

sports

Wrestlers finish second

Giani, Vandenburg, Smith qualify

by Mike Chiffolo

Brockport State's "Mean Green Wrestling Machine" finished a strong second to Trenton State this past weekend, in the NCAA Division III Tournament held at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. The wrestlers, led by newly crowned Division III National Champions Joe Giani, Woody Vandenburg, and Tony Smith, piled up 100 points, well ahead of third place finisher Minnesota Morris with 75.25. The team scoring was as follows: Trenton State 111.75, Brockport 100, Minnesota Morris 75.25, John Carroll 68.75, Salisbury State 57.50, and Binghamton 43.50.

Giani, (150), had little trouble enroute to his rematch against Tom Elcott of Alleghany College in the Championship match. Elcott had beaten Giani last year in the finals of the National Tournament, and Giani was not to be denied his chance for revenge.



Tony Connetta(right)grapples for hand control

photo by Luanne M. Ferris



Woody Vandenburg looking for a takedown

He defeated Elcott easily 9-1, to improve his record to 24-1-1.

Vandenburg, (167), also improved his record to 24-1-1, as he easily pinned Scott Slade of the University of Buffalo in 1:30. Both Giani and Vandenburg will now move on to the Division I Championship Tournament, to be held March 12-14 at Princeton.

Smith, (190), finished second in his weight class, and was selected as a wild card entry to represent Brockport in the Division I Championship Tournament. Smith's record now stands at 23-2.

Frank Famiano, (126), and Derek Bigford, (158), both took fourth place. Famiano ended the season with a 29-5-1 record. Bigford's record stands at 25-5-1. Tony Connetta, (177), took a fifth place and raised his record to 8-2. Connetta recorded what many considered to be the biggest upset of the tournament, when he defeated Phil Lanzatella of St. Lawrence 24-16.

Lanzatella was seeded No.1, and finished third in the world last year in the Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships.

Chris Haley, (Hwt.), who went into the tournament seeded No.1, was eliminated in the third round by Mike Jorgensen of Elmhurst. Jorgensen, weighing in at 300 pounds, pinned Haley in 1:29. Haley ended the season with a 19-6-1 record.

Tim Abigail, (134), lost in the second round to No. 1 seeded Pat Holmes of Swarthmore 5-2. Abigail ended the season with a 13-13-2 record.

These six All-Americans moved Brockport's all-time All-American total to 36- more than any other Division III school in the nation.

Congratulations to the Brockport State Wrestling team. Here's wishing them good luck in the Division I Championships!

photo by Luanne M. Ferris