

Hard Work Pays Off in W- 2 Losses Sparked Tribe to Mat Title

By NORM JOLLOW

SENECA FALLS — "Attitude, hard work and real great desire" were the ingredients that made the Waterloo Indians the first Wayne-Finger Lakes conference wrestling tournament champions.

The Indians, who went into the finals 10 points ahead of second place Geneva, added 12 points in the consolation and finals to finish seven points in front of Mynderse Academy, which edged past Geneva for second in the final standings.

Waterloo wound up with 75 points while Mynderse had 68 and Geneva 64. Following were Canandaigua, 45; Penn Yan 42; Wayne Central, Phelps and Newark, 11 each and Union Springs, 0.

Pete DeBottis, coach of the league champion Mynderse Academy team conceded to Waterloo Coach Gordon Gilfillian that "I'm glad we met you early in the season. Your team is the most improved in the league." Waterloo lost a 32-18 decision to Mynderse in the first month of the season for the Indians.

Gilfillian was in agreement Saturday night that his club had come a long way and that it had vindicated two losses during the season that hurt the Indian's pride as much as it hurt their hopes for a league crown.

The Waterloo coach agreed that Canandaigua's surprise victory over the Indians in their final match of the season, a decision that dropped the Tribe to third in the final standings, whetted the desire of the Indians to make good in the tournament.

"And the loss to Mynderse early in the season was another thing. These kids wanted to prove that they were better than Seneca Falls."

Right now, the duel between the two teams is deadlocked at 1-1. Mynderse has the league title, Waterloo the tournament crown. Though there will be nothing official about it, the tie may be broken Thursday.

The same two teams will clash again, with Odessa being a third party in what is officially billed as eliminations for the Section 5 Class B semi-final wrestling tournament. The site will be the Waterloo gym.

Gilfillian pointed out that in

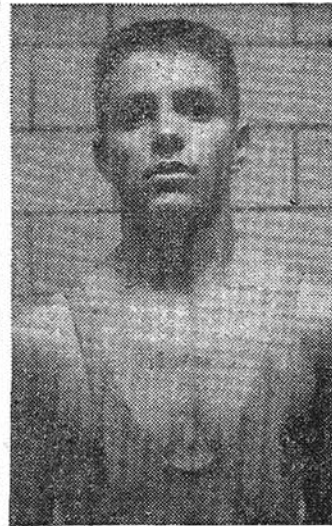
tournament, some changes can be made for the benefit of the individual that must be sacrificed for the benefit of the team during league meets.

As a result of changes three Indians copped shields in the finals as the Tribe sewed up the title early. Mike Bertino won at 103 pounds, Dom Tantalo won at 112 and Jim Lamson won at 120.

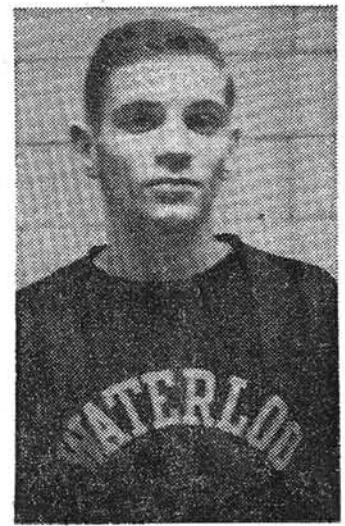
Tantalo and Lamson were two of the keys that made the difference for the Indians in this tournament. During the league season, Tantalo had wrestled at 120 and Lamson at 127. Though both were a weight class over their individual weight, "we felt it helped the team more that way," Gilfillian noted. However, for tournament, the two dropped into their right classes where they scored wins over Mynderse grapplers in the semi-final round, helping to catapult the Indians into the lead they never lost.

Tantalo is a study in long range planning on his own part. When the season opened, he weighed nearly 130 pounds. By careful slow but steady work, he got down to the 115 pound limit for the 112 pound class, still strong, not sapping his strength, at the last minute as is the case for some wrestlers who try to drop a class in a few days.

