

NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Surprises rule the day at CSU

★ Iowa captures the championship, Minnesota sneaks into second place, and Ohio State's Clark goes out a winner

BY RALPH PAULK
Beacon Journal staff writer

The NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships were dominated — predictably — by the Big Ten and the Big 12.

Again, Iowa and Oklahoma State found themselves hooked up in a thrilling duel at Cleveland State University's Convocation Center. They went deep into last night's championship rounds before settling matters.

Iowa was supposed to be vulnerable this season, considering the Hawkeyes' legendary coach, former Olympic champion Dan Gable, had taken a sabbatical. Oklahoma State was ranked No. 1, and its regular-season win over the Hawkeyes gave the Cowboys momentum.

But lurking in the shadows were the Minnesota Gophers, who fared no better than third place in the Big Ten Tournament. The Gophers stunned the sellout crowd of 12,829, moving past Oklahoma State to claim the runner-up trophy.

That, of course, left the Hawkeyes with their fourth consecutive title. Iowa scored 115 points to far outdistance Minnesota (102) and Oklahoma State (99½).

Yet, even with the superb performances of the top-three finishers, there were other compelling moments during these NCAA championships.

There, too, were even a few surprises.

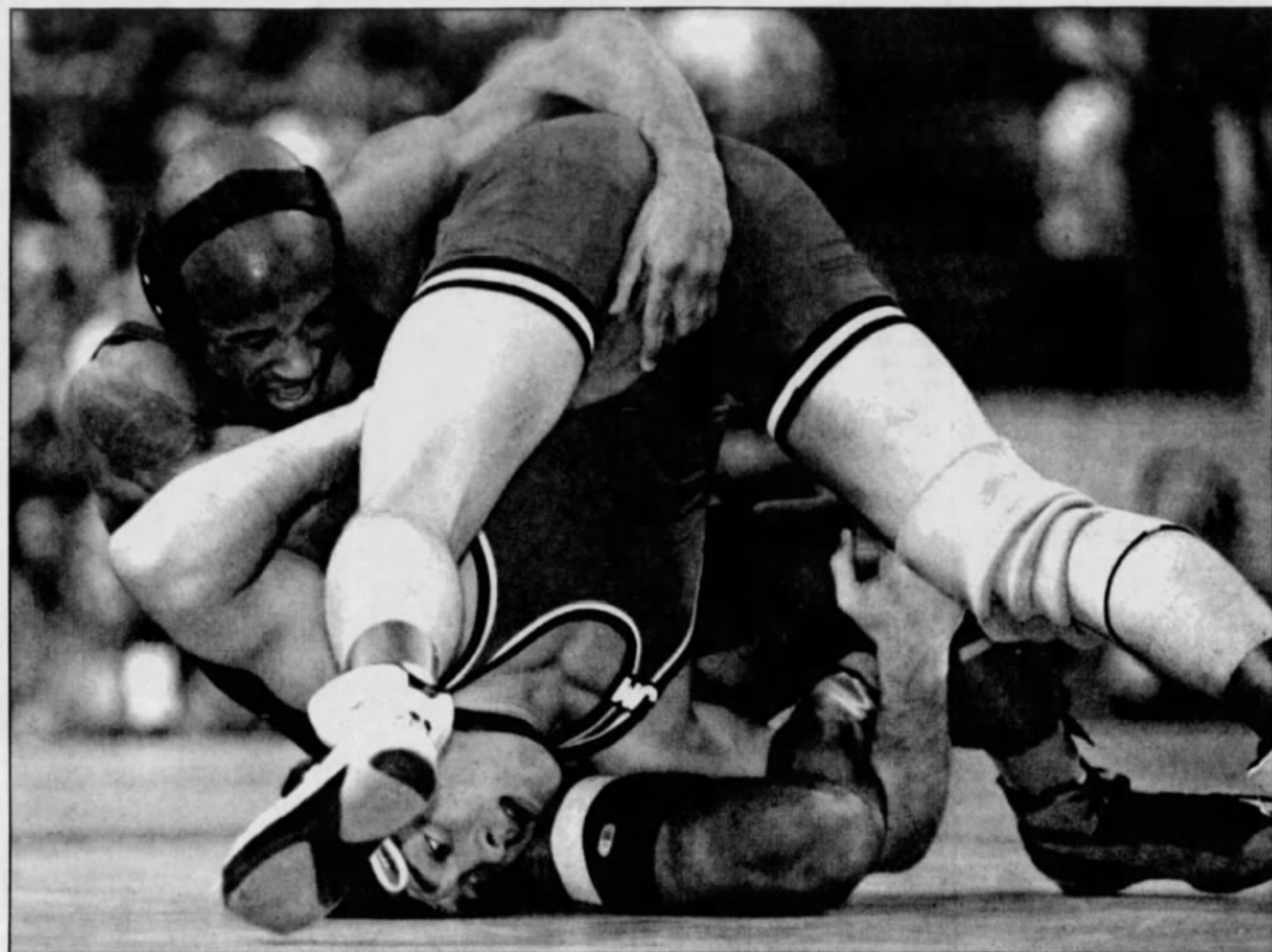
No one expected Ohio State's 177-pounder, senior Mitch Clark, to overwhelm his competition. In doing so, he endeared himself to the crowd, which was the fourth-largest in championship history.

