

Mills is back on top

By BILL EDWARDS
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PRINCETON — He is "Mean Gene, the Pinning Machine."

He is Gene Mills, Syracuse University's senior 118-pounder from Pompton Lakes, who returned atop the intercollegiate wrestling world by winning his second NCAA Division I championship last night before an expanded Jadwin Gymnasium crowd of 10,000.

Roughly five years ago right here, Mills completed a standout career at DePaul High School in Wayne by sweeping NJSIAA laurels at 115 pounds.

Last night, "Mean Gene, the Pinning Machine" cut down Central Michigan's John Hartuppe with a half-nelson combination with 1:25 to go in the third period to recapture the title he won two years ago but relinquished last year when he redshirted in quest of Olympic dreams.

It was the fourth pin in five bouts for Mills, the most valuable wrestler in this tournament. He pinned his way to a fourth straight EIWA championship two weeks ago here. He closes out his collegiate career with pins in 14 of his last 15 collegiate starts.

Mills overcame early control by Hartuppe, who scored first but who repeatedly offered resistance, working his way out of bounds on numerous occasions. Mills swung out to a 5-3 lead in the first period. A three-point near fall late in the second period boosted the lead to a 13-5 lead. Mills mounted a 16-5 lead in the third period before completing the operation at 1:35.

"I was just trying to take what he was giving me," said Mills, who winds up this season at 36-0. "He just kept crawling out of bounds."

"It's real hard to score points against a guy like that."

"I really felt I was going to pin him," said Mills. "It was just a matter of how many times they (the officials) were going to let him run out of bounds."

For Darryl Burley, however, it was disappointment for a second straight year.

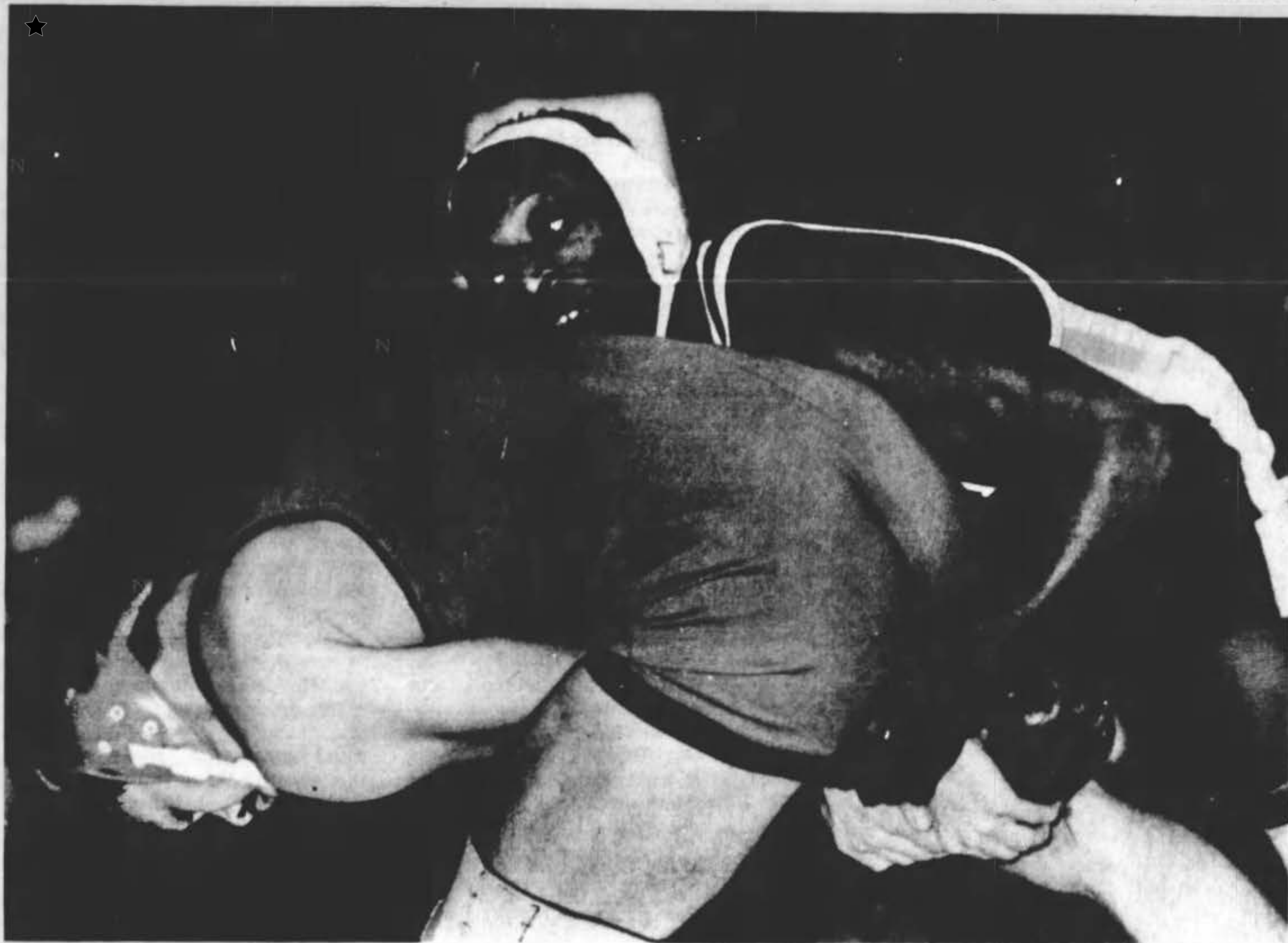
The Lehigh junior 134-pounder from Pemberton suffered a 16-8 loss to Iowa State's Jim Gibbons.

