

GOLDEN EAGLES Sports

The Stylus

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Four wrestlers take All-American honors

by JEFF WAGER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Round three of the area's top wrestling rivalry took place last weekend at the NCAA Division III championships at the College of New Jersey, as SUNY Brockport's Eric Vaughn, the second seed at 197 pounds and last year's 177-pound champ, squared off against Rochester Institute of Technology's Matt Hamill, the number one seed and two-time national champ for the third time this season in the 197-pound final.

Hamill won the first two meetings, the most recent being a 12-4 decision at the Empire Qualifiers two weeks prior. And, like those first two meetings, Hamill took this one as well, winning by fall in 1:47.

Vaughn, however, still earned All-American honors, as did three other Brockport wrestlers as the Golden Eagles placed sixth out of 65 teams. Graduate student Jeremy Reynolds (141), junior Joe Perez (184), and sophomore Frank Palumbo (133) all placed in the top eight in their respec-



by SARAH McLELLAN, photography editor

The SUNY Brockport wrestling team captured sixth place at the NCAA Division III championships in New Jersey last weekend.

tive weight classes, the prerequisite for All-American status.

"Vaughn wrestled a great tourney," head coach Don Murray said of the only seeded wrestler to represent Brockport. "He caught the kid from RIT, but he handled it very professionally."

The tournament marked the 21st time Brockport, a five-time national

champion, has placed in the top ten, and its 27th top-20 finish.

Brockport registered 37.5 points at the meet in their sixth-place finish. Wartburg College won the national title with 117.5 points, edging out Augsburg, which ended with 116 points. The host College of New Jersey placed third with 63 points.

Vaughn, a junior, won a 6-1 decision over Lycoming's Andy Lausler in the opening round of the tournament, then defeated Wisconsin-Platteville's Wes Folk (11-4) and Augsburg's Josh Clausen (6-4) to set up the showdown with Hamill. Vaughn's second-place finish was the highest for a Brockport wrestler this season. He had a 23-4 record this season and has a 42-7 career mark at Brockport.

Palumbo, wrestling unseeded at 133 pounds, lost his first-round matchup to the tournament's fifth seed, but bounced back in the consolation bracket, winning a 5-1 decision over Olivet's Josh McCurdy. After a 9-4 win over Lycoming's Colin McSherry, who began the tournament as the third seed, Palumbo was defeated 15-6 by number one seed Nick Dohrmann of Cornell (Ia.). He pinned his final opponent, unseeded Bob Ulrich of Norwich, in 4:51 to place seventh and finish his season with a 23-9 record.

Also unseeded was Reynolds, who won a 3-2 decision over fourth-seeded Jamie Heggland of Wisconsin-Stevens

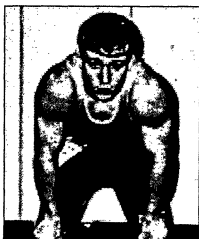
Golden Eagle Boxscores

Athletes of the Week



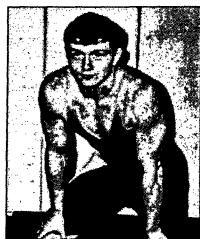
Frank Palumbo: Wrestling

Frank placed seventh in his first trip to the NCAA Division III championships at the College of New Jersey. He won his last match by pin in 4:51 in the 133-pound weight class.



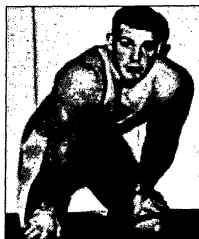
Jeremy Reynolds: Wrestling

Jeremy, a graduate student, finished fourth in the 141-pound weight class at nationals. He entered the tournament unseeded, yet walked away with All-American status for the first time.



Joe Perez: Wrestlers

Joe, wrestling unseeded in the 184-pound division, finished eighth to earn All-American honors for the first time. He won a 6-0 decision over his second opponent at the meet.



Eric Vaughn: Wrestling

Eric earned All-American honors for the second straight year, finishing second in the 197-pound weight class. He won the title in the 177-pound division last season.



