

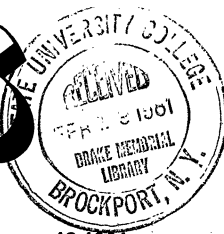
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# THE STYLUS

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Woody Vandenburg controls Scott Slade of UB



Most Valuable Wrestler Joe Giani receives handshake from Coach Murray

## Wrestlers crowned SUNYAC champs

by Ross Conti

Displaying its usual awesome power, Head Coach Don Murray's "Mean Green Wrestling Machine" has once again decimated the eight team SUNYAC National Qualifying Tournament. The high flying Eagles accumulated 98 1/2 team points, easily soaring above the 53 1/4 total gathered by runner-up Binghamton. Cortland finished a close third with 47 1/4 points, followed by Oswego with 42 1/2, Albany with 29 1/2, Potsdam with 28, Oneonta with 27 1/4, and Buffalo with 23.

An appreciative Tuttle North crowd witnessed the crowning of six consecutive Brockport champions, as the Eagles failed to lose after the 142 lb. bout. Senior two-time All American Joe Giani, (150) ignited the "Green Machine" in the finals, flattening John Lucas of UB in 1:24. Earlier in the meet, Giani scored a 22-0 superior decision, and in the semifinals decked Bill Endres of Albany in 1:24. Giani, a three time SUNYAC champ, was awarded the Most Valuable Wrestler award for his performance.

"Giani's pin was definitely a boost for us," commented an obviously elated Murray. "The fans helped too; I love winning this tournament, but it's special winning it at home."

Since Murray took charge of the Brockport Wrestling program in 1970, eight SUNYAC championship trophies have found a willing home in the Eagles showcase. Ironically, though, it wasn't until this year's tournament that Murray was finally recognized as Coach of the Year for the SUNY conference; (an oversight that has been preceded by Murray's State, National, and International recognition). "I have to admit that winning the coaching award was part of the special quality of the night. That's one (award) that has eluded me," added Murray.

In addition to Giani, five other Brockport matmen managed to find their way to the top of the award pedestal.

At 158, junior Derek Bigford made it two titles in a row, as he powered past Marty Conner of Cortland 11-3 in his tournament finale. Bigford, 21-3-1 for the season, had little trouble in his

preliminary matches, as he notched a major decision followed by a pin enroute to the finals.

Woody Vandenburg, a two-time All-American Senior, also pulled in his second SUNYAC gold medal, outbattling Scrappy Scott Slade of UB 7-4. Vandenburg was almost perfect in the earlier rounds, allowing only one point to be scored against him as he opened with a pin and followed up with a 9-1 major decision.

Giani was not the only Brockport wrestler considered for most valuable honors; sophomore Anthony Conetta aided everyone as he stormed through his weight class. Armed with only a 1-0 record, Conetta was entered into the tourney as a replacement for injured two-time All-American Prince Green. "It's a tribute to the quality of this team to be able to lose someone of Prince Green's caliber and still come out on top. Conetta simply did a fantastic job," stated Coach Murray.

Conetta thoroughly destroyed his final opponent, Rick Gonzales of Cortland, 19-2, to capture his first conference title. Conetta, whose record stands at 4-0, must be considered a serious threat at the upcoming National Tournament.

Redundant as it may seem, (except to those who were privileged to watch Brockport wrestle), another Eagle grappler, two-time All-American Tony Smith, (19-1), generated merit enough to be considered most valuable. The senior 190 pounder romped 19-2 in his initial match, dispatched his second victim via a fall, then decisively defeated long-time nemesis Bill Francke of Binghamton by a 12-3 major decision. The psyched-up Smith pleased the crowd with an 8-0 first period assault, easily controlling Francke the remainder of the match. Smith's title is also his second.

Defending Heavyweight Champ Chris Haley protected his title by wrestling the best match of his career against Slick Lester Ware of Binghamton in the final match of the evening. Haley was relentless in securing an 8-5 victory over Ware, last year's National runnerup. The junior strongman seemed to gather momentum as the tournament progressed, beating his opposition in an

increasingly decisive fashion. Haley is now 16-4 on the season.

In addition to the six champions, Brockport accounted for three other place finishes, bringing its total number of National qualifiers to eight. The top four out of the six place finishers qualify to continue onto the Division III National Championships.

