



WRAPPED UP: UW-Stevens Point's Jere Hamel works over Chicago Circle's Sean Delahanty during their second-round 134-pound match Friday afternoon in the NCAA Division III Championships at the Quandt Fieldhouse. Hamel won the

match 16-8 and has a chance to finish as high as third in the two-day tournament. Two other Pointers also remained alive in the event, which will conclude today. (Journal photo by Doug Wojcik)

UW-SP wrestlers struggle after fast start

By **DON FRIDAY**
Journal Sports Editor

Things couldn't have looked better for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point following the morning round of the 21st annual NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships at Quandt Fieldhouse on Friday.

The Pointers not only advanced all six of their wrestlers into the quarterfinals, but held down third place in the team standings as well with 13 points, five behind first-place Wartburg (Iowa).

That feeling of euphoria, however, quickly turned to dismay for coach Marty Loy and his charges as only Colin Green at 177 pounds succeeded in gaining a berth in the semifinals which start at noon today.

Also slated this afternoon are third-round consolation bouts, along with third-, fifth- and seventh-place matches. The championship matches will start at 7:30 p.m.

Five Pointers were defeated, although Jere Hamel at 134 pounds and Travis Ebner at 190 stayed alive by winning wrestleback matches. Both can finish as high as third today.

Eliminated after losing consecutive bouts in the quarterfinals and wrestlebacks were junior Rick DeMario at 142, junior Seth Foreman at 158 and senior Dave Carlson at 167.

Wartburg, which was edged by Augsburg (Minn.) for the championship last year, 93-92, holds a slim lead over Ithaca (N.Y.) going into today's semifinals, 40.5 to 35.5. Also still very

much in contention are Augsburg with 33.75 and Trenton (N.J.) State with 32.

WSUC champion La Crosse is sixth with 23 points and UW-SP seventh with 20.

Near capacity crowds watched Friday's two sessions.

"It's real disappointing," Loy said, referring to his team's falling out of the team title picture. "All three of our guys who were eliminated lost close matches.

"There are a lot of factors involved with competition in a national tournament. You have to be on top of your game and you need good seeds and good draws.

"Just like football, wrestling sometimes comes down to being a game of

inches or seconds. Had we gotten just two more people through in the wrestlebacks, we'd still have a shot at the team title."

Green, a senior from Westby, lived up to his No. 1 seed at 177 by posting a pair of impressive victories.

The Pointer standout, who is now 29-5, opened with a 17-7 win over Tony Fabri of King's (N.Y.) College, then built a 7-0 lead before pinning No. 8 seed Jeff Santos of Plymouth (N.H.) State in 3:31.

Green's opponent in the semi's today will be No. 4 seed Kelly Keenan (26-1) of Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio), who did not allow a point in winning his first two matches.

"Colin has a good shot at winning it all," Loy said. "He wrestled two

smart matches without losing any of his aggressiveness."

Hamel (33-7), a sophomore who prepped at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, opened with a 13-8 win over Trevor Harvey of Olivet (Mich.) but then dropped a tough 8-4 decision in the quarterfinals to No. 4 seed Max Bjerke (40-4) of Cornell (N.Y.), 8-4.

Hamel, who is seeded No. 5, came back to edge Randy Pataky of Trenton State in the wrestlebacks, 11-9. He surged to an early 9-2 lead, only to see Pataky battle back to tie the score. Hamel pulled the match out with a late takedown.

"Hamel is real tough on his feet but Bjerek is strong on top. He gave Jere

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a lot of trouble with his style," Loy said.

Ebner ran into No. 2 seed and three-time All-American Jon Dawley of Wartburg, who was sixth at the national a year ago, in the quarterfinals and absorbed an 11-3 beating.

The Pointer senior, who was seeded only No. 7 despite a 30-3 record coming in, had opened with a 4-1 victory over Dan Lewandowski of Augsburg.

After losing to Dawley, Ebner stayed alive with an impressive 7-0 victory over Vito Mielnicki of Trenton State.

"I'm very happy for Travis because he's a senior who finally has realized his goal of becoming an All-American," Loy said. "He still has a good shot at third."

After a promising start, things didn't go well at all for Carlson.

The Pointer senior opened with a 5-2 win over Matthew Wassel of Worcester (Mass.) Poly Tech but then was edged in the quarterfinals by No. 4 seed Chris Ricklic of Case Western Reserve (Ohio), 3-1.

Carlson (30-9) was unable to bounce back in the wrestlebacks, dropping a 14-4 decision to Joey Roby (19-1) of Ohio Northern.

"I don't know what happened with Dave," Loy said. "I've seen him beat so many All-Americans during his career. To qualify for the national and not place is heartbreaking for him."

DeMario opened with a thrilling 5-3 overtime upset win over No. 4 seed Tim Godoy (20-4) of Cortland (N.Y.) State, then was edged in the quarterfinals, 6-3, by No. 5 seed Heath Grimm (34-6) of Luther (Iowa).

DeMario (21-9) then lost a 9-6 decision in the wrestlebacks to No. 8 seed Brian Malloy (32-5) of Mount Union (Ohio).

Foreman (24-11), opened with a 10-9 win over Kevin Royal of Thiel, then extended No. 2 seed Matt Sorochinsky (23-5) of Ithaca to the maximum before dropping an 8-6 overtime decision.

Sorochinsky, who was third in the national a year ago, got a quick takedown in the sudden death overtime to end the match.

Foreman had similar misfortune in the wrestlebacks where he lost a 2-1 verdict to No. 4 seed Chris Connelly of John Carroll (Ohio). Foreman was in the process of taking Connelly down but did not complete the move until a split second after the clock ran out.

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6 DEGREES OF SEPARATION (R)

NIGHTLY 7:10-9:20

SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 2:15-4:45

THE CHASE (PG-13)

NIGHTLY 7:15-9:15

SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 1:00-3:00-5:00

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GRUMPY OLD MEN (PG-13)

NIGHTLY 7:10-9:20

SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 2:15-4:30

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PHILADELPHIA (PG-13)

NIGHTLY 7:00-9:30

SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 2:00-4:30

ON DEADLY GROUND (R)

NIGHTLY 7:00-9:15

SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 2:30-4:45

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