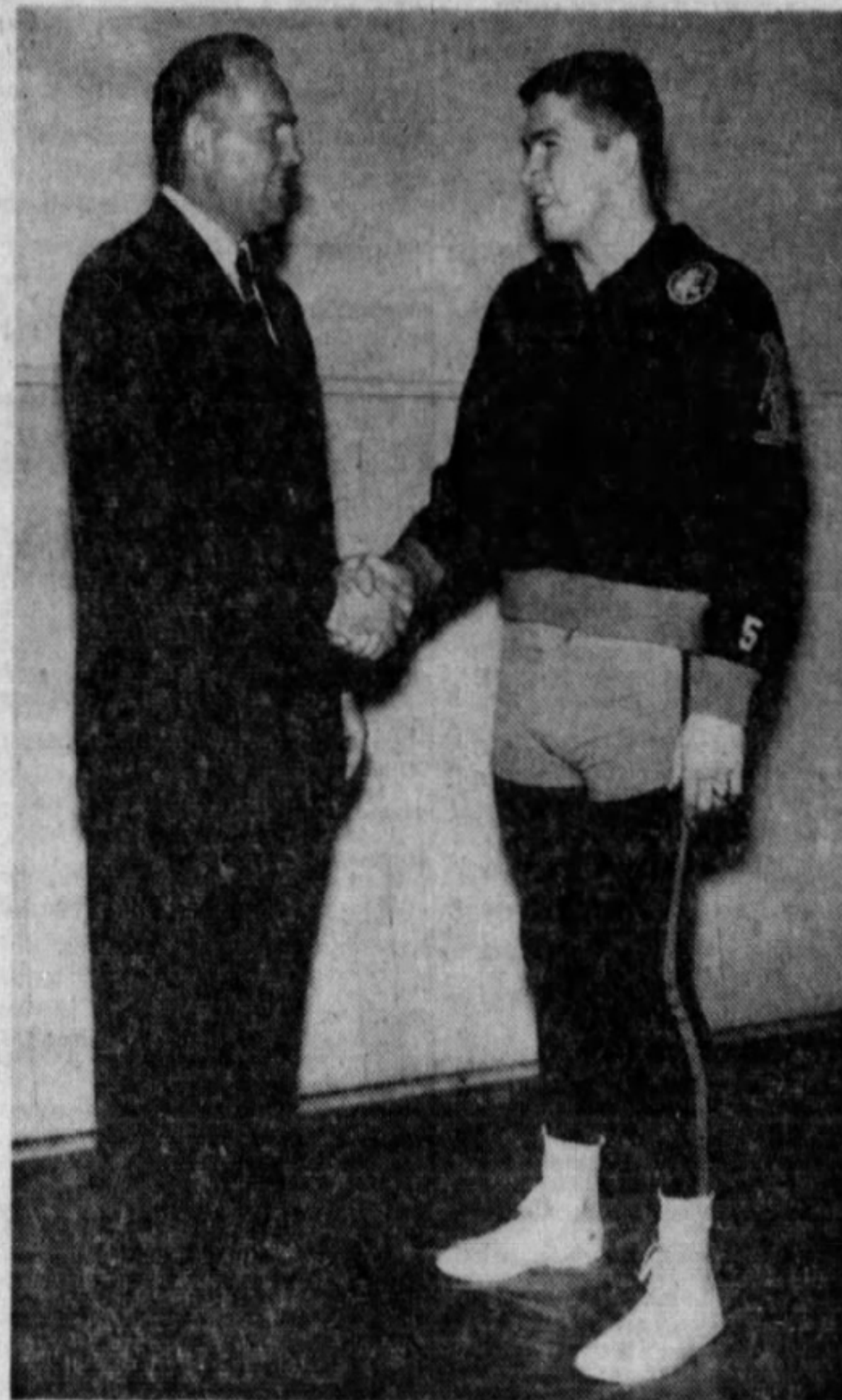
(157) and Duane Murty (167), both of Oklahoma State. Beattie, a powerful counter wrestler, appears to be a top-heavy title favorite.

Murty has an ankle injury that may bother him and he's wrestling in what could prove to be the top weight in the meet. With him are Dick Ballinger of Wyoming, the 1958 run-

nerup; Jim Ferguson, Michigan State, third last year, and Tom Alberts of Pitt, the 1957 champion.

The 177-pound class is considered wide open. Kaisy is the only returning place winner at 191 and there are no returnees at heavyweight.

Powell is expected to make his bid at 115 this year.



MINNESOTA WRESTLING COACH WALLY JOHNSON WITH CAPTAIN BILL WRIGHT OF WATERLOO. A Top Contender in 177-Pound Division This Week.