

Bovenzi Wins NCAA Title

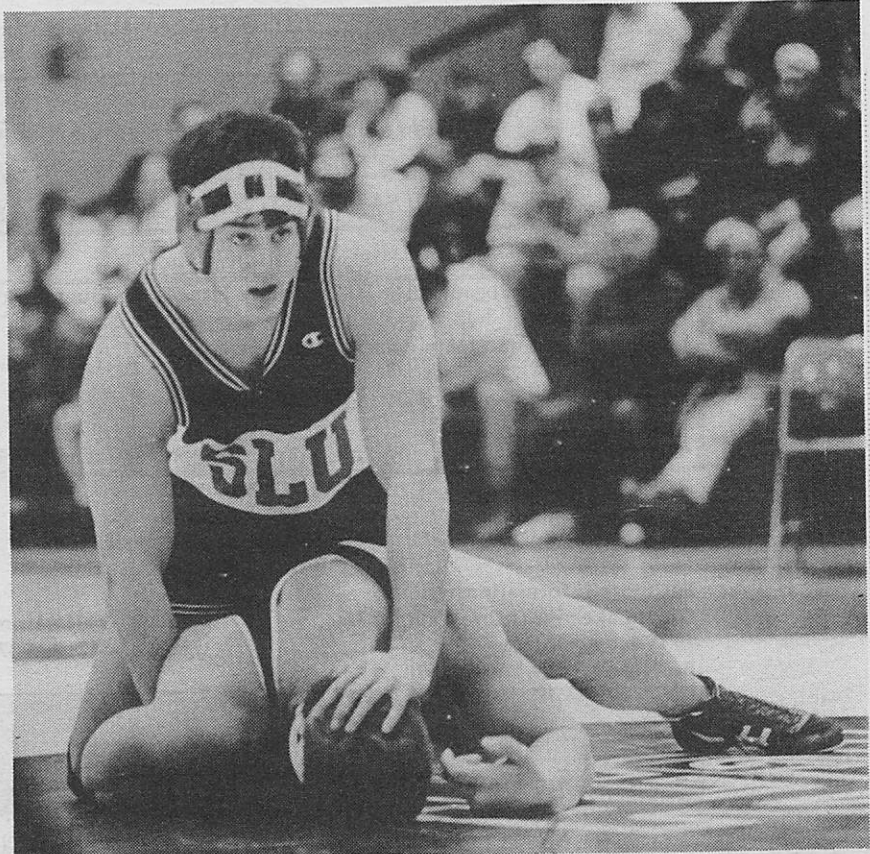
Led by 190-pound NCAA champ Jason Bovenzi of St Lawrence, New York State placed fifteen wrestlers in the 1993 NCAA Division III Championships. This year's event was held at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. New York teams fared well, placing three in the top ten - Ithaca at fourth, St Lawrence eighth, and Brockport tenth.

Bovenzi, a junior out of Greece Athena-5, had been to the nationals twice before. As a freshman 177-pounder, he lost in the early rounds and did not place. His overall record was 15-10. Last year, he moved up to 190 pounds and placed third in a stellar weight class. The eventual champion was three-time NCAA finalist Brian Quick of Brockport, who edged Cortland's Jon Welch by a point. Bovenzi earned his bronze by beating former junior college national champ Dan Uhteg of Ithaca. He finished the year with an impressive 34-5-1 mark.

This year, Bovenzi has been extremely dominant. In the qualifying tournament, though, he suffered a 4-3 loss to Steve Farr of Ithaca. In the national tournament, he was seeded second, with Jon Dawley of Wartburg first. Farr was seeded seventh. In round one, Bovenzi blanked Rob Mizrahi of Kean, 4-0. Next was a 2:02 fall over Stacie Richardson of Dubuque. The next two matches were the toughest of the event for him. In the quarterfinals, he faced Farr again. But this time, he came out on top, winning a wild 13-10 decision. Said Jason, "I took the loss to motivate me in the quarterfinals. I kind of took the regional loss personally."

The semifinal match against Terry Walters of Lacrosse was another close one, 7-5 in favor of Bovenzi. Walters had also previously won in their mid-season meeting.

Bovenzi's finals opponent was eighth-seeded John Roy of Worcester. Wrestling superbly, Roy decked two opponents, then beat the top seed 9-4 and breezed to the finals, 9-0. However, he was no match for the



St Lawrence's Jason Bovenzi, only a junior, wins NCAA Division III Championship with 8-0 finals victory. In reaching the finals, Bovenzi earned hard-fought wins over two wrestlers who had defeated him during the regular season.

experienced Bovenzi, who won a one-sided 8-0 shutout. In that match, Bovenzi scored early and dominated throughout. In doing so, he became St Lawrence's ninth national champion and first since 1988.

At 126 pounds, freshman standout Ron Vosburg of Brockport entered the tournament unseeded. In the first round, though, he shocked second seeded Chris Ristau of Wartburg 9-6, then advanced to the finals by a pin and a 1-1, 1-1, criteria decision. There, however, he lost 9-5 to top seeded Tyrone Fambro of Upper Iowa. With two years remaining, look for Vosburg to challenge for the title again. Seeded fourth at 150, Brockport's DJ Simonton won his first two matches 5-2 and 16-6. In the semifinals, he upset defending champ Mike Gillmor of John Carroll 2-1. His bid for a title, though, was thwarted by an 8-3 finals loss to Tom Hogan of Wartburg. Simonton's silver medal, along with his two other All American placefinishes, put a cap on a brilliant career at Brockport. At 158 pounds, things didn't look too good for Matt Sorochinsky after round one. Seeded third, the Ithaca sophomore lost his first match to unseeded Chris Connelly of John Carroll. He came alive in the wrestlebacks, though, and won five straight matches for third place. Along the

way, he beat fellow New Yorkers marty Wyckoff and Phil Kealy 6-1 and 4-2.

Ithaca's Mike Murtha at 177 pounds also placed third the hard way. He lost by first-round fall to Tucker MacClean of Trinity. But then he strung together five wins for third place, in the process beating MacClean 7-6 for a bit of revenge. His final match was a powerful 4:12 pin over Gary Thompson of Augsburg. Murtha has one more year left.

At 190, Ithaca got its third bronze medalist in Steve Farr, a junior. After to losing 13-10 to eventual champ Jason Bovenzi, Farr won four decisions: 12-6, 3-2, 6-5, and 8-5 for third place. Look for Farr to be a finalist next year. After placing second last year at 190 pounds, Cortland's Jon Welch decided to go heavyweight this year. The move has been very successful, and Welch has dominated most of his opposition. At the nationals, he was seeded second. After two impressive wins, he lost a tough 11-0 decision. Bouncing back, though, he won twice, 4-2 and 15-5 for third place.

The 142 weight was a wild one, and two New Yorkers placed here. Second seeded Kent Maslin, who had placed sixth last year, decked his first opponent, but then lost by fall to Mike Froehlich, the eventual champ. In wrestlebacks, Maslin went 4-1 in taking fifth. His consolation finals opponent was Tim Godoy of Cortland, who had lost to Froehlich by just a point. An injured Godoy forfeited to Maslin for sixth place. In the match before that, however, Godoy beat top seeded Craig Wagner of Augustana.