

Pointers settle for 7th in national meet

By DON FRIDAY
Journal Sports Editor

A seventh-place finish for the second year in a row and three All-Americans.

Although coach Marty Loy and his six qualifiers had hoped for more, the UW-Stevens Point wrestling team had to be content with those accomplishments in the NCAA Division III Championships which concluded a two-day run at Quandt Fieldhouse on Saturday night.

The Pointers scored 34 points, one and one-half fewer than a year ago, and trailed sixth place Wisconsin State University Conference champion La Crosse, which had five qualifiers — two of whom reached the finals — by 11 points.

Seniors Colin Green and Travis Ebner led the Pointers with a third and fourth place finish, respectively, while sophomore Jere Hamel placed eighth. The top eight finishers in each weight class earn All-America status.

So what will it take for UW-SP to take the next step of contending for a national championship?

"If I had the answer to that one, I'd do it in a minute," Loy said. "That's something I'm struggling with as a coach right now. This is the second year in a row we've had this opportunity and didn't

make it happen. We've got to find a way to make it happen."

"One of the benefits of holding the national tournament here is that we got all 35 kids in our program exposed to this kind of setting. Hopefully, it gave them an idea of what it takes to reach the goal we're all shooting for."

Green, seeded No. 1 at 177 pounds, saw his hopes for a title end when he dropped a 10-2 decision in the semifinals to Kelly Keenan of Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio).

The Westby native, however, came back for an 18-5 decision over Tony Fabri of King's College (N.Y.).

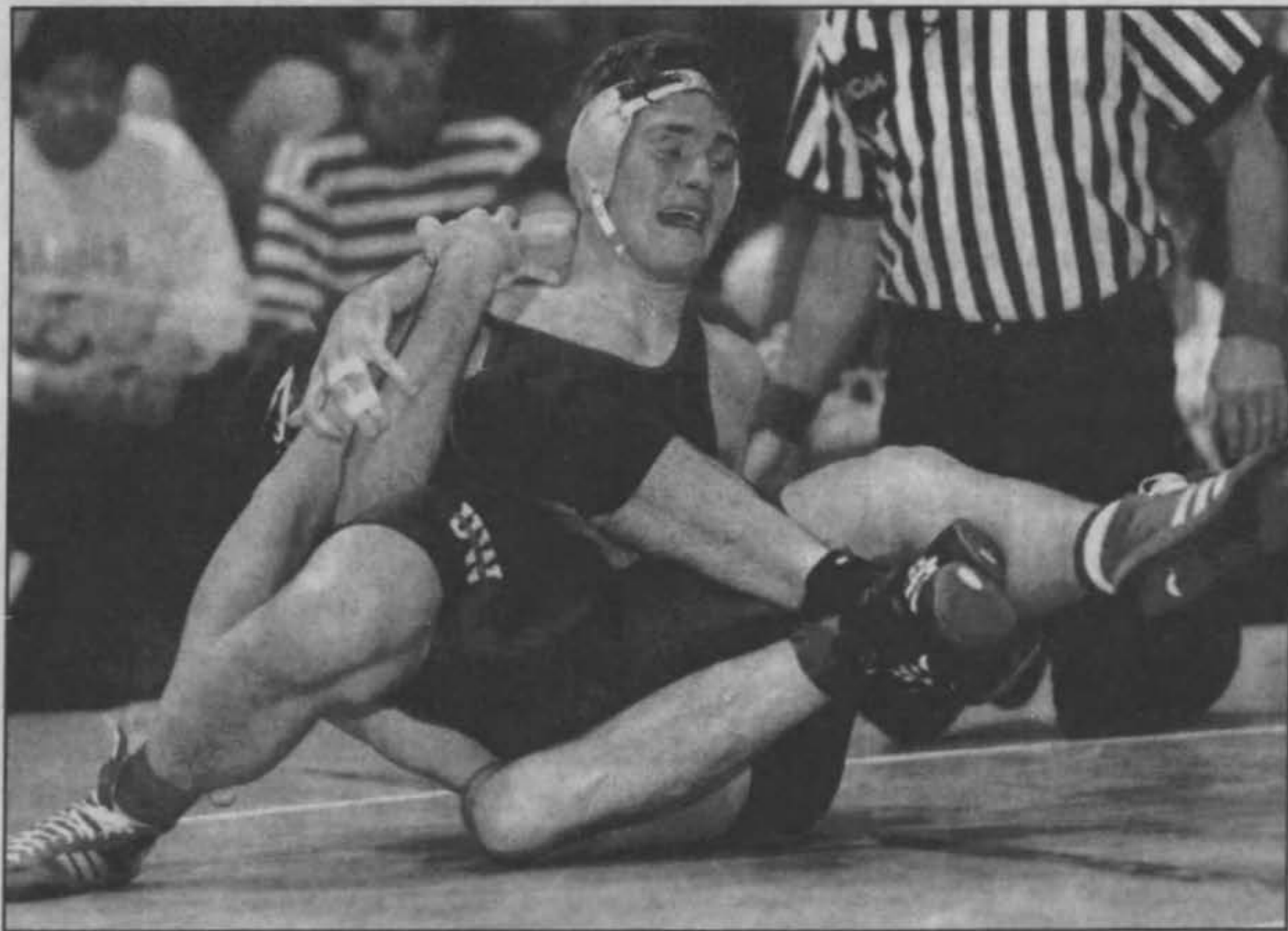
In the third-place match, Green whipped Jon Schlosser of Albany (N.Y.), 6-2. He finished the tourney 4-1 and the season 31-6.

