

# Top NCAA Wrestling Threats Rely on Talented Sophomores

By JERRY LANGDON

Can the talented sophomores of co-favorites Oklahoma State and Iowa State stand up under the tournament pressure?

This was the burning question today as the bulk of 329 entries from 94 schools began arriving in Ithaca in preparation for the 34th annual NCAA wrestling championship which begins Thursday afternoon at Barton Hall.

Both Big Eight powers are heavily dependent on sophomores.

If they falter badly, veteran-laden Colorado State College could be in a position to spring an upset.

Oklahoma State has six sophomores regarded as fair to good possibilities for the finals.

They include Tadaaki Hatta, 115; Yojiro Uetake, 130; Jim Rodgers, 137; Mike Reding, 147; and Bill Harlow, 177; and Jack Brisco, 191.

Uetake, Reding, and Brisco are Big Eight champs, while

co-favorites Uetake barely beat Karel Blubaugh of Oklahoma, 5-4, in the Big Eight semifinals. Parker, a senior, was "Outstanding Wrestler" in the Big Ten tournament. The rest of the field is wide open.

Jim Hanson of Colorado was Big Eight runnerup, losing, 8-4, to Uetake in the finals. Elmer Crider of Colorado State College has been beaten by Parker, 6-2, Uetake, 7-4, and Hanson, 8-5. Bill Stuart of Lehigh, Blubaugh, Larry Harrison of Colorado State University, and Steve Hampton of Georgia have hopes.

137 pounds—Bob Buzzard of Iowa State is the man to beat. He's undefeated. Likely contenders are Jim Rogers of Oklahoma State and Doug Rickard of Colorado State College. Rogers took Buzzard into overtime in the Big Eight finals before bowing, 4-0. He also dropped a 2-0 decision in a dual.

Rickard's only blemish was a 5-3 loss to Rogers, whom he beat once, 3-2. Lew Kennedy of Minnesota, Dan Fix of Colorado Mines, Wayne Hicks of Navy, and possibly John Thompson of Kansas State are other challengers. Kennedy, the Big Ten champ, lost to Buzzard, 3-2, in a dual meet during the season.

147 pounds—Some good wrestlers won't make the quarterfinals of this loaded class. Mike Reding of Oklahoma State, unbeaten soph, is the favorite. Veryl Long of Iowa State finished third in the Big Eight, losing in the semis to Jerry Stanley of Oklahoma in overtime, after having whipped the Sooner, 7-3, during the regular season. Long bowed to Reding, 3-1, in a dual.

Stanley has an unimposing 11-5-2 record, but he has three narrow losses to Reding, 5-4, 4-3, and 3-1. His early season 2-2 draw with Doug Koch of Lehigh is the Engineer ace's only blemish. Jim Crider of Colorado State College has lost to Reding, 3-2, and to Rahim Javanmard of UCLA, 9-4.

Orlando Iacovelli of Ithaca College is unbeaten and the Ithaca native could go all the way. Lee Deitrick of Michigan is Big Ten champ. Buzz Hays of Arizona State is 36-0 this season in all competition. Other threats include George Edwards of Penn State, Rick Hickman of Colorado Mines, and Jim Jioio of West Virginia. And unbeaten Dick Slutzky of Syracuse might come down to 147.

157 pounds — Jack Flasche of Colorado State College, the NCAA champ in 1962 who didn't compete last year, is back. He's been performing at 167 and 177 most of the season, dropping a 4-3 dual to Dee Mickelson of Wyoming at the latter weight. Iowa State has a talented wrestler in unbeaten Gordon Hassman, who was defeated last year in a dual by Cornell's Pete Cummings.

Dick Slutzky of Syracuse, the EIWA winner, figures to place high. Ron Johnson of Washington is unbeaten, and has handled UCLA's Javanmard (fourth in the NCAA's last year). Rog Sanders of West Chester and Dick Duffy of C. W. Post are darkhorses. A longshot is Bill Lam (12-6-1) of Oklahoma, whose setbacks include a 6-5 squeaker to Hassman in a dual.

167 pounds — Tom Peckham, the unbeaten Iowa State sophomore, is a slight favorite. He's had trouble with Oklahoma State veteran Bob Zweiacher during the season, winning 2-1 and 3-2 decisions. Terry Isaacson, the Air Force quarterback, was second two years ago and fourth last year. But he's been held to

Hatta, Rogers, and Harlow copped runnersup honors.