Lamson is perhaps the most surprising wrestler of the tournament. Until this year, Lamson had been a basketball player. Last year, after the winter season had ended, he approached Gilfillian who was then conducting wrestling classes for seventh and



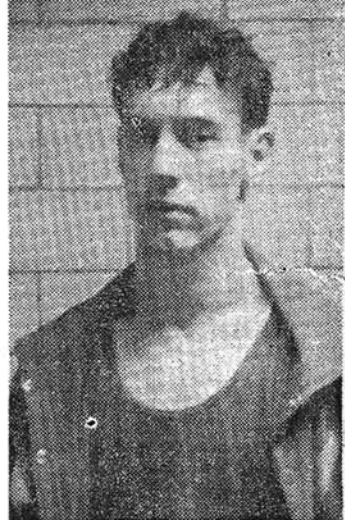
Dick Marchionda
95 . . . Penn Yan



Mike Bertino
103 . . . Waterloo



John Scammell
138 . . . Canandaigua



Bob Domm
145 . . . Canandaigua

eighth grade students. Lamson asked permission to join the classes to learn the sport. In three weeks, he had mastered the fundamentals.

This winter he got his timing down and wound up with a 15-4 record for all matches this season and a tournament championship.

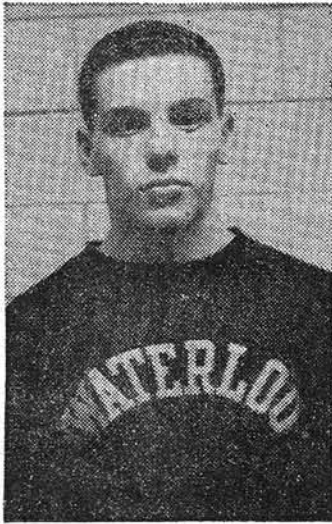
The one disappointment for Lamson was getting his title through a forfeit when Geneva's Pete Blum was unable to wrestle. A lump raised on Blum's fore-

head Saturday morning. He apparently had been hurt in the semi-finals last Thursday and aggravated it in practice on Friday.

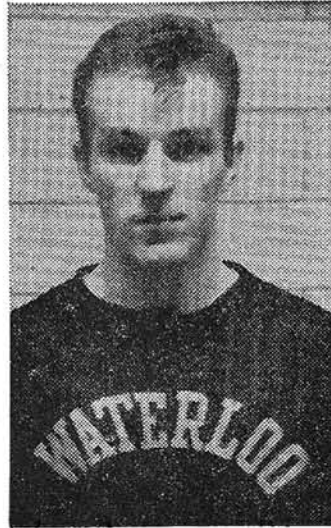
Lamson may or may not have beaten Blum, but he had wanted the chance to prove himself. Lamson defeated Floyd Siegfried of Mynderse, on a pin in one minute, in the semi-finals. Blum was the only other wrestler to beat Siegfried.

Two matches highlighted a final round that had 850 fans screaming from start to finish. In the closest match of the tournament, Geneva's Dick Atkinson won a

