

# SPORTS

COURIER & FREEMAN, Potsdam, N.Y., Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1973 7

## First for Neil Johnson, SUCP Bears win SUNYAC's ★

Potsdam State College piled up extra points in the early rounds with a flurry of pins, and held that advantage in the final rounds to post a stunning upset, winning the State University of New York Athletic Conference wrestling title for the first time Saturday at Maxcy Hall on the Potsdam State campus.

The Bears, coached by Neil Johnson, finished with 82½ points, with favored defending champion Brockport second with 68½, and Oswego a close third with 66 points.

Potsdam and Brockport had three individual champions, with Oswego copping two crowns, and Albany and Cortland one each.

Three Long Island wrestlers won titles for the Bears, freshman 142-pounder Tony Peraza of Ridge; 167-pound co-captain Joe Galea of Brentwood; and 177-pound co-captain Rich Molbury of Franklin Square, who successfully defended his crown at that weight.

A trio of Lowville natives also scored for the Bears, with junior co-captain Jerry Pleskach scoring a third place at 118-pounds, and Sophs Keith Lyndaker and Tom McCue taking second places in the 150-pound and unlimited classes respectively. Fergus Murphy (190) was

the other Potsdam medalist, taking third place at that weight.

Galea and Molbury defeated Brockport wrestlers head to head in the finals to clinch the victory. Galea won a tension-filled 4-3 decision over Dave Cook, while Molbury avenged the only dual-meet loss of his college career, handily defeating Paul Burns 5-2 in the title match.

Peraza showed a great deal of poise and skill as the youngster posted an impressive 6-2 win over Albany's Larry Mims in the finals.

Cortland State's Bob DaRin was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler, scoring a 9-3 decision over Lyndaker in the finals.

Brockport State's Bruce Biondi, defending NCAA College Division champion, repeated as SNYAC titles at 118-pounds, while the Eagle's Dave Foxen was a decisive winner at 134-pounds. Mike Parente saved second place in the team standings for Brockport when he defeated Oswego's Dennis Luzon for his second 190-pound crown. If Luzon had won, Oswego would have taken second place by a half point.

Oswego was a real surprise, having been trounced soundly by both Potsdam

and Brockport in earlier dual meets. The Lakers moved eight wrestlers into the semi-finals, and all eight eventually won places.

Albany's Rudy Vido, a 260-pound strongman, won the unlimited division, defeating Potsdam's Tom McCue by an 11-7 count in the most exciting match of the finals. Vido took an early five-point lead, only to have his 182-pound foe tie the match at 7-7 with less than a minute remaining. Vido then used his superior size and strength to escape and take McCue down to win the title.

Potsdam piled up 13 pins in winning 22 matches, and this proved to be the margin of victory, since Brockport was able to amass only five pins in 17 wins. The tournament was scored under a system where pin gave that team one additional point.

Potsdam's Pleskach and Murphy, in winning the consolation brackets while Brockport's two competitors were losing, gave the Bears the edge they needed going into the final rounds.

Team scores were: Potsdam, 82½, Brockport, 68½, Oswego, 66, Albany, 52, Cortland, 30, Oneonta, 24½, Geneseo, 18½, Buffalo, 10½, Plattsburgh, 4, and New Paltz, 3.



### Tired, but happy Bears

Potsdam State's wrestling team, fatigued but happy, pose with head mat mentor Neil Johnson, right, and assistant Coach Ron Lewis, left. The team upset highly favored Brockport State to win the SUNYAC wrestling championships in

Maxcy Hall last Saturday. From left are Lewis, Tom McCue, Keith Lyndaker, Fergus Murphy, Mike Bruce, Rich Molbury, Jerry Pleskach, Joe Galea, Mike Schmid and Tony Peraza.

**The State University Conference wrestling finals will be televised this Saturday at 2 p.m. on WNPE and WNPI Educational television.**

**Prepared by the State University College's Department of Educational Communications, the film is directed by Robert Macey and will run approximately two hours.**