

Grapplers tough at RIT; Morse is 'outstanding'

by Bari Pollack

The Oswego State Lakers, along with mat powers Miami of Ohio, John Carroll, Yale University, Ithaca College, plus seven other teams competed for individual weight classes and team titles at the 18th annual RIT Wrestling Invitational held Friday and Saturday, December second and third.

The powerhouse Lakers opened strong as the preliminaries got under way Friday afternoon.

Terry Melia, seeded second at 118, opened the tourney for the Lakers with an impressive pin over Brockport's Amando Ramirez in 3:34.

Mike Coddington, 126, Pat Wittekind, 134, and Leo Kellett were lucky to draw byes advancing them to the next round. Following the bye, Coddington easily whipped Ed Sansohia of Lycoming, pinning him in 3:40.

The 134 weight class was ahighly contested one, as Coach Howard said, "it was the toughest weight class of the tourney, with eight highly skilled men." Co-captian Pat Wittekind found this to be true as he wrestled fourth seeded Brett Morrow from Ithaca in the first round. The two powers went at it head to head but the bout ended in a tough loss for Wittekind, 4-3.

The Lakers suffered losses in Mark Howard, John O'Gorman, Leo Kellett and Kirk McDermith. Howard wrestled tough losing by a close 4-2 decision to Chuck Meeth. Kellett wrestled Pete Rao of Buffalo who eventually went on to win the championship at the 150 weight class. O'Gorman and McDermith ran into some stiff competition in Joe Wells of Miami and Steve Saltzman of Ivy League Yale respectively.

Oswego's blue-chip freshman at 167 is David Jackowski. Jackowski hit the mat with maximun strength, putting away Paul Liddell of Ithaca 12-3. Lidell had the initial takedown but Jackowski looked tough as he gained a reversal, putting Liddell to his back gaining nearfall points. During the second period Jackowski gained additional nearfall points with a reversal again. The third and final period of the bout brought more excitement as he gained final nearfall points and an additional point for Liddell stalling. Jackowski went on to wrestle the

number one seeded man Randy Kaiser of Miami. Although Jackowski sustained a tough loss he kept battling back throughout the entire match. He outclassed Kaiser escaping each takedown. Kaiser could not hold Jackowski as he was awarded two penalty points for his stalling tactics, closing the bout 13-7.

Doug Morse began his victories of the tourney with a quick pin of his opponent John Domico of IUP in 3:00 during the preliminary round. He went onto pummel Lycoming's Mark Woodring, 18-7, sending him into the semi-finals.

Wrestling commenced Friday night with consolation rounds and Saturday morning with the semi-finals, and the Lakers bounced back from their losses.

Melia met and defeated Craig Coffey of WNE twice. Friday night the bout ended 8-6 and Melia went on to prove his mat experience after beating Coffey again, 6-3, leading him into third place at 118.

After dropping a tough loss to the No. 1 seeded man Pat McCarthy of Miami, Coddington wrestled back putting away Shapiro of Buffalo in the fastest pin of the day, 29 seconds. Coddington clearly deserved his fourth place finish at 126.

Wittekind wrestled back coping two decisions over Potsdam's Duane Averill, 7-2, and Chris Haight of IUP, 6-5. He then met third seeded Nick King of Yale and Tom Bennett of John Carroll, suffering two losses. Wittekind went on to finish sixth at the 134 weight class.

Howard, at 142, beat the outstanding wrestler of the SUNYAC tournament, Andy Komarck. It was a test of power as there was no score going into the third period. Howard reversed Komarck, gaining near fall points, closing the match a winner, 5-3.

Howard went on to finish fifth in the tourney after gaining control of his final bout against Paul Mankowich of Ithaca, 5-4.

David Jackowski started Saturday's consilation rounds off with a quick pin over Paul Whalen of RIT in 3:06. He went on to take sixth place after losing an extremely exciting bout against second seated Rich Boaccorsi, losing in overtime, 6-2.

The highlight of the day was watching awesome Doug Morse pave his way to victory. Morse wrestled Bob Priest of

Buffalo and although Priest had the initial takedown, Morse reversed him, putting him to his back gaining nearfall points. Priest took Morse down again in the second period but he escaped and once again ended the bout in a major decision, 12-4, propelling Morse into the finals.

It was 4 p.m. on Saturday as the finals began. Meeting Nick D'Angelo of Division I John Carroll, defending National Champion and RIT Champion was Doug Morse.

It was a test of psychological power as both men entered the bout, out for the win. D'Angelo capped the first two takedowns gearing the crowd in anticipation for more. Morse escaped his clutches both times and as wrestling moved into the second period with the score 4-2. D'Angelo gained an additional point as he escaped Morse's clutches, but that was to be the last point Morse was going to allow.

It was in the final period that Morse proved his skills. After escaping D'Angelo's final takedown, Morse sent the crowd wild as he took his opponent to the mat gaining nearfall points. That led to the exciting, long awaited, well-deserved victory over D'Angelo, 9-7, giving Morse the crown at 190. Morse was then awarded the prestigious Outstanding Wrestler Award, voted in by all the team's coaches. Coach Howard was more than pleased with Morse's win, and remarked, "An outstanding upset, it is the reason that after 27 years of coaching I keep going."

Mark Glickman, the detending champion of the tourney, finished the exciting day in third place after starting with a double pin over Jim Zimmerman of Ithaca and Mike Martin of Potsdam. Glickman met a tough contender in Mark Sullivan, the third seated man of John Carroll, losing a tough bout, 5-9. Glickman then put away Larry Stern of Lycoming with a takedown in all three periods, closing the match and the tournament for the Lakers, 8-1.

The Lakers went into the tournament not looking for a first place finish, but they went to learn and have some fun, and that is just what they did.



Finishes third

Sophomore heavyweight Mark Glickman wrapped up the RIT tourney at third place. (file photo)

The Lakers traveled to Ithaca yesterday, and will host a tri-match this Friday, December 9, against Allegheny and RIT at 6 p.m. They will then meet the University of Buffalo there on Saturday, December 10, at 1 p.m. which will be their last match before their semester break and trip south.

Team Points:

1. Miami 133½
2. John Carroll 99½
3. Ithaca 91½
4. Yale 82½
5. Oswego 77½
6. Brockport 67½