Karen Shay: Track & Field

Karen accounted for all eight of the points scored at the ECAC Championships at Boston University with her second-place finish in the 20-lb. weight throw. Her top heave was 47 feet, 5 inches.

WRESTLING 3/5-6

NCAA Division III Championships
@ The College of New Jersey

Team scores: 1. Wartburg 117.5, 2. Augsburg 116, 3. TCNJ 63, 4. Buena Vista 48.5, 5. John Carroll 46.5, 6. SUNY Brockport 37.5, 7. St. John's 32, 8. Pacific 31.5, 9. Montclair St. 29.5, 10. Springfield 29.5.

Other area schools: 13. SUNY Cortland 26, 16. RIT 24, T27. Ithaca 11.5, T40. SUNY Oswego 4.5, T54. SUNY Oneonta 0.

Individual match results (seeds in parentheses)

Golden Eagles Scoreboard

133 pounds: (5) Zdanczewicz (Wisc.-Stevens Point) def. Palumbo (BRK), 6-3; Palumbo def. McCurdy (Olivet), 5-1; Palumbo def. Linn (Thiel), 4-1; Palumbo def. (3) McSherry (Lycoming), 9-4; (1) Dohrman (Cornell, Ia.) def. Palumbo, 15-6; Seventh place match: Palumbo pinned Ulrich (Norwich), 4:51.

141: Reynolds (BRK) def. (4) Heggland (Wisc.-Stevens Point), 3-2; Totten (TCNJ) def. Reynolds, 5-3 (sudden death); Reynolds def. Whyte (Waynesburg), 2-1; Reynolds def. Arbogast (Plymouth), DE;

Reynolds def. Anderson (Wisc.-LaCrosse), 2-1 (sudden death); Third place match: (5) Young (Simpson) def. Reynolds, 7-6.

184: (7) Bookman (NYU) def. Perez (BRK), 7-5 (sudden death); Perez def. Combs (Mt. St. Joe's), 6-0; Perez def. Miller (Wisc.-LaCrosse), medical forfeit; Tietz (St. John's) def. Perez, 5-3; Seventh place match: Palumbo pinned Perez, 4-2.

197: (2) Vaughn (BRK) def. Lausler (Lycoming), 6-1; (2) Vaughn def. (7) Folk (Wisc.-Platteville), 11-4; (2) Vaughn def. (6) Clausen (Augsburg), 6-4; Championship match: (1) Hamill (RIT) def. (2) Vaughn by fall, 1:47.

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Point, but lost in the next round to another unseeded opponent, TCNJ's Justin Totten, who ended up winning the championship in the 141-pound division. In the consolation bracket, Reynolds beat Waynesburg's Shawn Whyte, Plymouth State's Brent Arbogast, and Wisconsin-LaCrosse's Ron Anderson before losing 7-6 in sudden death to Matt Young of Simpson in the third-place match. Reynolds ends his season with a 27-8 record and a fourth-place finish at nationals.

Perez lost his first-round match, but also fought his way to an eighth-place finish. After a 6-0 win over Mt. St. Joseph's Jarad Combs and a medical forfeit by his next opponent, Perez suffered a 5-3 loss at the hands of Ryan Tietz of St. John's. Perez lost the rematch of his first-round bout with Ty Bookman of NYU in the seventh-place match to end his season with a 27-10 mark.

The four All-Americans allow Brockport to pass the century mark in

that category. 103 Golden Eagle wrestlers have earned All-American status, including 101 under Murray, leader of the Golden Eagles for nearly three decades.

"When I first started coaching, I dreamed of it," Murray said of mentoring 100 All-Americans. "It was a secondary goal. I wanted to win."

Murray credits the teams' success this season to his assistant coaches, as well as the College as a whole.

"If it wasn't for my assistant coach-

es, Chris Stevens, Andy Corbett, Art (Connorton), and Ralph (Perrigo), I wouldn't have those," Murray said regarding his All-American wrestlers. "I have it under my name, but I wouldn't have it without the support of them."

"I think it's important that these kids were in an academic environment that encouraged them to stay and wrestle," Murray said. "The College has played an important role in our success."