

# ★ Wrestlers are successful

by Mike Kuriolovitch

The NCCC wrestling team recently wrapped up one of its most successful seasons since the school adopted the sport seven years ago.

As a team, the Frontiersmen accomplished a number of firsts, including winning the Penn-York Conference title, placing second in the region (they finished third) and being ranked in the top 20 of the nation.

Individual highlights included the performance of team captain Marty Flowers, one of two regional champions. He recorded the best overall record on the team, 24-9-1.

Art Pittman, a freshman, was the other regional title winner at 167. His 23-8-1 slate ranked second to Flowers individually.

Freshman Bob Sluberski carded a 20-11 mark, but most of his losses came at 134 pounds. He was named to the Region III All-Star team in mid-season at 126 pounds. Flowers was a second-team selection at 118.

"This was one of our best seasons ever," said Coach Eric Knuutila, recently named freestyle wrestling coach for the United States in the 1981 Pan-American games.

"This team compares real close with the 1976 team that was so strong," he added. "Considering that we started seven freshmen and we forfeited 118 many times, we did remarkably well. That's the sign of a championship team."

Other highlights included a 21-20 victory over Monroe in February which was the first win for an NCCC team over the Tribunes in eight meetings. Monroe had been undefeated and nationally ranked.

As a result of the monumental triumph, Knuutila's squad attained their first-ever top-20 rating nationally. Although they

didn't stay there long, it was a great thrill to have achieved the honor.

The team won three trophies in the season, another first. They placed fourth in their own Student Senate Wrestling Tournament, took third in the regional tourney, and grabbed second in the Hawk Invitational at Mohawk Valley CC.

All 10 of the Frontiersmen grapplers placed in the Hawk event. Another remarkable achievement occurred in the regional tournament, where seven of eight wrestlers placed.

Sluberski and Ed Ruffin, two key men in the NCCC lineup, were forced to withdraw from the regionals due to injuries. The rest of the team came through that much more in their absence, as four wrestlers qualified for the nationals (the second time that has happened in school history).

"It was kind of a disappointment to work so hard all year, gearing towards the regionals, and then losing Ruffin and Sluberski," Knuutila recalled.

"I don't care so much about individual records. We strive from the beginning of the year to be ready for the regionals and the nationals. That's our big goal."

Knuutila and his team had to be somewhat disappointed in the nationals when no one placed. "I thought we should have had two All Americans," he said. "But

Flowers and Art Pittman both lost." Tom Murty and Mike Regnet also competed in the nationals.

Murty established a new career record for near-falls with 22 highlights for the individual accomplishments.

Regnet had the fastest pin (14 seconds) while Ruffin led the team in takedowns with 20, reversals with 11 and predicaments with five. Vince Schiavetti also had five two-pointers.

Regnet and Murty each had 10 near-falls, while Pittman led the squad with 10 pins. Paul Poeller accumulated 10 penalty points. Regnet also had four superior decisions (a win by 12 points or more).

Flowers was the key ingredient to the team's success, however. "The team was built around Marty," Knuutila emphasized.

"He sacrificed himself by going 118 when we needed him to, and that picked the rest of the team up when they saw that. He was everything a captain is supposed to be, a great example."

As for next year, the situation couldn't be brighter with seven returnees.

"Barring any injuries, next year should be great," Knuutila predicted. "We'll be hosting the regionals, and you don't want to come in last when they're at your school! I'm looking forward to it."

## Men's Intramural Basketball Standings

### Division A

Tuesday League	Total points
1. Celtics	9 (defeated Bienkowski during regular season)
2. Bienkowski	9
3. Sioux	5