

What a Difference a Year Makes; Wrestlers Finish 4th



by Kenneth Arduino

One year ago, at the SUNY Wrestling Championships, the Great Danes scored 14½ pts. and finished seventh.

One year ago, the Danes were headed for a 5-5-1 season in dual meets.

One year ago, Rudy Vido broke his foot and missed the championship.

One year ago, Larry Mims was injured in the very first round.

One year ago, Jeff Albrecht was just getting back from a broken leg.

One year ago, Walt Katz, Ethan Grossman, Frank Herman and Jim Dickson were not on the team.

One year ago, Albany's highest finishers were fourth place.

But this is not last year. The Albany team this year went to the Championships to regain some lost respect. Albany finished fourth, with 61 pts. Lead-

ing the grapplers were Rudy Vido and Larry Mims, but it was a total team effort.

Albany's one champion was Rudy Vido. Rudy seeded fourth in the heavyweight class, despite his 8-1-1 record, was sensational. He won his first match 6-3, then beat the previously unbeaten number one seed. In the finals Rudy had to beat the number two seed, a local boy from Potsdam. Even with the crowd against him, Rudy would not be denied winning 11-7.

Coach Garcia praised Rudy, pointing out that in high school Rudy could muscle his way to victory. Now, with the help of wrestler Don Mion and Coach Peterson, he has been able to learn how to wrestle. Rudy still has not reached his peak.

Larry Mims, who was the second seed, pinned his first opponent and moved into the finals with a second win. Larry faced the number one seed and was beaten 6-2.

Jeff Albrecht continued his hard luck, as he was injured. Yet, he was able to win two matches and finish fourth.

Tom Horn, seeded only fifth upset the number four seed from Brockport in overtime. Unfortunately Tom like many other Albany wrestlers drew the number one seed for the second round. Tom was beaten but came back and won his next two matches to clinch third.

Freshman Walt Katz, won his first match with a pin but was beaten by the number two seed. Katz was beaten 4-0 for third.

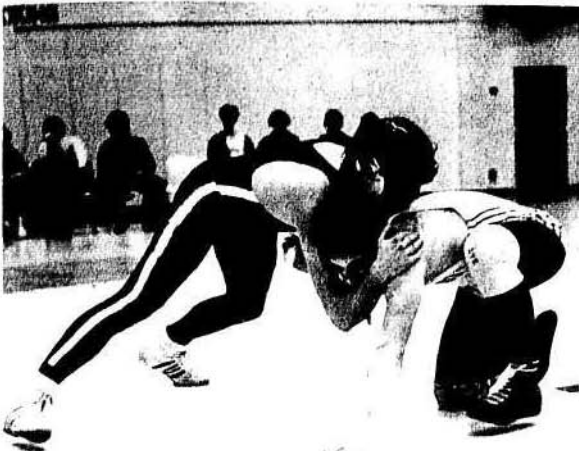
Albany had to fight the seeds all evening as they were seeded low despite some good wrestlers. It was a credit to Albany to do so well despite the seeds.

Doug Bauer easily won his opening match but ended up fourth for the second straight year. Frank Herman and Jim Dickson both were beaten by

number one seeds and finished fourth.

Garcia summed it up "They (the wrestlers) did a hell of a job." The goal this year was to improve on the seventh place finish and it was reached. Garcia felt that with a few breaks Albany might have pulled out third.

Albany's last home match is this Wednesday at 7:30. Come out and support the most improved team this winter.



Slawsky



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