

Union wins ICAC mat title with five champions —

Ross ends great but frustrating career with first title

By NORM JOLLOW

Union College won its third straight Independent College Athletic Conference wrestling tournament but it isn't likely that any of them, including the five successful defending champions was anywhere near as happy as Hobart College's Bob Ross.

The 152 pound senior captain of the Hobart College team finally broke out of the bridesmaid roll that had plagued him throughout his wrestling career.

Certainly the most exciting wrestler ever at Hobart and without a doubt the most exciting in the tourney, Ross closed out a brilliant college career Saturday afternoon by winning the first tournament title of his career.

Coach Ray Demuth revealed that Ross, who won 14 straight bouts this season, had not won a tournament even in high school. As a sophomore 145 pounder and as a junior 152 pounder in college, Ross twice had been runner up in the ICAC event. When he lost last year to RPI's

Gary Carpenter of Canandaigua, it was his only setback of the season after going 9-0 in dual meets and wrestling his way into the finals for an 11-0 record before the loss.

Thus, in two seasons, Ross has won 25 of his 26 matches. His three year record is 30-4.

The Hobart senior, quick, daring and strong, captured the enthusiasm of Hobart crowds all season and more than one big crowd thinned out considerably after Ross had cut down his opponent.

When Ross, who wrestles with a quick daring that has to baffle his opponent, scored a pin at 8:21 in the tournament final, Saturday afternoon, the large crowd on hand gave him a standing ovation.

The pin had come after a typical Ross performance. After getting a rare warning for backing off the mat early, Ross became the tiger he's known to be, slipped in and grabbed a leg of RPI's Tom Carlson and scored a takedown for a 2-0 first period lead. The second period found Ross dominating and riding Carlson throughout.

In the third period, Ross's quickness in trying to escape got him caught in a predicament by Carlson but before the RPI wrestler could take advantage of it, Ross was out and in an escape, a quick takedown and had Carlson in a predicament.

With a 7-2 lead, Ross could easily have ridden Carlson the rest of the way for the victory, but that isn't Ross' style and in short order, he'd turned Carlson over and scored the pin.

Hobart wrestling may be better in the future, but it isn't likely ever to be more exciting than it has been with Bob Ross.

Ross was Hobart's only champion in the tournament as three other Statesmen reaching the finals, were beaten.

Union won the team title with a whopping 107 points while St. Lawrence finished second in a tight three way battle, getting the runner-up honor on a pin by Penn Yan's Bill LaRock in the heavyweight bout.

St. Lawrence thus eased past RPI, 67-66, while Hobart finished a close third with 60 points. Clarkson wound up fifth with 40 points.

LaRock, one of six defending champions, scored his pin in the heavyweight division when he nailed Clarkson's John Shaler in 3:50. It was the third straight pin in the tournament for the former Penn Yan Academy star.

Union's five defending champions all scored repeat victories. Ron Ruhl won the 117 pound test by decisioning Richard Kuhn of Clarkson, 11-2, and Bill Munno won at 123 pounds when teammate John Barrow was unable to compete in the finals because of an injury.

Both 130 pound champ Frank D'Antuono and 145 pound king Jeff Knetzer won when their opponents, Girado Brown of RPI and Ken Baer of RPI, were injured in the bouts and unable to continue.

Union's Naysim Simon then won his title again when he scored a 6-4 decision over the

only other returning champion, Clarkson's Jay Robinson, who won at 177 pounds last year.

Hobart's 137 pounder Gene Maxon and 160 pounder Mike Dobbin suffered tough losses, while 191 pounder Frank Boyar was overpowered.

Maxon led right up to the end of his bout with RPI's Eric Blair. Maxon scored a first period takedown and went ahead, 4-1, in the second period by scoring a second takedown after Blair had escaped. Blair, however, scored a reversal in the period and was just a point behind as the final period started.

Maxon almost had an escape but lost it trying for a reversal in the final period and then was ridden out while also being assessed a point for stalling. That tied the score and Blair won the title, 5-4 on a minute of riding time for the tie-breaking point.

Dobbin, who went against 1967 champion John Clark of St. Lawrence, was faced with a standup wrestler who continually pushed the Hobart freshman off the mat. That action wound up costing Dobbin the victory as he was twice assessed penalty points for backing off the mat before the referee changed course in the final period and charged a penalty point against Clark for pushing Dobbin off the mat.

Clark also was assessed another penalty point for stalling and with each wrestler scoring on escape, the match ended in a 3-3 tie. In overtime, they each scored an escape, though Dobbin got free quicker,

ending the extra 3 minutes in a 1-1 tie.

The victory and the championship then were awarded to Clark on a split decision among the three referees.

Boyar just wasn't strong enough to handle Norm Bell of St. Lawrence, who used his strength and quickness to defeat the Hobart senior, 9-0.

John Pandish of RPI won the 177 pound title when he decisioned Mike Perfit of St. Lawrence, 4-2.

When it was over Union had five champions, St. Lawrence three, RPI two and Hobart one.

Hobart did well in the consolation finals with Tom Agone (at 145 pounds), Bob Ellis (160) and Joe Rinaldis (177) all scoring victories to take third place in the

tournament. 117 pounder Sandy Dorman took fourth place when beaten in the consolation final.