Two years ago, Burley won a national title at Iowa State. Last year, he was a losing finalist to Iowa's Randy Lewis.

Gibbons, who dropped a 16-6 decision to Burley earlier this season, carried a 4-3 lead into the third period. Burley tied up the bout temporarily with an escape, but the junior from Ames, Iowa, sealed up the gold medal with three takedowns, plus a pair of back points in the two minutes.

Iowa, meanwhile, clinched its fourth straight national team championship and fifth in the last six years, under Dan Gable.

Gable's Hawkeyes, with five finalists, mathematically sewed things up as early as the afternoon's consolation finals. They held a 27½-point lead over Oklahoma and a 43½-point lead over archrival Iowa State.



Darryl Burley, shown on his way to a victory in a preliminary round match, saw his bid for a NCAA championship fall short last night when he was beaten in finals of 134-pound class.

In other finals last night, Dan Cuestas of Cal-Bakersfield, a Division II champ, held off North Carolina's Dave Cooke for a 7-5 decision at 126 pounds; Oklahoma's Andre Metzger, a losing finalist a year ago, downed Iowa's Len Zalesky, 10-6, at 142 pounds; Iowa State's Nate Carr whipped Iowa's Scott Trizzino, 10-5, at 150.

Later on last night, Trenton State College's Tom's Martucci brought New Jersey its second NCAA title.

The senior from Palisades Park, a Division III champ, held off Temple University's Tony Mantella, 4-3, to give Trenton its first-ever Division I national crown.

A Martucci escape at the outset of the third period was the difference in what was the most conservative final of all last night, much to the crowd's displeasure; not a takedown was scored and double stalling was called twice.

"I knew it would be that kind of bout," said Martucci. "We both know each other so well."

"I had to be very cautious and that's why I was hit."

Bruce Baumgartner's bid to give New Jersey its third crown was thwarted by Iowa's Lou Banach, who applied a cradle on the Manchester Regional graduate 15 seconds into the third quarter.

Both Ricky Stewart of Oklahoma State and Ed Banach of Iowa won for the second straight year. Stewart pinned Oklahoma's Dave Schultz in 4:56 at 158 pounds and Banach decked Clarion State's Charlie Heller in 4:15 at 177.

Oklahoma's Mark Schultz captured national honors at 167, pinning a 10-4 loss on Iowa's Mike DeAnna, a losing national finalist two years ago.

TOURNAMENT NOTES — Some odds and ends from the 51st NCAA wrestling championships:

•When is a wrestling record a wrestling record? When Bob Dellinger of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Stillwater, Okla., says so. Claim to the all-time NCAA pinning record of 107 by Syracuse's Gene Mills has not been authenticated by Dellinger.

Apparently Mills' total includes some 45 pins in non NCAA-sanctioned competition. According to Dellinger, any tournaments in which Mills competed as an unattached entry do not count toward the record.

So, it seems, Wade Schalles, two-time national champ at Clarion State and current Clemson wrestling coach, still holds the record of 106.

