

# Iowa, OSU take title battle to edge of mat

■ **Hawkeyes, Cowboys each win three of five matches in semifinals.**

★ By **KEVIN EVANS**

Courier Sports Editor

**CLEVELAND, OHIO**

There was no shortage of action Friday at the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, but nothing was decided.<sup>N</sup>

The titanic struggle between Iowa and Oklahoma State for college wrestling's biggest trophy was like a sparring session. Both landed their blows, but the only lights that went out were those at the Cleveland State Convocation Center.

Each team won three of its five semifinal matches.

If there was a key match, it was the first one in the semifinals where Teague Moore beat Iowa's Eric Jurgens, 6-4, on a late takedown.

"Eric just made a mistake," said Iowa coach Jim Zalesky. "He went back to the middle and he wasn't ready to go."

The three finalists for the Hawks were a bright spot, but so was the performance of heavyweight Wes Hand, who came back from a poor first-round match and wrestled his way back to earn All-American status.

"We knew he was capable of it, but in his first match he looked as bad as

he has all year," said Zalesky. "This was a big step for him. Nobody needed that more than he did to build his confidence for next year."

Mark Ironside, Jeff McGinness and Joe Williams were Iowa's semifinal winners while defending national champion Lee Fullhart lost a heart-breaker at 190.

Ironside overcame a slow start in the quarterfinals before moving on to make it to the finals for the second straight year.

"I have no excuses," he said of his 11-8 win over Michael Lightner of Oklahoma Friday morning. "I just did-

n't feel good out there. I think I ate too late and I was just blah."

Ironside made it to the finals with his 66th straight win, a 5-3 win over Dustin DeNunzio of Harvard. Earlier this season, Ironside had to go overtime to beat DeNunzio in the Midlands.

"I felt good tonight," said Ironside. "The Brands (Tom and Terry) got me ready to wrestle his style. The score was close, but I felt like I dominated the whole way. His style is tough for me, he does a lot of funky stuff."

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# NCAA

## Battle rages on between Iowa, Oklahoma State

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McGinness made it back to the finals for the first time since he won the 126-pound title in 1995. Getting past the quarterfinals was a big hurdle for the former four-time Iowa high school champion.

"There was a lot of pressure from two years ago (when he failed to place)," said McGinness, whose 6-2 win over Tom Tomeo of Clarion assured All-American status.

He earned his second trip to the finals with a dominating 8-4 decision over Jason Davids of Minnesota. Earlier this year, Davids beat McGinness in the National Duals, and since then the Iowa City native has been wrestling the best of his career.

"I've been able to get up for him," said McGinness. "I guess you could say there's no love lost between Minnesota and Iowa, and there's added motivation when it's a guy you lose to."

Williams moved into position to become a three-time national champion with a major decision in the quarterfinals and a 6-4 win over Jeff Catraborne of Michigan in the semifinals, his 33rd straight win this year.

Williams built a 6-3 lead after two periods, but was ridden out the third period and assessed a penalty point for stalling.

