

Black, Stevenson Keep Winning

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Franklin and Marshall's potent wrestling combination of Chris Black and John Stevenson added to their rapidly growing trophy collection over the weekend by repeating as NCAA College Division champions at Oswego, N.Y. and by doing so qualified for a shot at the biggest prize of all.

Black and Stevenson will now go to the University of Maryland for the NCAA University Division Championships which begin on Thursday and continue through Saturday. Both competed in the big one last year and were unable to place but they figure to have a genuine shot at placing this time.

Black repeated as the 126-pound champ at Oswego while Stevenson won the 167-pound title for the second time. The victories this year are more meaningful since the tournament was considerably stronger than it was last year.

BIG TOURNAMENT

Last season the NCAA set up several Regional tournaments for qualification for the University Division finals but this year that plan was discarded which meant many more wrestlers from across the nation flocked to Oswego to compete. "It was a much bigger tournament this year and much tougher," said F&M mat coach Mickey Stewart.

Still the F&M duo managed to come out on top. "Black and Stevenson were both really tough," said Stewart. "Black was really great in the finals — I thought he had a chance for Outstanding Wrestler." That honor, which Black won at the Easterns, went to Wade Schalles of Clarion who took the 150-pound title.

Black reached the finals by stopping John Wassum of Cal Poly 4-1 in the semi-finals. Black had his hands full with Wassum however as the Cal

Poly wrestler resorted to freestyle tactics in the final seconds in order to gain a takedown. "He got a lateral drop once but Black was off the mat," says Stewart. "Then he flipped Black over on his back a few seconds later but he managed to roll out of trouble just before the buzzer went off. I was really worried when that was going on."

In the finals, Black totally outclassed Sam Myers of Seattle Pacific for a 14-3 decision and the top trophy. Both Myers and Wassum wrestled at 134 most of the season and were both named to the Mid-Season All-American team at that weight.

CLOSEST CALL

Black's closest call came in the quarterfinals when freshman Harold Wiley of Fullerton State in California took the F&M star into overtime before Black won a close decision. "Wiley is really a fantastic wrestler," says Stewart. "He beat Black when they were on their feet. He had two takedowns in the first period but he tired late and Black caught up and tied him." Wiley had tied Wassum during the season.

"Stevenson looked great," said Stewart of his other champion. "He was very quick and wrestled smart matches all the way through." Stevenson outlasted Doug Stone of Humboldt State 11-9 in the semi-finals and then led all the way in beating tough Don Dixon of Northern Michigan 6-3 in the finals. Dixon had eliminated Bill Simpson of Clarion in the semi-finals.

"Stevenson is really peaking now," says Stewart. "I hope he does well at Maryland because he is really charged up for these tournaments."

F&M's other entry, Andy Noel, was knocked from the competition in the first round when he lost a close one-point decision. "He should have made the semi-finals," says

Stewart.

Freshman Joe Zoschg of Millersville did well at 190 making it to the quarterfinals before he ran into eventual champ, Fletcher Carr of Tampa. Zoschg was pinned there and then lost in consolations to Joe Kurtz of Seattle Pacific.

Mike Panarella of Millersville was eliminated early when he injured a knee in the first round against Chris Hagen of Luther College. Panarella battled back to tie the score 6-6 but lost 2-1 in overtime.

"It was good experience for Zoschg," said Millersville

coach Jerry Swope of the trip. "He feels now that he knows what he has to do in the next few years."

Scott Evans and Rod Chamberlain of Elizabethtown both won their opening matches at Oswego but were knocked out of the running with second round defeats.

The same fate was in store for former Manheim Township star Andy Long who is wrestling for Moravian. Long defeated Tony Companion of Oswego in overtime in the first round but then lost a 9-4 decision to Bert Dalton of the University of Colorado in the second round.

