

Seven strive for All-America

★ by Beth Wojciechowski

The 1981 Division III NCAA qualifiers from the SUNY athletic conference were decided two weekends ago at the 20th annual SUNYAC tournament, hosted by the Division III national champions, Brockport State.

The first four place finishers plus one wild-card (a wrestler selected by the coaches after 5th and 6th placewinners have been decided) are to go on to the Division III national tournament this weekend which will be held at John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio.

SUNY at Oswego brings one SUNYAC champ, five place winners, plus matman Tom Stanbro, the chosen wild-card selection of the tourney, to the nationals. Although the Lakers only had a fourth place finish out of the eight conference teams, Coach Jim Howard is pleased that two new Lakers will have the opportunity to see national tourney action this weekend.

Freshman Doug Morse, at 190, had a fourth place finish on his first crack at the SUNYAC's making the cut that will qualify him for the Division III nationals.

"Some of my men had bad draws and Morse was one of them," remarked Howard. He wrestled his usual aggressive style and we're happy he made the cut."

There was great depth at 190 as Brockport's awesome All-American Tony Smith, Binghamton Colonial Bill Franke, New York state runner up, and Oneonta's Blake Bader finished one, two, and three.

The second new Laker to go on to national wrestling competition is junior transfer Mike Cooper for his third place finish at the SUNYAC's. "Cooper wrestled super", said Howard. "He went very close with Bob Eddy, Cortland's first place finisher in an outstanding 8-5 bout, and he destroyed Binghamton's All-American Joe Benenati 12-6 for the second time this season. I think Cooper, if he wrestles like he did in the SUNYAC's will become an All-American this season." Cooper finished behind champ Eddy and Brockport All-American Frank Famanio.

Oswego's 134 pound and 142 pound All-Americans Bob Carbo and Mark Bowman will see Cleveland this weekend, but did not have the strong conference finish that had been expected. Carbo, the top seeded man in his weight class finished dimly in fourth place and Bowman took third.

Howard commented, "Neither Carbo



THE WRESTLERS appear calm before Monday night's basketball crowd.

MIKE PERRIN

nor Bowman wrestled as well as they should have."

Carbo's second bout of the day on Friday was against Potsdam's Mark Nourse. Howard continued, "Nourse is a very physical wrestler and Bobby (Carbo) is quick; he wrestled knowing very well that power overtakes speed and it cost him the match." Losing to Bear Nourse knocked Carbo out of the chances for first and second place. In the consolations, Carbo's attempt on a head lock aimed at Brockport's Tim Abigail backfired which meant the difference between third and fourth place.

For Mark Bowman, the candle of first or second place was put out by Potsdam foe Gregg Bruno in a tight 7-6 match on Friday. Saturday went on to be a much better wrestling day for Bowman as he out powered Brockport's Joe Scaramell 9-2 and pinned Albany's Spero Theofilatas for his 3rd place finish.

Laker Captain Tab Winner will have another chance of becoming an All-American this year. Winner qualified last season, but the depth of the 167 pound weight class stopped his chances of placing in one of the eight spots that would give a wrestler the All-American status. "Winner did a great job," stated Howard. "He wrestled three matches in one day for third place and that's a tough road to hoe. He contributed valuable team points with his pure intestinal fortitude."

The Lakers left the Brockport hosted tourney last Saturday with one new

SUNYAC champ. 118 pound All-American Dave Parisi showed tremendous maturity and control over every man he wrestled for his championship finish in the finals. First and second place were battled for by Parisi and Cortland's Larry Cohen. After a tie score was posted at the end of period three, Parisi went on to bury this Red Dragon opponent in a 7-0 overtime bout. Commented the coach, "Parisi pinned previously unbeaten Chuck Marino and destroyed Cohen in overtime. He's come such a long way in the past three years. He's really got the will to win."

Tom Stanbro, the pinning Laker matman at 158, suffered a back injury in his first match of the tourney. Stanbro completed the overtime battle against Buffalo's Dan Rosa with a 5-2 triumph, but in his second bout of the day the Laker could not continue defaulting to Cortland's Marty Conner.

After x-rays, Stanbro was told he could not complete the tourney and defaulted for a sixth place finish. Stanbro was unanimously chosen by head coaches to be the one wild card entry allowed for the SUNY conference that would qualify him for the nationals. question in the coaches minds that Stanbro deserved the spot. We just had to be sure he would be physically sound in time for the tourney."

Seven men out of Howard's ten man first string squad will see Cleveland this month. Tony LoCascio (150), Paul Newman (177), and Jeff Palmer (Hwt)

were not able to place in the top qualifying positions. "Tony, Jeff and Paul are good wrestlers," commented Howard. "We had some bad draws. Tony's been wrestling on one knee, and there's a lot of veteran power in these three weight classes."

Dave Parisi "can win it all" claimed Howard. Howard has seen this rugged wrestler mature to the point of a built up immunity to defeat in the past three years. The three Parisi foes who finished higher than Dave's fourth place last year have all graduated. Oswego hopes for a top seed for this one-time All-American.

Mike Cooper, Oswego's tough 126 pounder will most likely acquire the status he so desires this weekend. "If he continues his hot streak from the SUNYAC's," remarked the mat coach.

Some of last year's competition for 134 pounder Bob Carbo are returning again to try to increase their status. Remarked Howard, "Carbo will place and he will most likely be seeded even though he had a bad conference tourney."

Mark Bowman, Oswego's third pre-season All-American, is going to be wrestling in one of the toughest weight classes, 142 pounds. Bowman placed last year and according to Howard, "knows what it's all about and has to start off well to finish well."

Tom Stanbro, an NCAA qualifier last year, is back in shape and ready to face his foes. Said Howard, "It appears his back injury has healed and he's definitely our dark horse."

Laker captain Tab Winner came on with a strong finish last season and Howard thinks he's headed in the same direction.

Freshman Doug Morse, at 190, is the only Oswego Freshman on the squad to see national action. Morse's weight class is a very physical one with many awesome powers he will have to deal with and the coach believes Doug's chances of placing will largely depend on how he draws.

The wrestling Lakers have made history in the athletic books of Oswego State this year with the best dual meet record since '65, more men qualifying for the nationals than ever before, and 2 undefeated dual meet competitors. Next year the team remains the same with the exception of one graduating senior. All the Laker matmen go to Cleveland with the hopes of gaining national ranking to acquire the status every wrestler hopes some day will be his.