

# Cornell wins 2 titles and takes 2nd at state wrestling; IC takes 10th

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OSWEGO — At the 22nd New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships, Cornell grappled with the Empire State's best, while Ithaca College grappled with the truth.

The Big Red produced two individual state champions over the weekend, finishing second behind Syracuse University for the team title. It was CU's second straight second-place finish in the tournament.

"I think it's a measure of how far we've come, and how good we really are," said Cornell coach Jack Spates.

Meanwhile, the IC wrestlers showed a measure of inexperience.

Three Bombers placed in individual competition (fourth, sixth and eighth), but Ithaca dropped from last year's fourth-place finish to place 10th this year.

"I would have expected that we'd have a couple more all-state kids (placing eighth or better)," said IC coach John Murray. "But we have a young team, and that makes it tough to expect anything."

Syracuse topped the team charts with four individual champions and 171.75 points. Cornell followed with two champions, three runners up and 141 total points. Two Big Red wrestlers finished third, one finished fourth and one finished sixth.

150-pounder Jason Roach and 177-pounder Ben Morgan grabbed individual titles for the Big Red.

Army, last year's champion, placed third with 136.75 points, followed by Brockport (69.5), Buf-

falo (62.75) and Hofstra (58.5).

Cortland (43.25), Columbia (34.5), St. Lawrence (27.5) and Ithaca (26.75) rounded out the top 10. A total of 21 teams competed, held Friday and Saturday at Ziel Gym.

Ithaca finished fourth among Division III schools, a clear indication the two-time defending Division III champions are rebuilding.

"It's probably the first time in ten years that I've come to this tournament without returning all-state kids," Murray explained.

The Bombers wrestled without the services of David Isselbacher (118 pounds), who is still about a week away from making weight, and Marty Sullivan (150 pounds), who had arthroscopic knee surgery a week ago.

"Ithaca College will be back," said Cornell's Spates. "They're a little young this year, but they'll make other people pay for the sins of their youth in the years to come. Hopefully, it won't be us."

Cornell is making other people pay now.

The Big Red squad firmly established itself as an Eastern powerhouse by outpointing Army — the school where Spates served as assistant coach from 1985-1987.

"For us to beat Army is very encouraging," he said. "The year I left Army, we beat Cornell so bad that we dropped them from the schedule. I guess it's about time to renew that rivalry."

Here's a rundown of each weight class:

• **118 lbs:** Cornell's David Hirsch failed to place after dropping two of three matches.

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Cornell coach

Matt McLenehan managed NYU's only championship performance by taking a 5-4 decision over Syracuse's Drew Black in the final round.

• **126 lbs:** Fourth-seeded Roland Kays placed sixth overall for the Big Red, taking three of four matches.

Ithaca's eighth-seeded Chris Pasaro dropped two of three encounters and failed to place. Brockport's Fritz Zagorski was the individual champion.

• **134 lbs:** Here was the final round's most dramatic confrontation.

Cornell's Mark Fergeson was voted the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler a year ago after defeating Rich Santana of Syracuse in the finals. Saturday night, the two faced off again.

Though Santana is ranked third and Fergeson fifth nationally, the Big Red wrestler was seeded first based on last year's triumph.

The match was scoreless through two periods, but a Fergeson takedown gave him a 2-0 lead midway through the final frame. Santana

moved to within a point, and then, as the final seconds ticked off the clock, he fashioned a takedown for an exciting 3-2 victory.

"He turned into me and I relaxed," said Fergeson. "I lost my concentration for a few seconds and he took a good shot."

"We're obviously very disappointed not in, but for, Mark Fergeson," said Spates. "He wrestled a great wrestler, and to lose on the buzzer in a very close call is heart-breaking."

"Things didn't go my way, but I was the better wrestler," Fergeson said. "I don't think it hurt my confidence, just my pride."

Ithaca's Lenny Bruehwiler produced the Bombers' best finish in the same weight class. After a first-round bye, he defeated Columbia's Barry Bunin 5-3 in the second round.

Bruehwiler lost to Fergeson in the next round, one of three times the Big Red defeated the Bombers in a local match-up.

• **142 lbs:** Cornell's Mike Polo placed third after two victories, a semifinal loss to the eventual cham-

pion and a pair of consolation decisions.

He outpointed Ithaca's Kent Maslin 10-6 in the third round after Maslin pinned his second-round opponent. Maslin lost in the first round of consolations.

Syracuse's Darren Schulman was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler after taking the individual title.