Clark, the division's No. 1 seed, hardly pushed himself in scoring an awe-inspiring 18-0 technical fall over No. 6 seed Vertus Jones of West Virginia. Clark captured the national championship a year after losing in the title match.

While Clark's win wasn't surprising, Dwight Gardner's victory in the 167-pound final was somewhat stunning. The Ohio University junior upset the No. 1 seed, Hardell Moore of Oklahoma State.

Gardner's win gave the Mid-American Conference reason to push out its collective chest. Gardner is the conference's first national champion since Buchtel High graduate Andy Daniels won the 118-pound title in 1978.

Gardner and Clark have waited



Michigan State's David Morgan (left) has a firm grip on his opponent, Oklahoma State's Teague Moore, during their 118-pound title match in the NCAA Division I wrestling championships at Cleveland State. Morgan went on to win by a pin.

Associated Press

patiently to win their titles. But for Iowa's Joe Williams, standing atop the podium has become a familiar sight.

Williams, a four-time All-American and the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler, won his third consecutive title at 167 pounds. Williams fell behind 2-0 early, but he stormed back to score a 7-4 win over Penn's Brandon Slay.

But it was Clark who left a lasting impression. He methodically took apart Jones' defense, getting four nearfalls in outclassing Jones.

"I wasn't expecting it to go like that," said Clark, who finished with a 38-1 record.

"I worked on my weaknesses from last year. I worked on taking people down. That's all I had to do."

Clark slammed Jones to the floor five times. He used his legs to tie up Jones, locking him up with a figure-four to take an 11-0 lead just 58 seconds into the first period.

"I worked on my weaknesses from last year. I worked on taking people down. That's all I had to do."

MITCH CLARK

On his national title at 177 pound

"It was just a great feeling," Clark said. "I kept looking at the clock, trying to get it done in the first period."

"I've had guys fold like that before. I guess the foot sweep is what really set the tone. I've been working on that all year, and I don't think I hit that but once or twice."

Though, as expected, Clark marched out of the Convocation Center with a gold medal, the Hawkeyes were the unexpected winners. For the first time in nearly 10 years, they were legitimate underdogs.

Iowa, with its devoted followers

screaming endlessly, entered the championship matches with a slim five-point lead over the Gophers after the morning session.

The Gophers, who placed behind Iowa and Penn State in the Big Ten Tournament, couldn't generate enough points in the evening session to keep pace.

The Cowboys applied the pressure on Iowa immediately. Teague Moore, a 118 pounder, and 126-pounder Eric Guerrero opened with impressive victories to overtake Minnesota.

Moore's win was unexpected. The tournament's third seed upset top-ranked and unbeaten David

Moore of Michigan State, registering a pin at the 4:50 mark.

Guerrero was inspired by his No. 3 seeding. He figured he was better than top-seeded Eric Jetton of Wisconsin.

