

# Smith brothers cough up third king

By Doug Brown  
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COLLEGE PARK — Oklahoma State wrestling coach Joe Seay made a decision in December that would have far-reaching ramifications.

He decided *not* to redshirt freshman Pat Smith.

That was only after Smith drubbed teammate Jeff McAllister, a fifth-year senior and the fifth-ranked 158-pounder in the nation. The win was so decisive that Seay had no other logical choice.

"If it had been close, I would have been redshirted and McAllister would have wrestled the season," Smith said. "But I beat him by seven or eight points."

Beaming, Smith stood now behind a podium in Cole Field House. In the audience were his celebrated brother John, a two-time NCAA champion from Oklahoma State and a 1988 Olympic gold medalist, and his oldest brother, Lee Roy, an Oklahoma State NCAA champ in 1980.

Saturday night, Pat Smith joined them, marking the first time three brothers had won NCAA wrestling titles. Top-seeded, he stormed past five opponents in the 158-pound class, including Navy senior and No. 2 seed Scott Schleicher in the final, 11-7.

"What hurt was Smith's first takedown, it was so fast," said Navy coach Reg Wicks. "He's slick on his feet, like his brother."

Less than five seconds into the match, Smith took Schleicher down. That set the tone.

"I try to break a guy by taking him down in the first five seconds," Smith said. "I usually do that."

The irony was that Schleicher, whose success was built on the takedown, was able to take down Smith only once and in turn was taken down three times.

"I had watched him in the tournament and on tape, so I knew he'd come out and shoot for the ankles right away," Schleicher said. "He goes so low it took away my hip strength. He's real quick. I knew it was coming, but

couldn't stop it."

According to Seay, quickness is not Smith's only asset.

"Like both of his brothers," Seay said, "Pat has a wide hip area, and derives his leg attack strength from there."

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Only two other locals attained All-America (top eight) status. Navy heavyweight Brett Bourne was fifth and Morgan State's lone entrant, Chauncy Wynn, was sixth at 158. Maryland had seven entrants, Navy six.

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The Middies finished 13th with 29 points, their best showing since an 11th in 1983. Morgan was 30th with 8.5 points, Maryland 47th with 3.5.

Oklahoma State scored 117.75 points for its second straight championship and 29th in the tournament's 60-year history. Arizona State was second with 104.75, followed by Iowa with 102.75 . . . Attendance for the three-day event was 52,107, including 9,804 for Saturday night's finals.

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Oklahoma State's Chris Barnes was named the outstanding wrestler after successfully defending his 177-pound title. He finished the season with 205 takedowns, but was never taken down himself . . . Brian Dolph beat Northern Iowa's Gary Steffensmeier at 150 to become Indiana's first NCAA champion since 1940.

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Identical twins Terry and Tom Brands, Iowa sophomores, won at 126 and 134, respectively. Had they ever dreamed of this? Said Tom, "We've been talking about it since seventh grade."

"This is as excited as I've been in a long time," said their coach, Dan Gable, in his 14th season with the Hawkeyes. "You need to be excited to be sure you're still in the sport. I'm excited tonight."