

NCAA Wrestling — 3-16-81

Iowa ready for number four

★ PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Iowa appeared likely to capture the team title for the fourth straight year in tonight's finals in the 51st Annual NCAA Wrestling Championships at Princeton University.

The Hawkeyes advanced six wrestlers to the finals and already had piled up 111.75 points Friday night, while Oklahoma was a distant second with 74.75. Iowa State followed with 62.75.

"No, I am not surprised," said the legendary Dan Gable, coach of Iowa. "I probably shouldn't say that, but I feel that we are capable of doing even better."

"Overall, the competition keeps getting better, but so do we," said Gable, who won two NCAA titles when he wrestled for Iowa State and never had a point scored against him in the 1972 Olympics when he won a gold medal.

Iowa has grabbed the team laurels in six of the last seven seasons.

Gene Mills of Syracuse University remained the heavy favorite to win the 118-pound gold medal. But the 1980 Olympian ran into a stumbling

block in laying claim to the conference record for career pins.

Mills advanced to the finals by scoring a superior decision, 28-4, over Chris Wentz of North Carolina State Friday night. He pinned Anthony Calderaio of Slippery Rock at 6:44 in the afternoon's quarterfinals.

As a result of taking Calderaio to the mats, Mills claimed an NCAA career record with 107 pins. But Bob Dellinger of the Amateur Wrestling Hall of Fame has not authenticated the total, and the mark of 106 established by Wade Schalles of Clarion State from 1970 to 1973 is still recognized.

Dellinger's records show that Mills had 66 pins in dual meet competition for the Orange and in the Eastern Intercollegiate and NCAA tournaments.

Leading Iowa into the finals was Ed Banach, the defender at 177 pounds, who pinned Dave Young of Missouri at 7:18. In a major upset in the same class, Colin Kilrain of Lehigh, rated No. 1, suffered a 5-3 loss to Charlie Heller of Clarion State.

Banach's brother, Lou, also of Iowa, made it into the heavyweight finals with a comfortable 20-10 decision over Dan Severn of Arizona State.

Len Zelesky of the Hawkeyes, top-seeded at 142, had a superior decision, 20-4, over Bernie Fritz of Penn State. Zelesky's brother, Jim, was not as fortunate at 158. He dropped an 8-4 verdict to Ricky Stewart of Oklahoma State, the defending champion.

Second-seeded Scott Trizzino of Iowa moved into the finals by beating Roger Frizzel of Oklahoma, 10-6, at 150. He will face top-ranked Nate Carr of Iowa State who had an easy time of it against Fred Boss of Central Michigan, 19-8.

Mike DeAnna, another Hawkeye who is No. 1 at 167, had the quickest pin in the semifinals — 43 seconds — against John Hanrahan of Penn State.

Darryl Burley of Lehigh, third last year after winning the 134 gold medal in 1979, advanced to the finals at the expense of Clarence Anderson of Auburn, 12-4.