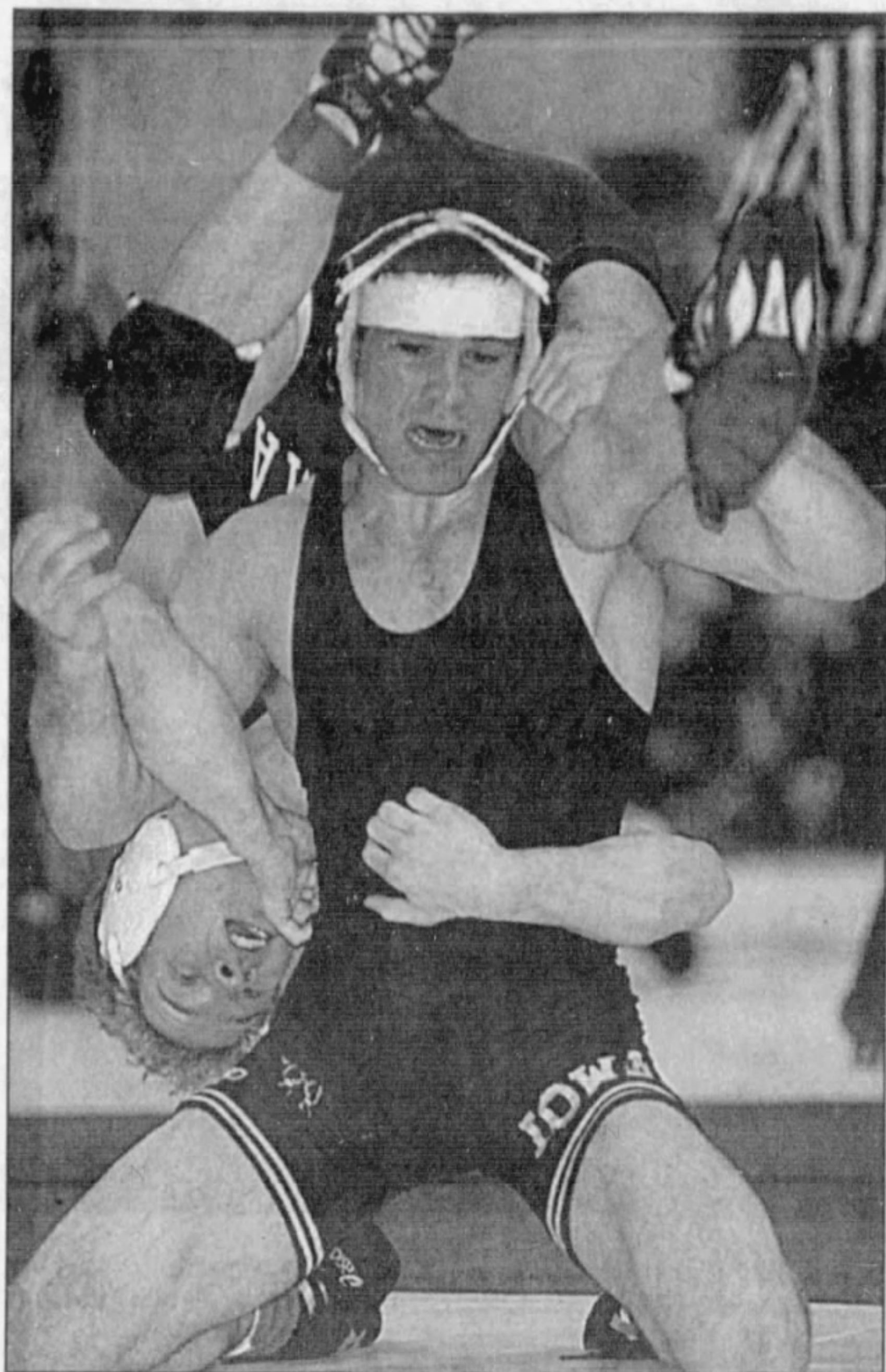
"I didn't wrestle the kind of match I wanted to," said Williams. "I didn't wrestle on the bottom at all. The semifinals are the hardest round to wrestle. You know you need to win to get to the finals, and with the team score being so close, you want to make sure you win."

Williams was stunned for a few seconds in the match when he was driven off the edge of the mat and landed on the concrete floor. He said his lower back was a little sore after the match, but the incident had no effect on his match.

Iowa's two semifinal losses were both last-second decisions.

Moore got a quick takedown off a restart in the final seconds for his margin of victory over Juergens while Fullhart blew an early lead and lost to nemesis Tim Hartung of Minnesota.

Fullhart worked his way to a 6-2 lead, but gave up a takedown in the final seconds and was just a few sec-



AP PHOTO

**Defending national champion Mark Ironside of Iowa flips Oklahoma's Michael Lightner over his head on the way to an 11-8 win in the 134-pound quarterfinals at the NCAA Wrestling Championships Friday.**

onds short of a riding time point in an 8-7 loss. Hartung has a 5-1 record against Fullhart the last two years.

Iowa State's two semifinalists split.

Trent Hynek, seeded just 11th entering the tournament, reached the heavyweight finals with a 4-3 win over No. 2 seed Airron Richardson of Michigan. Earlier, he earned All-American honors with a 4-1 win over No. 3 seed Jason Gleasman of Syracuse.

"I've surprised myself," said the junior who wrestled for Prairie of Cedar Rapids. "I came here wanting to be an All-American, but I'll take it (the finals berth). I deserve it because I worked hard."

Cyclone coach Bobby Douglas concurs.

"He's a class act," said the ISU coach. "There aren't many heavyweights who come in early and run with the lightweights, but he does. He got where he is because of his work ethic."

Dwight Hinson reached that round for the fourth straight year, but lost for the third time.

Hinson had won three straight decisions from defending NCAA champ Eric Guerrero of Oklahoma State before dropping a 2-1 match in the semifinals.

Northern Iowa's hopes for an All-American evaporated Friday.

The Panthers started the day with four wrestlers in the consolations, but all lost and were eliminated.