Union's Larry Stevens of Newark took third at 137 when he won a referee's decision over Joel Kupperstein of Clarkson. They wrestled to a 2-2 tie in regulation and 4-4 in overtime.

THE SUMMARY:
SEMI-FINALS
 117—Ron Ruhl (U) decisioned Ken Wood (C), 7-0; Richard Kuhn (C) pinned Sandy Dorman (H), 5-4.
 123—Bill Munno (U) pinned Chris Bell (H), 4-40; John Barrows (U) decisioned Marty Leffler (R), 15-3.
 130—Girado Brown (R) pinned Gerry Marcella (U), 2-50; Frank D'Antuono (U) decisioned Dave Crocker (SL), 5-0.
 137—Eric Blair (R) pinned Steve Charkow (SL), 4-03; Gene Maxon (H) decisioned Al Bowen (C), 10-4.
 145—Jeff Knetzer (U) decisioned Tom Agone (H), 8-4; Ken Baer (R) decisioned Don Brown, 5-3.
 152—Bob Ross (H) decisioned Bill MacMillan (SL), 11-0; Tom Carlson (R) decisioned Bart Gale, 9-1.
 160—John Clark (SL) decisioned Norm Alston (R), 5-2; Mike Robbin (H) decisioned Dick Rosener (U), 5-1.
 167—Naysim Simon (U) pinned Cliff Libby (R), 3-59; Jay Robinson (C) won by default over Ian Biggl (C).
 177—John Pandish (R) decisioned Jim Thorburn (SL), 9-7; Mike Perfit (SL) decisioned Joe Rinaldis (H), 6-1.
 191—Frank Boyar (H) decisioned Ken Merz (U), 15-3; Norm Bell (SL) pinned Tim Townsend (H), 1-31.
HW.—Bill LaRock (SL) pinned Skip Lynch (U), 2-22; John Shaler, (C) pinned Pete Kenyon (U), 3-58.
CONSOLATION
 117—Ken Wood (C) decisioned Sandy Dorman (H), 10-0.
 123—Jim Osborne (R) decisioned Chris Bell (H), 11-2; Robert Peet (SL) decisioned Marty Leffler (R), 13-1; Osborne decisioned Peet referee's decision.
 130—Gerry Marcella (U) decisioned Dave Crocker (SL), 9-8.
 137—Joel Kupperstein (C) decisioned Steve Charkow (SL), 2-1; Larry Stevens (U) decisioned Al Bowen (C), 6-2. Stevens decisioned Kupperstein, referee's decision.
 145—Tom Agone (H) pinned Paul Simonson (SL), 5-58; Don Brown (SL) decisioned Steve Spangler (H), 5-4. Agone decisioned Brown, 6-2.
 152—Steve French (U) decisioned Bill MacMillan (SL), 9-2; Bart Gale (U) decisioned Nat Podkaminer, (H), 9-4; Gale pinned French, 4-50.
 160—Bob Ellis (H) decisioned Norm Alston (R), 4-1; Dick Rosener (U) de-

cisioned Robin Rinalis (H), 5-0; Ellis decisioned Rosener, 6-4.
 167—Cliff Libby (R) won by disqualification over Ian Biggl.
 177—Jim Thorburn (SL) won by forfeit over Brian Crandall (U); Joe Rinaldis (H) decisioned Joe Ernst (C), 6-0; Rinaldis decisioned Thorburn, 4-0.
 191—Mike Liopold (C) decisioned Ken Merz (U), 11-5; Joe Spence (R) decisioned Tom Townsend (H), 7-0; Liopold decisioned Spence, 4-3.
HW.—Skip Lynch (U) pinned Kevin Carlisle (R), 3-33; Pete Kenyon (U) pinned Lynch, 1-44.
FINALS
 117—Ron Ruhl (Union) decisioned Richard Kuhn (Clarkson), 11-2.
 123—Bill Munno (Union) won by default over John Barrows (Union).
 130—Frank D'Antuono (Union) won by default over Girado Brown (RPI).
 137—Eric Blair (RPI) decisioned Gene Maxon (Hobart), 5-4.
 145—Jeff Knetzer (Union) won by default over Ken Baer (RPI).
 152—Bob Ross (Hobart) pinned Tom Carlson (RPI), 6-21.
 160—John Clark (St. Lawrence) decisioned Mike Dobbin (Hobart), referee's decision.
 167—Naysim Simon (Union) decisioned Jay Robinson (Clarkson), 6-4.
 177—John Pandish (RPI) decisioned Mike Perfit (St. Lawrence), 4-2.
 191—Norm Bell (St. Lawrence) decisioned Frank Boyar (Hobart), 9-0.
HW.—Bill LaRock (St. Lawrence) pinned John Shaler (Clarkson), 3-50.



ICAC WRESTLING CHAMPIONS, left to right, front row: Naysim Simon, Jeff Knetzer and Bill Munno, all of Union; Bob Ross, Hobart; Frank D'Antuono and Ron Ruhl, both of Union. Back row, Bill Clark and Norm Bell of St. Lawrence; John Pandish of RPI; Bill LaRock of St. Lawrence, and Eric Blair of RPI.

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