"It's great that I was able to come off a tough loss and win my last two matches," Green said. "I was determined to suck it up and not quit."

"I have trouble with lanky, long-legged guys like Keenan. He rode me four minutes and took away my strength which is wrestling on my feet. I just wasn't able to do the things I like."

"I really enjoyed my career at Stevens Point and I plan on helping with the coaching next year while I continue work on my de-

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COLIN GREEN of UW-Stevens Point looks for a way out of a tough spot during his 177-pound semifinal bout Saturday against Kelly Keenan of Baldwin-Wallace in the NCAA Division III National Championships at the Quandt Fieldhouse. Keenan won the match 10-2. Green went on to finish third. (Journal photo by Doug Wojcik)

Pointers

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gree. This program is heading in the right direction. We just have to keep making improvements."

Ebner won his first wrestleback match at 190 pounds over N. Tucker MacLean of Trinity (Conn.), 7-0, but had to settle for fourth place when he dropped a 6-3 decision to Tom Jackson of Heidelberg (Ohio).

The Cameron native finished 2-2 in the tourney and 32-5 on the season.

"Jackson caught me in a headlock right away and it's tough to come back against a good wrestler when you're down 5-0," Ebner said. "I really felt I was in control of the match the rest of the way but I just couldn't put the points on the board.

"Even though I beat MacLean, I wasn't happy with the way I wrestled. I didn't have my head in it. But I came back with more of a killer attitude in the third place match. Even though I lost, I gave it my best shot."

After going 2-1 on Friday, Hamel won his first wrestleback on Saturday over Randy Pataky of Trenton State (N.J.), 11-10, but had to settle for eighth when he was eliminated by Dave Caicci of Case Western Reserve (Ohio), 8-4.

Hamel finished the tourney 3-2 and wound up the season 34-8.

III Wrestling Committee. "We're extremely pleased with the way we've been treated. Stevens Point officials, from the chancellor (Keith Sanders) on down, have done a fantastic job.

"We were really happy with the crowds, especially considering we were in competition with the high school team tournament and a lot of other activities. There was a lot of advance promotion done."

Loy, UW-SP Director of Athletics Frank O'Brien and Sports Information Director Terry Owens served as meet directors.

This year marked the first time the tourney was held in Wisconsin, although national NAIA wrestling events were held previously in Whitewater and River Falls.

Myers, who is also athletic director at UW-Whitewater, indicated Wisconsin will be in line to host the meet again in the late 1990s. Next year's event will be held in Augustana, Ill.

Wrestling

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(Mich.) with 42 seconds left in overtime to gain a 5-3 decision.

Perhaps the most crowd-pleasing match took place at 142 where Ra-