•Arizona 134-pounder Steve Rothstein narrowly missed out on an unusual distinction: placing without winning a bout. Disqualified for failing to make weight Thursday night, Rothstein lost his first round preliminary bout. Had he made weight, he would have moved directly into the consolation quarterfinals due to numerous forfeits. A loss there and a loss in the consolation bout for seventh would have given him eighth in the tournament at 134 pounds. And that's the final spot on the All-America team.

•Iowa State's Hilton Coliseum will host the 52nd NCAA wrestling championships next winter. The dates are March 11-13, 1982.

•In previous confrontations between last night's finalists: at 134, Lehigh's Darryl Burley beat Iowa State's Jim Gibbons, 16-6; at 142, Iowa's Len Zalesky whipped Andre Metzger of Oklahoma, 12-8; at 150, Iowa State's Nate Carr defeated Iowa's Scott Trizzino twice, 8-2 and 9-4; at 158, Dave

Schultz of Oklahoma pinned losses of 4-2 and 10-3 on Rick Stewart of Oklahoma State; at 167, Mike DeAnna of Iowa owns a 14-8 verdict over Oklahoma's Mark Schultz, and Baumgartner pinned Iowa's Lou Banach in the Midlands finals at heavyweight.

•Heaviest of the heavyweights entered in the tournament was 408-pound Thad Thacker of North Carolina State. Lightest heavyweight was Temple's Larry Cox, 192 pounds. Both were second-round losers.

CONSOLATION FINALS

118 — 3rd, Randy Willingham (Okla. St.) p. Tom Reed (S. Ill.) 3-14; 5th, Joe McFarland (Mich.) d. Chris Wentz (NC State) 5-4; 7th, Barry Davis (Iowa) d. Tony Calderaio (Slippery Rock) 12-6.

126 — 3rd, Jerry Kelly (Okla. St.) p. Ed Pidgeon (Hofstra) 4-54; 5th, John Iannuzzi (Wisc.) p. Gary Lefebvre (Minn.) 3-3; 4-3; 7th, Tim Riley (Iowa) p. Mark Galyan (Indiana) 5-53.

134 — 3rd, Rick Deilegatta (Kentucky) by criteria over Dale Wasmund (Minn.) 7-7; 2-2; 5th, Ed Baeza (San Jose) d. Clar Anderson (Auburn) 8-4; 7th, Randy Lewis (Iowa) by forfeit.

142 — 3rd, Dave Brown (Iowa State) d. Shawn White (Mich. St.) 10-5; 5th, Ken Gallagher (N. Iowa) d. Bernie Fritz (Penn St.) 9-4; 7th, Gene Nighman (Cornell) d. Al Freeman (Nebraska) 9-4.

150 — 3rd, Roger Frizzell (Okla.) d. Fred Boss (Cent. Mich.) 10-3; 5th, Jackson Kistler (Arizona St.) d. Brad Schwartz (Oregon St.) 8-6; 7th, Roger Randall (Old Dominion) d. Charlie Lucas (Portland St.) 9-4.

158 — 3rd, Perry Shea (Cal-Bakersfield) p. Dion Cobb (N. Iowa) 3-24; 5th, Jim Zalesky (Iowa) by default over Kevin Benson (Portland St.); 7th, Jim Reilly (Lehigh) d. Jan Michaels (NC) 4-0.

167 — 3rd, John Hanrahan (Penn. St.) d. Perry Hummel (Iowa St.) 5-4; 5th, Jamie Milkovich (Auburn) d. Steve Reedy (Kent St.) 6-3; 7th, Henry Sheets (Okla. St.) by default over Matt Reiss (NC State).

177 — 3rd, Colin Kilrain (Lehigh) md. Marty Ryan (Oregon St.) 9-1; 5th, Dave Young (Missouri) d. Jim Hall (Okla.) 5-1; 7th, Eli Blazeff (Auburn) p. Dave Brouhard (San Jose) 5-29.

190 — 3rd, Gene Savenago (E. Ill.) d. Ryan Kelly (Oregon) 8-2; 5th, Craig Blackman (Sparta) d. John Forsee (Iowa St.) 6-3; 7th, Henry Milligan (Princeton) d. Pat McKay (Mich.) 10-8.

UNL — 3rd, Steve Williams (Okla.) p. Dan Severn (Arizona St.) 3-40; 5th, Ray Wagner (Kent St.) p. Steve Setter (Penn. St.) 4-51; 7th, Mike Evas (LSU) d. Mike Howe (N. Michigan) 4-2.