

# Giordano first two-time MCC Wrestling All-American

By Sam Benick

A strong Tribunes wrestling team finished a successful season with Chuck Giordano becoming the first two-time All-American in MCC's history.

Giordano accomplished this feat by beating wrestlers like Bruce Kopitar of Diablo Valley, California. Kopitar was a California high school State Champion with a 39-0 record which included 33 pins. He was also a Freshman at Oklahoma University placing fourth in the big 8 conference last year. Kopitar finished second in the 198 lb. class in the United States Junior Greco-Roman tournament last summer.

Giordano was not impressed by Kopitar's record as he won a good physical bout with a 4-3 decision.

"I guess I sent that sucker back to California with his skateboard" said Chuck Giordano.

Later in the tournament Giordano was ousted from the championship bracket with a 1-0 overtime loss to Randy Cevora of Muskegon, Michigan. Sweet revenge came to Giordano in a wrestle back in which he beat Cevora 3-2 for a fifth place finish.

Wrestling in the Nationals at 158 was Len Barber. Early in his first match he was thrown off the mat landing hard on his side tearing muscles about the shoulder. His opponent Jeff Tescher from Bismark College, North Dakota tried to take advantage of Len's bad shoulder with bar arm combinations.

"I was appalled by the instant technical abuse applied to Len's bad shoulder by his opponent." Coach Kostecke went onto describe Barber's comeback.

"Len springs to his feet, and takes the guy down, slaps on a cradle and pins him."



Photo by Paul Nesse

Chuck Giordano (Right) exhibits the closeness, clowning around and strength of the 78-79 season with Dan Rosa (Left)

Len Barber lost his next bout to the eventual third place winner as he had to wrestle with the bad shoulder.

Even though Barber had beaten Tod Sumpter, the National Champ twice, Kostecke was impressed with Sumpter's ability to win the championship match with a broken ankle.

Willie Nesmith did not fair well in the Nationals, but got there by placing a solid third in the Region III tournament.

Uneven seedings and poor sportsmanship tarnished the Region III Championship which saw

MCC finish third just five points behind first place Morrisville. Delhi finished second, one point out of first.

Delhi's coach Frank Millard a key factor in the three man (coaches) seating committee seemed to stack the deck in Delhi's favor.

Coach Kostecke said "I will be armed with strong recommendations to change the seating procedures in the fall meeting at Corning with the Region III Coaches Association. Inequities exist."

Millard lost an opportunity to tie for the team championship title by losing a team point in the final standings with unsportsmanlike conduct.

Millard was penalized a team point when he picked up and slammed a chair from over his head to the gym floor.

Seven out of ten Tribune wrestlers placed in the tournament. Chuck Giordano placed first at 177 lb. along with Len Barber in the 158 lb. class.

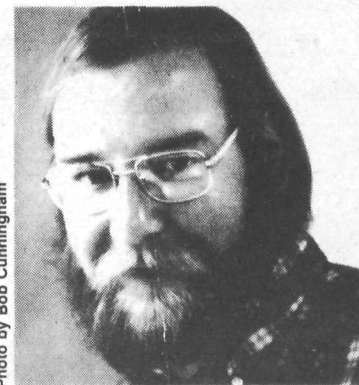
Willie Nesmith qualified for the Nationals with Barber and Giordano by placing third at 190 lbs. Len Barber became Regional Champion in his freshman year with an 11-4 win in the final match over Gil Benedict of Delhi.

"No question about who won that match," said the coach.

At 167, Mark Assini took fourth place losing in the semi's to Dave

Simon of Corning by one point who went on to win the tournament for the second straight year.

Dave LaFontaine of Delhi probably never wants to see another MCC wrestler as Assini had worked him over earlier in the season and now Giordano used him as a doormat to the Region III individual title by beating him 11-8.



Coach Ron Kostecke

An interesting story developed in the heavyweight class. With most wrestlers trying to lose weight, MCC's Tim Reak had to gain weight to qualify for the heavyweight class.

After stuffing himself with food and water, he had an allergic reaction which caused his face to swell and eyes to close the night

before the tournament.

The next day Reak recovered but was still six pounds underweight with one hour to go.

At weigh-in time, Reak came up one pound short which left MCC without a heavyweight.

In another unfortunate incident, Rick Wray, 126 lbs., pulled his arm out of the socket the night before the tournament.

If that wasn't enough, top rated Chuck Partridge virtually pinned himself by rolling on his back and getting caught in a fluke pin.

"We'll win this tournament before I die," said Coach Kostecke who seemed to be pleased with himself and his #1 Penn-York Conference Team.

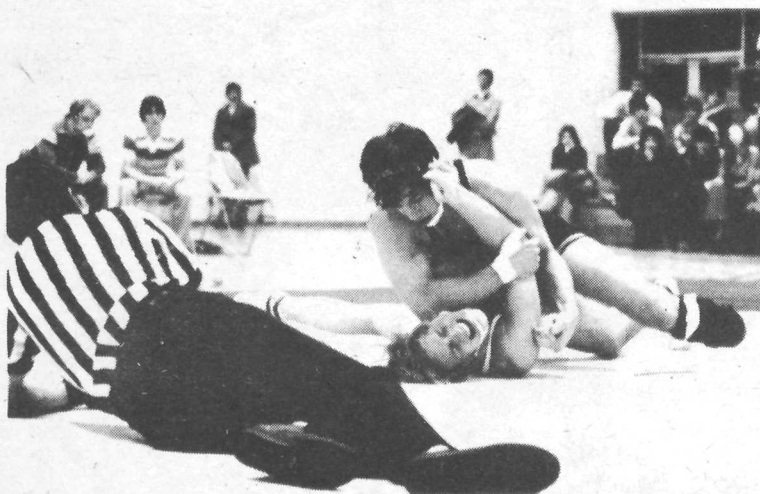


Photo by Bob Cunningham

Len Barber dropped many an opponent in a successful freshman season.



Photo by Sam Benick