• **150 lbs:** There were no Roach killers around, as the Big Red's Jason Roach grabbed the title.

He road a pair of third-period takedowns to an 8-3 triumph over Army's top-seeded Doug McCormick in the championship match.

Roach was a two-time junior college champion before transferring to Cornell this season.

"I finally feel like I'm getting it back together," he said. "I'm starting to make that transition a little better, and I'm pretty proud of my performance here."

IC's Bruno Quattrone dropped his first two matches and failed to place.

• **158 lbs:** Bob Whalen was seeded second for the Big Red and lived up to his billing.

After taking 16-1, 2-1 and 13-6 decision, he was pinned by Hofstra's Joe Sabel in the final round,

finishing second overall.

"The Whalester was great. He really was," said Spates.

"(Sabel) is tough as nails. He's going to be an Olympic hopeful in Greco-Roman wrestling, and he showed why."

Mark Fenelon was IC's representative, suffering a pin in his first round match and a loss in the opening match of consolations.

• **167 lbs:** Mike New was like the New of old, finishing second in the state championships for the second year in a row.

The Big Red wrestler pinned his first two opponents and then decided his next two (14-3 and 17-5) to make it to the finals. Army's top-seeded Nick Mauldin took the title with a 6-3 final-round decision.

Ithaca's Mike Murtha lost to New in the third round before dropping his first consolation match.

• **177 lbs:** Ben Morgan avenged last year's final-round loss by defeating defending champion Bill Barrow of Army in the title match.

After 9-5, 5-2 and 9-6 decisions, Morgan's final round match lasted less than 30 seconds. As the first

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period was getting under way, Morgan slammed Barrow to the mat, injuring the Cadet's knee and giving Morgan the state title by default.

"Ben, in winning, beat a guy who had beaten him twice previously," said Spates.

"While the match ended in a default, Ben would have had a 4-0 lead, and quite frankly I think it would have been insurmountable."

Morgan added, "The whole tournament, I just tried to wrestle smart — just win match by match and not think ahead — even though really I was looking towards (Barrow) the whole time"

The title was enough to move the Big Red past Army in the team standings.

Karl Zenie failed to place after dropping his first two matches for

Ithaca College.

• **190 lbs:** Both the Cornell and IC representatives finished higher than expected, as sixth-seeded Tim Szvec placed third for the Big Red and seventh-seeded Bill Hadsell placed sixth for the Bombers.

Szvec outpointed Wagner's Dan Sanchez 3-2 to finish third, and Hadsell lost to Sanchez in the consolation. Mark Kerr of Syracuse defeated Brian Quick of Brockport in the final round.

• **Heavyweight:** Big Red freshman Bruce Morgan lost his second round match after taking a 10-2 first round decision, but he won three of four consolation battles to place fourth overall.

Ithaca's Randy Cotton placed eighth, while Joe Zito of Syracuse defeated Army's E.J. Pasteur in the title match to assure Cornell a second-place finish.

# WRESTLING

## 22nd New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championship at Oswego State

**Final team standings:** Syracuse 171.75, Cornell 141, Army 136.75, Brockport 69.5, Buffalo 62.75, Hofstra 58.5, Cortland 43.25, Columbia 34.50, St. Lawrence 27.5, Ithaca 26.75, Albany 26, NYU 20.75, Wagner 20.75, Manhattan 20.25, Oneonta 20, Oswego 19.5, Binghamton 18.5, Potsdam 18, RIT 14.5, Hunter 9, USMMA 3.25.

### Individual Finals:

**118 lbs:** Matt McLenehan (NYU) d. Drew Black (Syracuse) 5-4

**126 lbs:** Fritz Zagorski (Brockport) d. Steve Trumpet (Syracuse) 3-2

**134 lbs:** Rich Santana (Syracuse) d. Mark Fergeson (Cornell) 3-2

**142 lbs:** Darren Schulman (Syracuse) d. Jack Vantess (Army) 11-3

**150 lbs:** Jason Roach (Cornell) d. Doug McCormick (Army) 8-3

**158 lbs:** Joe Sabel (Hofstra) p. Bob Whalen (Cornell) 2-32

**167 lbs:** Nick Mauldin (Army) d. Mike New (Cornell) 6-3

**177 lbs:** Ben Morgan (Cornell) d. Bill Barrow (Army) default

**190 lbs:** Mark Kerr (Syracuse) d. Brian Quick (Brockport)

**HWT:** Joe Zito (Syracuse) d. E.J. Pasteur (Army)

**Outstanding Wrestler:** Darren Schulman (142, Syracuse)