Iowa State possesses two sophomores considered as good bets for titles and one darkhorse.

The favorites are Bob Buzzard, 137, and Tom Peckham, 167, both Big Eight champs.

The darkhorse is Ithacan Steve Shippis, 191.

The Cyclones have good balance, with a strong veteran nucleus.

Iowa State has high hopes that juniors Roger Sebert, 115; Veryl Long, 147; and Gordon Hassman, 157, will make the finals. And some hope is held out, too, for senior Joe Frank at 123, to place.

Top Cowboy veteran is Joe James, the senior heavyweight.

He's been terrific this season, and is given a good chance at the title, though the unlimited class is an extremely stiff one. Dennis Dutsch is likely to score at 123, and Bob Zweiacher is a possibility at 167.

Colorado State College is basing its hopes on five men from 123 through 157, three seniors and two juniors.

They include three-time Rocky Mountain Conference champ Don Neff at 123, Elmer Crider at 130, Doug Rickard at 137, and juniors Jim Crider at 147 and Jack Flasche at 157.

The main strength is with the latter three, but CSC needs points from the other two to figure prominently.

115 pounds — Roger Sebert's only loss this year was to John MacArthur of Colorado University, 6-2. The Iowa State stalwart administered Tadaaki Hatta's sole blemish when he beat the Oklahoma State soph, 4-3, in the Big Eight finals. Terry Finn of Southern Illinois has considerable support. His only losses were to Sebert, 5-4, and to NCAA champ Bucky Maughan of Moorhead State, 3-2.

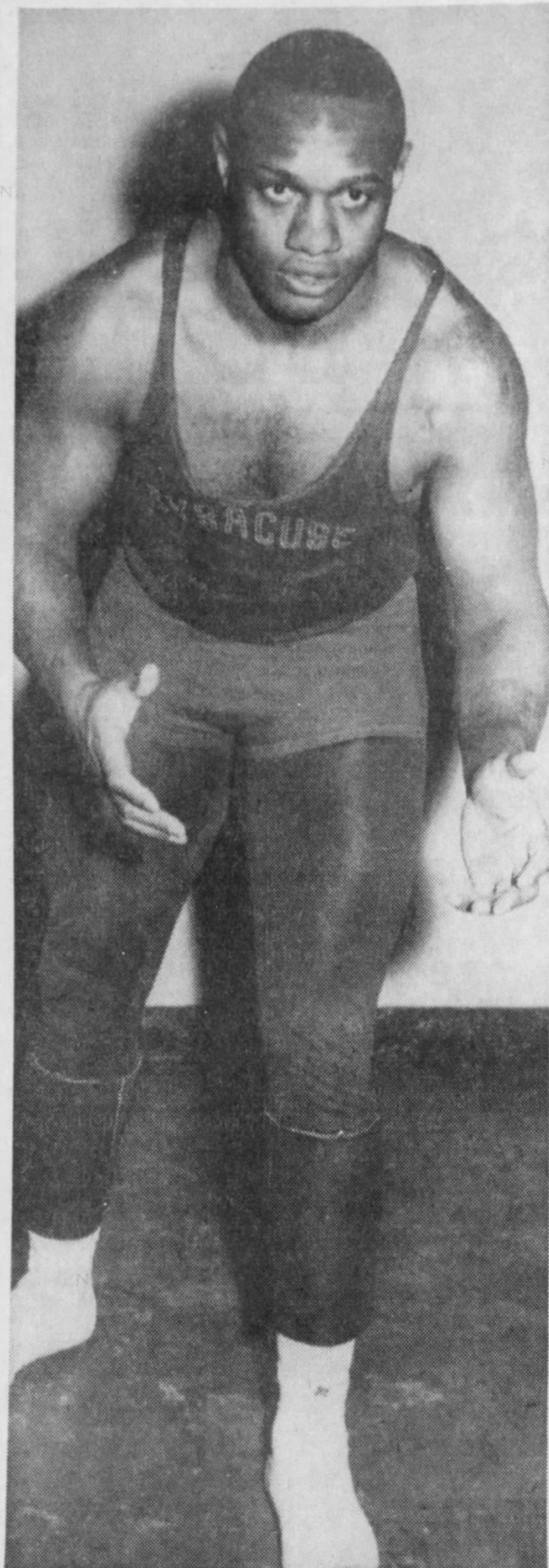
Bob Guzzo of East Stroudsburg wrestled much of the season at 130, where he suffered a 5-2 loss to Fred Powell of Lock Haven, his only defeat. Mike Beery of Ohio State posted a 20-1-1 record. Other contenders are Chuck Bush of Cornell, Ralph Bahna of Michigan, and Duff Killian of Pittsburgh. Bush could surprise despite a 1-2-1 log at 123 this season.

