

Oswego: Finally!

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OSWEGO, N.Y. — With all Lock Haven State's wrestlers eliminated, at least it was enjoyable to watch the consolation finals and championship bouts at the NCAA College Division Tournament here last Saturday.

It was disappointing that LHSC would not qualify an entry for the Nationals at the University of Maryland, but local fans who made the long trek north could still root for other Pennsylvania Conference matmen still in competition.

Clarion's Garry Barton turned in a great performance in the wrestle-backs to finish third at 134, whipping North Dakota State's Ken Tinquist in his final bout, 15-4.

John Corman of Shippensburg was a surprise fifth place finisher at 158. He had lost 9-8 to Jerry Strauman of Western Illinois in the second preliminary round on Friday, but came back strong and handled Strauman 12-5 in the consis.

Clarion's Bill Simpson, 167, would undoubtedly have finished higher than sixth had he not been injured in the semi-finals. The nature of the injury, torn rib cartilage, prevented him from pulling his strength moves on Don Dixon of Northern Michigan, who won 3-1, and he was advised not to continue.

A sixth place was admirable for heavyweight Paul Britcher, also of Clarion. He had lost to eventual champion Mike McCready of Northern Iowa in his first bout, only 2-1, and 5-0 to fourth placer Len Schlacter of Cortland in the consolation semi-finals.

In his final match, Britcher was defeated by North Dakota State's Bob Backlund, last year's 190-pound champion.

With the consis out of the way, a near-capacity crowd at Laker Hall settled back for the championship matches. The pre-finals ceremony was perhaps too long, a couple speeches and awards to Oswego staff members who had contributed to the growth of the sport, etc.

The PA announcer also kept referring to a "Most Valuable Wrestler" award and once even referred to it as the "MVP" award.

Knowledgeable fans knew he meant "Outstanding Wrestler," not "Most Valuable."

The wait was well worth while, however, when the 118-pounders finally stepped on the mats. Bruce Biondi, a junior at Brockport State, was most impressive in an 8-3 triumph over San Francisco State's Ray Fernandez.

Diamonds take lead

LOCK HAVEN — The American Aniline Diamonds won the volleyball league showdown at the Lock Haven YMCA last night, sweeping three games from WBPZ to replace the An-nouncers as the top team.

Biondi, a National Junior College champion from Long Island, is exceptional on his feet and should surprise at Maryland. He sets up his moves extremely well, faking one or two to make his opponent react, then hitting a mercury-quick two-pointer.

Lock Haven's Donnie Fay would have had to be at the top of his game to defeat Biondi and it would have been an interesting match-up. LHSC fans will get a chance to see him in action when Brockport wrestles next season at the fieldhouse.

To reach the finals, Biondi had hammered Cal Poly's defending champion Gary McBride, who proved woefully weak on takedowns. Biondi's record for the season is now 25-0 overall.

At 126, F&M senior Chris Black (30-1), dominated Sam Myers of Seattle Pacific, 17-7. The "shrug" is his best takedown move and he compiled 4:27 in riding time.

Slippery Rock's Rod Irwin had a great tournament, edging tough Larry Morgan of Cal Poly, 4-3, on a takedown with only 40 seconds left in the 134-pound finale. The Pa. Conference runner-up boosted his overall record this season to 28-5 in a bout that saw him receive predicament points and Morgan awarded a locked-hands penalty, all taken away by the mat judges.

The Rock nearly had its second champion at 142 when Tom Cox just missed a double-leg takedown with 10 seconds to go and was shaded by Cal Poly's Glenn Anderson, a junior with a 34-3 season mark.

At 150, Clarion's Wade Schalles drew "oohs" and "aahs" as he swarmed over reluctant Mike Engels of South Dakota State, an easy 15-3 winner. A typical Schalles maneuver came early when, hopping around as Engels lifted on a single-leg, he sat and tripped his opponent down for the two-pointer.

"Wondrous Wade" upped his season mark to 31-1, the loss to Keith Abens in the Midlands, and later collected the Outstanding (Most Valuable?) and falls awards. He could be the man to beat at 150 this weekend.

Mankato's Mike Medcill was reputed to be tough at 158, but it was difficult to tell as he fell to Slippery Rock's Stan Dziedzic, 6-1. Dziedzic, 34-0, became the first three-time champion in the short (10 years) history of the CD tourney.

If there is a question about Stan's eligibility, it evidently did not pop up at Oswego. His career record is listed at 111-1, but he had been pinned by Stanford's Len Borchers as a freshman wrestling in the NCAA Championships for Indiana State and lost to Mike Grant in the Nationals as a sophomore, finishing third.

It wouldn't be surprising if Iowa State challenged his eligibility at Maryland this weekend, which may have been the reason for Carl Adams' drop to 158.

The East kept rolling at 167, where senior John Stevenson of

F&M (34-4-1) finished strong to defeat Dixon. Stevenson, it was learned, had wrestled at Greenville High and had lost to Erie East's Marty Davis in the District 10 tourney his senior year.

Bill Demaray of North Dakota State repeated at 167, his opponent, Dave Alexander of Northern Colorado, taking a couple painful groin shots before losing 9-3 on a takedown and predicament by Demaray at the buzzer. Demaray, a senior, is 30-2. His losses were to Dziedzic and Schalles on the Bisons' Eastern swing.

At 190, former Erie East standout Fletcher Carr displayed amazing quickness as he decisioned top-seeded Joe Hatchett of Northern Iowa, 6-3. Now at Tampa University, Carr had lost by an identical score to Allentown Dieruff's Don Newhard in the 1968 PIAA finals.

Newhard had whipped Terry Claypool, of Kittaning and Clarion State, 13-1 in the semi-finals of the State tourney that year.

In a typically boring heavyweight bout, Mike McCready blanked Jim Woods of Western Illinois, 4-0. Both are sophomores. McCready's overall season mark was reported at 48-2. Doubtful, but possible.

The awards ceremony capped the long day's activities and included the presentation of the 1971 Coach of the Year plaque to Fred Powell, of Granby High, LHSC and Slippery Rock, and this season's honor went to Bob Bubb of Clarion.

Bubb later said he thought that coaches of teams that had finished higher at Oswego were more deserving, but the award was probably made for his team's fine regular season performance and not on the tourney standings alone.

Schalles collected most of the gold as the 150-pound titlist, winner of the falls award and "MVP" trophy. He was deserving of all.

There was no official pronouncement, but it was obvious that the CD tournament has grown entirely too large and unmanageable. Like its big brother, the NCAA Championships, a qualifying system is in order.

Perhaps a place in a conference tournament or, at least, a .500 record could be the criteria for entry in the CD event.

It was a good tournament, but even the most avid mat fan can get too much of a good thing.

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