Taking second at 126 for the Eagles was All-American Frank Famiano. Following his earlier one-sided contests, composed of a quick pin and a 21-5 thrashing, Famiano, a sophomore, lost a tough decision to All-American Bob Eddy of Cortland. The duo met two weeks previous to the SUNYAC tourney with Famiano defeating Eddy 10-5. Famiano's record stands at 24-3.

Making his SUNYAC Tournament debut at 134 was freshman Tim Abigail. The promising freshman, a high-school State Champion last season, became the eighth qualifier for the defending National Champions. Abigail, seeded third in his weight class, proved to be worthy of the estimate via his victory in the consolation finals.

After losing a close 8-6 decision to Andy Seras of Albany in the semifinals, Abigail wrestled all the way back in the consolation bracket to place third. Abigail "stuck" Steve Groce of Cortland before outmoving All-American Bob Carbo of Oswego for the 5-3 third place victory. Abigail's pin over Groce provided the additional points to put the tournament out of reach of the high-flying Eagle's distant opponents before the final round even began.

Although he didn't "get the ticket" to the National Tournament, freshman Joe Scaramell proved that he was a valuable asset to his team. Like Conetta, Scaramell had no knowledge that he would be competing in the SUNYAC's until a week ago when he replaced Mike Thomas, who was slated to go at 142. Thomas earlier replaced starter Bobby Lauro who had knee surgery last month. Both Thomas and Conetta were "redshirts". By sitting out this year they would not have had this season count toward their eligibility.

Scaramell had competed in a few dual meets earlier in the season, but at 126, two weight classes below the 142 slot that he valiantly filled this

weekend. In the initial round the tough freshmen lost a heartbreaking 10-10, 4-4 OT match to 4th seeded Spero Theofilatos (a former Brockport wrestler) by criteria.

Following the tough loss, Scaramell came back to defeat Jim Griffin of UB 8-2. "It takes a great deal out of you to lose a squeaker against a larger opponent," commented Murray. "I've got to give Scaramell a great deal of credit for stepping in for us on short notice and then wrestling well for us. He's going to improve rapidly as indicated by his progress to this point. Scaramell and Conetta both did a great job for us; more than just point-wise, their efforts helped life the whole team." Scaramell eventually placed 6th.

With the accomplishments of the younger wrestlers on the squad, it appears that Murray will continue his stranglehold on the conference.

Maybe Murray will go back to Mongolia", lamented one of the mentor's adversaries, referring to one of Murray's trips made in conjunction with the Junior World team. There appears to be little fear of such an occurrence if the broad smile on Don Murray's cherubic face, as he relishes another SUNYAC Championship trophy, is any indication.

Dr. Patrick Damore, commissioner of SUNYAC, was on hand for the two day event. Dr. Damore praised the quality of SUNYAC wrestling, considered to be the best conference in the nation.

Awards to place winners were handed out by: Brockport President Al Brown, Athletic Director Chaz Crawford, Dean of Physical Education Dr. Martilu Puthoff, and Head Football Coach Bud Simms.

Coordination of the tournament was ably handled by John Maddock, assisted by Liz Baker, Carol Solomen, and a host of fantastic boosters, wrestlers, and students.

Action at the tournament was fast and exciting, highlighted by several spectacular moves. Awards should go to Frank Famiano for his head and arm throw, Tony Smith for his hip toss, and Anthony Conetta for his imitation of an XMI tank.

Good job Marc Anderson and Training Staff.

Four of the teams that competed this past weekend are ranked in the top ten nationally; Brockport no. 2, Binghamton no. 3, Oswego and Cortland following closely. Trenton State in New Jersey is presently ranked no. 1.

SUNYAC T-shirts were sold at the tourney depicting Joe Giani, the eventual Most Valuable Wrestler.

Senior two-time All-Americans Joe Giani, Woody Vandenburg and Tony Smith competed at home for the last time.

Thank you Don Murray and assistants. Good luck in the Nationals!!!

### errata

Front page issue 2-11-81  
Gloria Steinem (Steinen to speak today at 8pm in the Student Union).

Apologies to Mr. Tom Burns and Lynn Parsons for incorrect quotes.