

Wrestling Team Closes Season; Wins Over Buffalo and Oswego

by Lou Ricks

The Ithaca College Varsity Wrestling team closed out its dual meet season in high fashion last weekend downing the University of Buffalo, 19-12, Friday night, and edging Oswego, 18-16, Saturday afternoon. If all goes well, these will have been the last matches ever held in Seneca gym, as the new physical education building should be ready for athletic events by next fall.

The Bombers got off to a slow start against the Bulls, dropping the first two matches, but they quickly gained momentum as John Sacchi, 137, and Orlando Iacovelli, 147, put the home team ahead to stay with two second period pins. Sacchi took five minutes to put away Ed Lontrato with a half nelson, while Iacovelli built up a 7-0 lead before clamping a crucifix on John Hossink in 4:45. After 157 pounder Macera, a last minute replacement who hadn't even practiced since before intersession, dropped a well-fought 5-3 decision, Gary Ruberti, 167, and Ed Michael, 177, virtually clinched the IC victory with easy decisions over their opponents.

Dan Anderson, tough 191 pound senior, wrestled a boy who hasn't been defeated in two years, and came very close to winning as he dropped a narrow 4-3 decision. Several last period takedowns by Anderson were nullified as both boys went off the mat.

Co-captain Blase Iuliano, unl., met unexpected opposition from Bison co-captain Bert Ernst as he fell behind 1-0 after two periods. Blase came alive in the Third, however, getting an escape, a takedown, and riding time for a 4-1 decision.

Al Van Horn, Bruce Clark, Howie Peirano, Mike Hoke, Guy Dalton, and Neil De Rosa, all came out victorious as the Freshman white-washed the Buffalo cubs, 24-0, in the preliminary match.

The grapplers had their hands full against the highly touted Oswego Club, which had recently cakewalked through the New York State College Tournament crown-

ing six individual champs. Coached by IC grad Jim Howard, a NCAA runnerup in 1954, the Lakers had the Bombers on their "most wanted" list, and started strong piling up an eight point advantage after two matches.

John Sacchi, and Orlando Iacovelli, once again, put the Bombers in contention as Sacchi defeated tough Brian Jones, 2-0, followed by the undefeated Iacovelli pinning Dick LaCombe with a double grapevine in 2:05.

The Lakers came roaring back when undefeated Bobby Williams took on 1:26 seconds to flatten IC's Skip Colburn with a body press. Tom Gustainis increased the visitors lead as he decisioned Gary Ruberti 4-2. Ruberti got the first period takedown, but couldn't hold his advantage.

Ed Michaels left the meet up to the heavyweights as he collared five big pointers via the forfeit route.

Behind by three going into the final bout, Ithaca needed a pin to win and a decision to tie. Blase Iuliano wasted no time taking out-classed Bill Cousins right to the mat, and ending it with a double arm tie-up in 2:07.

The matmen finished the year with a mediocre 7-4 record, however, the seven wins were recorded in the final seven matches of the year. If the Bombers had the same lineup at the beginning of the year that they had at the end, there's little doubt their record would be a much improved one.

Next in the wrestler agenda is the 4I Tournament in Cleveland on March 13 and 14. Coach Broadwell is planning on taking five or six boys to this always tough small college tournament. The tentative lineup includes John Puleo, 123, John Sacchi, 137, Orlando Iacovelli, 147, Gary Ruberti, 157, Ed Michael, 167, or 177, and Blase Iuliano, 191 or unl.

The grapplers will finish their season in the NCAA Tournament at Cornell, the end of the month.