123 pounds—Mike Johnson of Pittsburgh, a junior, is a heavy favorite. He was NCAA runner-up last year. He is extremely quick on his feet and has tremendous reflexes. The rest of the field appears wide open. Fred Powell of Lock Haven has two blemishes, a loss to Michigan 137-pounder Cal Jenkins and a 5-5 draw with Iowa State's Joe Frank.

Dennis Dutsch of Oklahoma State is the Big Eight champ. He was held to a draw twice, but his only loss was to Sebert, 3-0, in a dual. Joe Frank had two draws, and was beaten by Yojiro Uetake of Oklahoma State, 11-5, and Brett Johnston of Oklahoma, 3-2. Bill Robb of Bloomsburg has lost to Guzzo and Powell.

Don Neff of Colorado State College is good, though in the early season he drew with Ray Coca of Western State and Larry Harrison of Colorado State University, and was blanked by Kansas State's Dave Unruh, 4-0. Eastern hopes include Terry Haise of Syracuse, Warren Crow of Cornell, and surprise EIWA champ John Windfelder of Penn State.

130 pounds—Yojiro Uetake of Oklahoma State and Norm Parker of Iowa, both unbeaten, are



JIM NANCE of Syracuse is a defending champion in the NCAA's that start Thursday afternoon at Barton Hall. He has won 77 straight bouts in the last 6 years in high school and college.

two draws (Marty Lyman of University, and Steve Speers of New Mexico and Lee Derock of Colorado) in seven decisions.

Marty Strayer of Penn State, the EIWA champ, is rated highly. So are other Eastern stalwarts such as Lee Hall of Pittsburgh and Dave Carey of Navy. Len Kauffman of Oregon State and Gary Scrivens of UCLA were unbeaten on the Pacific Coast. Don Millard of Southern Illinois lost twice, including a 5-2 decision to Peckham. Mel Wieland of Iowa is a long shot.

177 pounds—Dean Lahr of Colorado, defending champ, is in a class by himself. The main battle is for second, and Oklahoma State has high hopes for Bill Harlow. Gerry Franzen of Navy has come fast, beating Pittsburgh's Ken Barr, 15-1, in the EIWA finals. Bob Keeney of Oregon is unbeaten, while Big Ten champ Dick Isel of Indiana suffered his only loss to a heavyweight. Mike Wittenberg of Cornell is a possibility.

191 pounds—Harry Houska of Ohio University, runnerup at 177 last year, is a heavy favorite. He spent part of the summer in Ithaca, taking instruction from Ithaca College undergrad Bill Layton. A wide open battle for second is likely. Bob Spaly of Michigan and Ron Paar of Wisconsin, third the past two years, are both tough. So is Oklahoma State's Jack Brisco, the Big Eight champ. Possibilities are John Gladish of Lehigh, Blase Iuliano of Ithaca College, Ken Hines of Colorado State

Heavyweight — The crown rests shakily on Jim Nance's head. The Syracuse heavyweight, defending NCAA champ and winner of 77 straight bouts in the last six years, has a tough field to beat. Joe James of Oklahoma State, second at 191 two years ago and third at heavyweight last season, is reported better than ever.

Larry Kristoff of Southern Illinois, the AAU champ, started slowly, but has come fast in recent weeks. He lost to Joe Kuhn of Western State during the season. Kristoff was second to Nance in the NCAA's last year, dropping a 2-1 decision. Bob Billberg of Moorhead State is a magnificent sophomore prospect. He lost a referees' decision to Kristoff recently.

Merrell Solowin of Toledo, who took Nance into overtime last year, is back. Roger Pillath of Wisconsin, second two years ago, is a possibility, as is Ed Scharer of Rutgers, beaten, 6-4, by Nance in the EIWA finals earlier this month.

## Maris Thoroughbred

HIALEAH, Fla. (AP)—Lou Wolfson, owner of Harbor View Stable, has named a promising 2-year-old thoroughbred Roger Maris, after the slugging right fielder of the New York Yankees.

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