



This week's Flying Eagle

by Ross Conti

Joe Giani believes in the progression of natural order. In 1979, at the Division III Wrestling Tournament, Giani achieved All-American status for the first time by finishing in third place. Giani also managed to accumulate the most pins in the least amount of time, thereby earning the prestigious award for being the nation's number one pinner.

With a third place medal under his singlet, the more experienced Giani "grappled" his way to the finals of the 1980 National Tournament, only to have the finals of the gold elude him again. Giani managed to take second place, however, and his efforts helped power the Brockport team to their second National championship title, making Brockport the only team to win the title twice. The Senior two-time All-American now ardently believes that there is only one path left to take: the one that stops briefly at the top of the Division III Award pedestal before heading for the Division I tournament. "This is my last season, I've already taken third and second, what better way could there be to finish?" rhetorically asked the Brockport Co-captain. "I'd also like to see the team win it again."

The sturdy Giani, a Physical Education major with a concentration in Sports Management, in addition to his National honors, has had quite a successful career to date.



photo by Luanne M. Ferris

Joe Giani

As a Senior at Huntington High School, Giani placed third in the High School State Tournament and was approached by several colleges interested in recruiting him. "Rhode Island offered me a scholarship but I decided B'port would be best because of the Phys. Ed. Dept., and especially because of the wrestling program that Coach (Don) Murray had put together here."

The choice seems to be a natural: Joe's father Lou Giani, a former Olympian, is the Head Coach at Huntington. Lou coached not only his son, but also Don Murray, Brockport's highly successful wrestling coach. Adds Joe, "My father also encouraged me to enroll at Brockport."

Joe Giani's college career record now stands at 85-6-1 including many tournament championships. Last weekend's SUNYAC tournament held at Brockport, yielded Giani his third SUNYAC title. "Getting the Most Valuable Wrestler award and winning it (the SUNYAC) in front of the home crowd was the biggest thrill of my wrestling career," commented the three time champ. "It's been great watching the program improve and mature here at Brockport. I'm really glad to be a part of that growth."

In his spare time Giani chooses to relax by spending some time in the woods fishing or hunting. Joe also has worked in the Campus Rathskellar since his freshman year.

Graduation in May won't end Joe Giani participation in his favorite sport. I'll be working with my father at Huntington High school as the JV wrestling coach."

Giani and Giani should be quite a tandem, but there is a segment of the saga not yet finished: the countdown is still 3....2...and holding. Holding that is, until the National tournament begins this weekend at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.



Joe Giani, Mat King

photo by Luanne M. Ferris