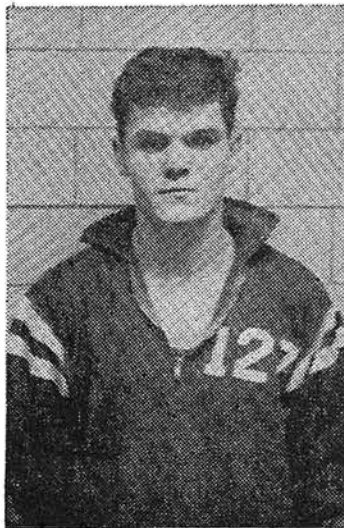
FL Mat Crown for Waterloo



Dom Tantalo
112 . . . Waterloo



Jim Lamson
120 . . . Waterloo



Ron Hooper
127 . . . Mynderse



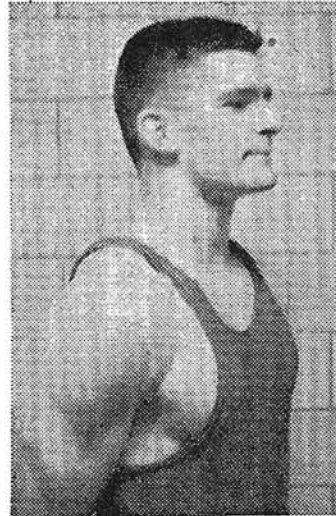
Mel Brinson
133 . . . Penn Yan



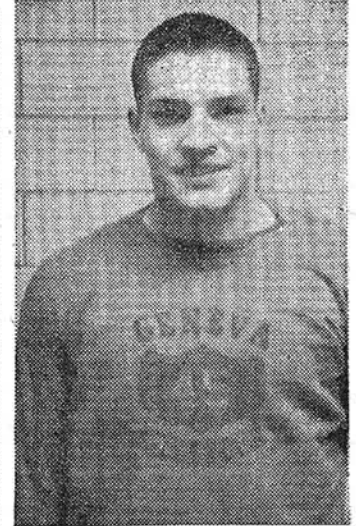
Dick Atkinson
154 . . . Geneva



Dick Post
165 . . . Geneva



Bob Buchwald
180 . . . Mynderse



Dick Moore
Unlimited . . . Geneva

referee's decision over Waterloo's Bob Lynch after the two had battled for eight minutes to a scoreless draw. The decision, by secret ballot of two referees and Phelps Coach Lynn Tewksbury, was unanimous.

The other match pitted Bob Buchwald of Mynderse against Jay Covert of Geneva, a rematch of a league bout won by Buchwald. Once again, the Mynderse grappler won, this time by a 6-0 decision.

The 12 conference champions represent a combined total of 167 victories and only 15 losses this season.

Heading the list of champions is Waterloo's Bertino who has a 19-0 record. Other still undefeated champions are Penn Yan's 133 pound Mel Brinson, 16-0; Geneva's 165 pound Dick Post and Mynderse's 180 pound Buchwald, both 14-0, and Geneva heavyweight Dick Moore, 13-0.

Dick Marchionda of Penn Yan, at 95 pounds, now has a 15-1 record; Tantalo is 12-5; Lamson is 15-4; Ron Hooper of Mynderse, at 127 pounds, is 13-1; John Scammell, at 138, is 11-1 and Bob Domm, at 145, is 16-1, both from Canandaigua; and Dick Atkinson, Geneva's 154 pounder, is 9-2.

The summary:

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

95 pounds — Dick Marchionda (Penn Yan) pinned Joe Capone (Waterloo), 3:18.
103 pounds — Mike Bertino (Waterloo) decisioned Skip Lamont (Penn Yan), 4-0.
112 pounds — Dom Tantalo (Waterloo) decisioned Gary Carpenter (Canandaigua), 5-0.
120 pounds — Jim Lamson (Waterloo) won by forfeit.
127 pounds — Ron Hooper (Mynderse) decisioned Dick Griffith (Geneva) 3-1.
133 pounds — Mel Brinson (Penn Yan) decisioned Bill Jackson (Mynderse), 8-2.
138 pounds — John Scammell (Canandaigua) decisioned Walt Snyder (Waterloo), 7-0.
145 pounds — Bob Domm (Canandaigua) decisioned Nick Barbi (Mynderse), 8-5.
154 pounds — Dick Atkinson (Geneva) defeated Bob Lynch (Waterloo), referee's decision.
165 pounds — Dick Post (Geneva) pinned Jim Avery (Waterloo), 5:30.
180 pounds — Bob Buchwald (Mynderse) decisioned Jay Covert (Geneva), 6-0.
Unlimited — Dick Moore (Geneva) pinned Sandy Stralmonine (Wayne Central), 3:11.

CONSOLATION

95 pounds — Greg Thomas (Canandaigua) decisioned Dave Burlaw (Mynderse), 6-0.
103 pounds — Dave Gifford (Newark) decisioned John Swan (Mynderse), 6-0.
112 pounds — Nick Zona (Mynderse) decisioned Nick DeYullo (Geneva), 5-3.
120 pounds — Floyd Siegfried (Mynderse) pinned Ernie French (Newark), 1:41.
127 pounds — Charles Marsh (Canandaigua) won by forfeit.
133 pounds — Dick Skinner (Waterloo) decisioned Mike Davie (Geneva), 9-3.
138 pounds — Dick Scibona (Mynderse) won by forfeit.
145 pounds — Mike Morell (Penn Yan) won by forfeit.
154 pounds — Heiti Kotkas (Mynderse) decisioned Bob Morrice (Canandaigua), 5-0.
165 pounds — Irv Dunham (Mynderse) pinned Bob Middlebrook (Phelps), 3:20.
180 pounds — Ralph Blair, (Phelps) pinned Howie Spence (Wayne Central), 1:03.
Unlimited — Roy Hutchinson (Newark) decisioned Jim Poorman (Waterloo), 5-2.

Hard Work Pays Off in W-FL Mat Crown for Waterloo.

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