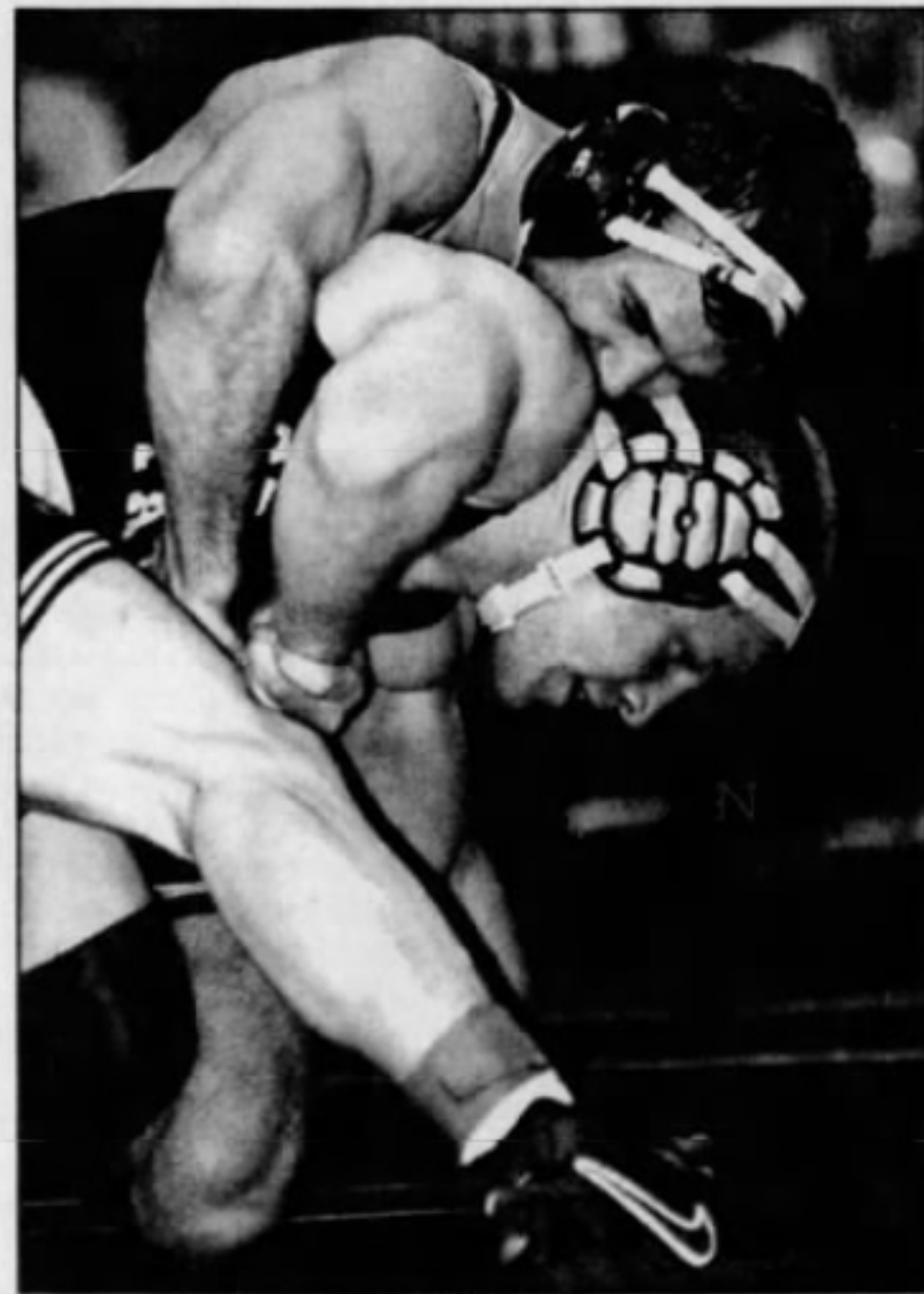
At least, he was last night. Guerrero, who twice survived pin attempts by Jetton, won a 5-4 decision.

Then, the nation's No. 1-ranked team set its sights on the Hawkeyes. The Hawkeyes had to counter quickly to maintain their lead.

The Hawkeyes' 134-pounder, No. 1 seed Mark Ironside, responded with a win over Shawn Enright of Ohio University. Then, 142-pounder Jeff McGinnis decided Casey Cunningham of Central Michigan.

"I knew it was important to score a lot of points in the morning and not depend on somebody else getting beat," said Iowa coach Jim Zalesky. "It's (national championship) in our hands, and that's what you want."

