

Wrestlers shine at Nationals

by **DAVID ALVORD**
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The Brockport wrestling team finished its 1993-94 winter season on an optimistic note, as two of their members took home All-American honors from the Division III National Tournament held at Wisconsin-Stevens Point this weekend.

When Joe Telesky placed fifth nationally in the 150-pound weight division and John Aebly took seventh at 190 pounds, each etched themselves forever into wrestling lore. Together they became the 88th and 89th All-Americans to earn the prestigious honor at SUNY Brockport.

But despite 24 years at the helm of this wrestling powerhouse, Head Coach Don Murray freely admits he didn't quite know what to expect when first heading out to Wisconsin.

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top eight and both are young sophomores, so I saw their chances at about 50-50," Murray said. "But after having a rough time in their first matches, they came out to wrestle."

With just two wrestlers, Brockport was able to place 23rd in the nation, just a half point behind SUNY Cortland.

In an extremely close affair, the overall team title was to be decided between Ithaca College and Wartburg College.

It all came down to whose wrestler

captured the 190-pound championship.

In the end, it was Steve Farr's sudden-death victory that brought home the Ithaca Bombers' third National crown in seven years.

For Telesky, things started to get extremely grim and got even worse Friday. Although Telesky was surprised to discover he wasn't seeded in the top eight, he didn't expect to end up where he did after giving the eventual 1994 national runner-up, Kent Maslin of Ithaca College, everything he could



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handle in the Empire Conference Tournament, losing by one point. Telesky was seeded dead last in 24th place in the 150-pound weight class. He then proceeded to lose his first match to Mike Framer of Cornell College (Iowa), 9-6, in a truly ugly affair.

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And Telesky didn't as he came back from third period deficits against Trenton State's Eric Fajerman and John Carroll's Jason Kesser to win close decisions. Both were upsets, as Fajerman was pre-season ranked seventh and Kesser had beaten Telesky twice during the year.

After beating Steve Rust of Monmouth College, N.J. and a wrestler from Moravian College, Pa., by a combined score of 22-6, Telesky now found himself with an overall record of 4-1 and in the All-American selection.

Saturday morning Telesky was up against fourth seeded Steve Giordiano of Keene State, N.J., by a score of 3-0, only to lose 6-4 in a grueling defensive match. With his body sore, bruised and battered, Telesky knew he had but one last effort to deliver before he could walk out of Wisconsin.

Saving his best for last was going to be necessary to beat his opponent for fifth place — senior Mario Springer of Chicago University. Springer had been seeded and ranked second in the nation, only to lose in a stunning upset during his semifinal match. Now Springer was out for blood and someone to hurt, but Telesky hardly appeared like a deer caught in the headlights of a car.

"At Nationals, they'll try to rip your head off," Telesky said. "When you've come to this time of the year, you are not stepping onto the mat to lose

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because if you don't walk off an All-American, you're nothing."

Down 2-0 late in the second period, Telesky went for and attacked Springer's upper body position and pulled off a decisive and shocking pin of his opponent.

"The whole tournament was great, simply a great experience," Telesky said. "It was extremely worth it. Being an All-American makes everything worth it. I've been dreaming about this since the seventh grade and this will be with me for the rest of my life. No one can take this away — ever."

Aebly's first national competition was similar to the feel of a Western New York snowbank — cold, unfeeling and unyielding. After learning he was unseeded, his first match didn't last long. In about 45 seconds he was promptly pinned.

Later, Aebly had to wait through a bye in the second round and squared off against RIT's Mike Licata in the third.

As one of the most "interesting"

matches of the tournament soon developed, Aebly and Licata got involved in what seemed was more like a partially controlled brawl, rather than a wrestling contest.

Only seconds into the match, Licata delivered a solid blow to Aebly's face, giving him a bloody nose. Later, in the second period, the two were barely separated by coaches and officials when things got heated.

"At the start of the match, the RIT kid just came out and punched John in the face and everyone, myself, the crowd and the ref were surprised," Murray said. "This happened twice during the match until the ref had to penalize the kid. What the kid did was unsportsmanlike and classless, as he tried to discourage and unsettle John. But that just isn't going to happen."

Aebly was able to remain composed and focused enough to win one of the most important matches of his early Brockport career, overcoming Licata by the score of 2-1.

Aebly won his next two matches by default and a score of 6-1 in almost what seemed to be an anti-climatic manner, but don't tell him that, it's still All-American.

"This is the high point of the season, to work for this all season," Aebly said. "I still can't believe it. It was definitely a good time and next year with a strong line-up, it will get a lot better."

Looking forward to next year, and the new higher expectations which will go along with it, Murray sees nothing wrong with having three returning All-Americans in Telesky, Aebly and Ron Vosburg, who redshirted this year after placing second in the nation at 126-pounds last season as a freshman.

"There's no new added pressure ... pressure is but in the mind of the beholder," Murray said. "We now have three guys who now know what it feels like to compete and win at Nationals and that doesn't hurt."

"We will win the national championship in the very near future," Telesky said. "We have three guys in John, myself and Ron who have the opportunity to place extremely high as individuals, and a lot of other guys who are ready to start winning big. Next year, no one will work as hard as us. Brockport is 100 percent intensity. While other programs are relaxed, we will mean business."