Michigan's Bill Lacure, a North Canton graduate, is on top of Penn State's Clint Musser, a Walsh Jesuit graduate, during their 150-pound consolation match. Lacure won this match and went on to take a fourth-place finish. Musser came back to win his final match and take fifth. Both earned All-America status.



TONY DEJAK/Special to the Beacon Journal

Musser can't get past Lacure

North Canton standout wins 3-2, goes on to finish fourth at 150. Musser takes fifth

BY RALPH PAULK
Beacon Journal staff writer

With their hometown friends sitting in the stands of Cleveland State's Convocation Center yesterday, Penn State's Clint Musser and Michigan's Bill Lacure could feel the butterflies sputtering inside their stomachs. In only their second meeting ever, all that was at stake was a place in the third-place match in the 150-pound division. They had hoped for much more during the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship.

After battling toe-to-toe in the Big Ten title bout two weeks ago, Musser and Lacure envisioned themselves stepping onto the high platform of center court, challenging for the national title.

Musser was hoping to become

the second Walsh Jesuit graduate to win a national title (Mark Mollica won twice while at Arizona State). Lacure was hoping to place a first-place trophy in the showcase of North Canton High.

Still, at stake was their immense pride.

Lacure, competing in his third and final national tournament, survived a monumental struggle with his former Junior Nationals teammate. The North Canton graduate won 3-2 to gain a spot in the third-place match opposite West Virginia's Mike Mason.

"I knew it would be tough and emotional match," said Lacure, who became a three-time All-American. "Clint's a very tough wrestler.

"He came out strong and ag-

gressive. This match could have gone either way. I was fortunate to get the win."

Lacure earned a chance at gaining redemption. It was Mason who shattered his championship dreams, beating him 11-6 in the quarterfinals.

After beating Mason twice in the regular season, Lacure's 6-4 loss in the third-place match left them even at 2-2.

Yet, fourth place wasn't all that bad for Lacure. He placed fourth two years ago in the NCAA finals.

Musser secured his fifth-place finish with a convincing 12-3 major decision.

"No matter how bad I felt, I had to win that last match," Musser said. "I couldn't go out with another loss."

WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

NCAA Championships

(AP) - Yesterday's results of the NCAA wrestling championships:

Team scores: 1, Iowa 115. 2, Minnesota 102. 3, Oklahoma State 99.5. 4, Penn State 70.5. 5, Central Michigan 53. 6, Iowa State 49.5. 7, West Virginia, Illinois 48. 9, Ohio, Oregon State 43.5. 11, Cal State Bakersfield 42.5. 12, Michigan, 39.5. 13, Michigan State 39. 14, Fresno State 37.5. 15, Edinboro, Oklahoma 35.5. 17, Arizona State 35. 18, Northwestern 34.5. 19, Wisconsin 34. 20, Pittsburgh 32. 21, Nebraska, Oregon 28. 23, Ohio State 26. 24, Clarion, Purdue 25. 26, Lehigh 23. 27, Pennsylvania 21.5. 28, Cal Poly SLO 13.5. 29, Harvard 12.5. 30, Cal State Fullerton, Northern Iowa 12. 32, North Carolina 11.5. 33, Brown, Lock Haven 11. 35, Northern Illinois, Rider 8.5. 37, Virginia 8. 38, Bloomsburg, Brown, Syracuse, Virginia Tech 7. 41, Missouri 6. 42, Old Dominion 5.5. 43, Air Force, Boise State, Hofstra 5. 46, East Stroudsburg, George Mason, Maryland, Navy 4.5. 50, Army, BYU, **Kent State**, Wyoming 4. 54, E. Illinois, N.C. State 3.5. 56, Boston, Stanford 3. 58, Cleveland State, Indiana, Rutgers, Tenn-

Chat. 2.5. 62, Drexel, UC-Davis 2. 64, Georgia State, Miami (Ohio), Slippery Rock 1.5. 67, American, Bucknell, Cornell, VMI 1.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

118 - Teague Moore (Okl.S) pin David Morgan (MSU), 4:50.

126 - Eric Guerrero (Okl.S) dec. Eric Jetton (Wis), 5-4.

134 - Mark Ironside (Iowa) dec. Shawn Enright (Ohio), 9-3.

142 - Jeff McGinness (Iowa) dec. Casey Cunningham (CMU), 3-1.

150 - Eric Siebert (Ill) dec. Chad Kraft (Minn), 7-3.

158 - Dwight Gardner (Ohio) dec. Har- dell Moore (Okl.S) 7-1.

167 - Joe Williams (Iowa) dec. Brandon Slay (Penn), 7-4.

177 - Mitch Clark (Ohio State) tech. fall Vertus Jones (W.Va), 18-0, 3:00.

190 - Tim Hartunø (Minn) dec. Jason Robison (Edi), 6-4, sudden death.

275 - Stephen Neal, (CSB) tech. fall Trent Hynek (ISU), 20-5, 7:00.

THIRD PLACE

118 - Eric Juergens (Iowa) dec. Stephen Abas, (Fre.S), 5-3.

126 - Dwight Hinson (ISU) dec. Stan Greene (Fre.S), 6-1.

134 - Jeremy Ensrud (Ore) dec. Mark Angle (Cla), 3-2.

142 - Oscar Wood (Ore.S) pin Jason Davids (Minn), 2:46.

150 - Mike Mason (W.Va) dec. Bill Lacure (Mich), 6-4, sudden death.

158 - John Lange (PSU) dec. Ryan Cunningham (CMU), 6-5.

167 - Jeff Catrabone (Mich) dec. Mark Smith (Okl.S), 4-4, tiebreaker.

177 - John Withrow (Pitt) dec. Aaron Simpson (Ariz.S), 2-1.

190 - Lee Fullhart (Iowa) dec. Ryan Tobin (Neb), 4-0.

275 - Shelton Benjamin (Minn) dec. Bill Closson (Leh), 5-3.

FIFTH PLACE

118 - Jeremy Hunter (PSU) dec. Tim Derlan (Pur), 9-2.

126 - Pat McNamara (MSU) dec. Jason Buce (Ore.S), 11-6.

134 - Michael Lightner (Okl) dec. Dustin DeNunzio (Har), 5-4.

142 - Jamarr Billman (PSU) dec. Mike Harp (Mis), 9-8.

150 - Clint Musser (PSU) maj. dec. Don Pritzlaff (Wis), 12-3.

158 - Tivon Abel (Brown) won by medical forfeit over Temoer Terry (Neb).

167 - Casey Strand (Ariz.S) dec. Mark Bybee (NorW), 9-7.

177 - Brandon Eggum (Minn) dec. Jevon Herman (Ill), 3-1.

190 - Sam Neider (NorW) dec. Mark Bodo (Pitt), 3-1.

275 - Airron Richardson (Mich) dec. Jason Gleasman (Syr), 9-4.

SEVENTH PLACE

118 - Brandon Paulson (Minn) dec. John Carvalheira (Rid), 3-2.

126 - Carl Perry (Ill) dec. Joey Coughran (CSF), 5-4.

134 - Whitey Chlebove (W.Va) dec. Scott Schatzman (NorW), 5-3.

142 - Steven Schmidt (Okl.S) dec. Tom Tomeo (Cla), 3-0.

150 - Jimmy Arias (Okl.S) dec. Rodney Jones (Okl), 2-1.

158 - David Wells (CP-S) dec. Eric Douglas (Pur), 6-0.

167 - Glenn Pritzlaff (PSU) won by medical forfeit over Nick Mengerink (Pitt).

177 - Greg Gingeleskie (Navy) dec. Mike Greenfield (CMU), 8-2.

190 - Jeremy Goeden (NI) maj. dec. Chael Sonnen (Ore), 12-4.

275 - Karl Roesler (Ill) dec. Wes Hand (Iowa) 5-2.

HOW THEY FARED

Name	Weight	Class	College	Record	Result
Tim Dernlan	118	Sr.	Purdue	25-7	Finished in sixth place
Shawn Enright	134	Jr.	Ohio	29-5	Finished in second place
Bill Lacure	150	Sr.	Michigan	24-6	Finished in fifth place
Dwight Gardner	158	Sr.	Ohio	32-1	Finished in first place
Mitch Clark	177	Sr.	Ohio State	39-1	Finished in first place
Sam Neider	190	Sr.	N'western	28-6	Finished in fifth place

Noteworthy

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