



# Brockport wins NCAA's

BY DAVE TRUDEAU

Led by the outstanding efforts of three individual champions, the Brockport State Wrestling team captured the team championship of the ninth annual NCAA Division III National Championships held this past weekend at Cortland State.

The Golden Eagles became the tournaments first three time winner (1977, 1980, 1982) as they outpointed defending National Champion Trenton State 111 1/2 points to 93 1/2 points. Fellow SUNYAC rival Oswego finished third with 62 1/4 points. John Carroll (Ohio) with 62 points and Augustana (Ill) with 54 1/2 points round out the top five finishers.

As Brockport, the first team to remain ranked No.1 from pre-season to the conclusion of the tournament, entered Saturday night's Championship Finals they knew exactly what they had to do to capture the national title. Leading Trenton State 99 to 85 in scoring the only way the Golden Gappers could lose would be if all five Brockport finalists lost and if Trenton took two superior decisions in winning all three of their matches.

The Golden Eagles did not have to wait long to find out their fate. Junior Frank Famiano, wrestling at 126 pounds, built-up a 9-1 point advantage and cruised to a 9-4 dumping of No. 1 seeded Jeff Merritt of Minnesota-Morris enroute to capturing his first individual crown and clinching the NCAA title for his Brockport team.

Famiano, seeded second, showed he was ready from the very start as he opened the tournament with a pinning at 2:12 of Craig Lewis of Clarkson.

In the next round Famiano blew-out Tony Tassi of Delaware Valley 23-8 to advance on. Continuing to dominate in the

In the final Cox, attacking aggressively as he had all tournament long, built-up a 7-3 lead by the second period but had to fight-off some freshman mistakes to capture a 9-7 decision.

Cox got to the finals with fierce wins over Pat Murphy of Trenton (14-10) and SUNYAC rival Juan DeJesus of Oneonta (8-5).

Joining Famiano, Winnie, and Cox in the

*'...attacking aggressively as he had all tournament long...'*

finals were Brockport's Derek Bigford and Anthony Conetta.

Bigford reached the finals with wins over Kevin Eidenshink of Gettysburg, Scott Stuzak of Oshkosh, Guy Ventura of Hunter, and No. 3 seeded Mike McInerney of Salisbury. In the finals Bigford, one of the squad's two seniors, lost a hard 12-4 decision to top seeded Bob Glaberman of Trenton.

Conetta placed second in an extremely close match with Brett Stamm of Wheaton. The Brockport junior opened the scoring with a pounding single leg trip for a 2-0 lead. By the close of the slow moving second period Conetta still retained a 4-3 lead, but an escape by Stamm helped change the momentum. The 8-5 final score did not earn Conetta an individual title and an automatic berth in the upcoming Division I Championships but his great effort made him an easy choice as one of the five wildcard selections for the tournament.

Other strong performances by the Brockport Wrestlers include that of senior Chris Haley, who battled back through the "wrestle-back" consolations to earn All-American status by finishing fifth in the heavyweight class.

190 pounder sophomore Vince Biamonta also made it to the quarter-finals before

falling to the eventual champ Phil Lanzatella of St. Lawrence.

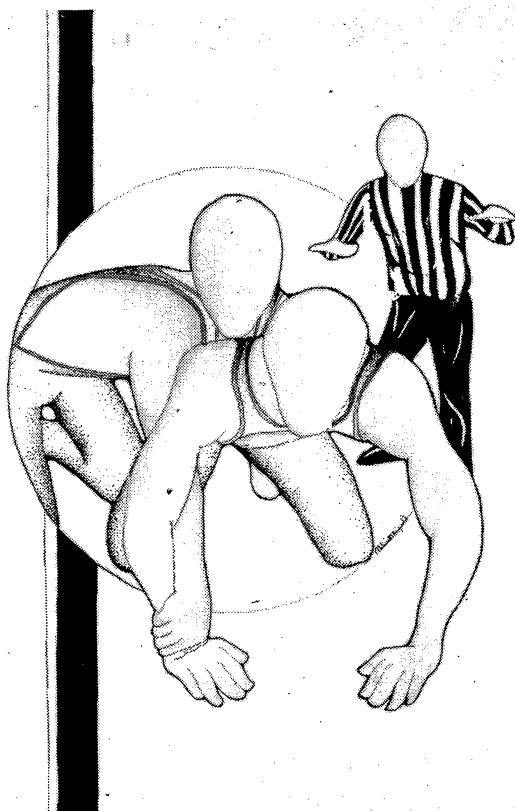
Freshman Ed Morales, competing at 118 pounds, gained valuable tournament experience as he lost a hard fought opening match to Gary Ressor of Lebanon Valley.

In the other weight class finals Dave Parisi of Oswego took the 118 pound title with a 7-

6 win over Rick Gruber of Oshkosh, Trenton's Steve Fernandes edged Robert Carbo of Oswego 8-5 for the 134 pound title, Randy Viviani of John Carroll won the battle for the 142 pound crown over Ron Bussey 4-2, St. Lawrence's Phil Lanzatella nipped Doug Morse of Oswego 9-8 at 190 pounds, and Dennis Koslowski of Minnesota-Morris put-away Tim Carmin of Whitewater (Wis.) with the final's only pin to grab the heavyweight crown.

Brockport's three-time All-American Frank Famiano received the award of "Outstanding Wrestler", while Oswego mentor Jim Howard earned "Coach of the Year" honors.

This year's National Championship, the third title for Brockport's outstanding Head Coach Don Murray, would probably not have been possible without the hard work of Assistant Coach John Parisella, trainer Jason Bowers, the teammates that are still working towards the national tournament, the team's fans and supporters, and the families of the team members.



*'...clinching the NCAA title for his Brockport teammates...'*

quarter-finals Famiano racked up his second pin at 2:43 over Bob Yilek of Coe College (Iowa).

In the semi-finals he faced his toughest opponent in one of most important matches of the tournament. If Orlando Caeceres of Trenton had beaten Famiano Brockport might have come home with a silver rather than a gold plaque. Unfortunately it was not to be as a three point and two point take down by Famiano made all the difference in a 12-7 win.

Junior Ron Winnie was the next "Golden Eagle" as he shut-down Martin Butler of Amherst 8-0 in winning the 150 pound weight class.

A big five point take-down at the close of the first period was all Winnie needed as he easily out-muscled his challenger. Winnie got to the finals with a thrilling pin (1:10) of Tom Gallagher of John Carroll the No. 3 seed.

Freshman Jeff Cox pulled off the biggest surprise of the tournament as he advanced to the 167 pound finals to face freshman Sean McCarthy of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.



(Left to right): Frank Famiano, Anthony Conetta, Ron Winnie, Derek Bigford, and Jeff Cox all reached the championship finals.

**Individual Champions**  
**Frank Famiano— 126 lbs.**  
**Ron Winnie— 150 lbs.**  
**Jeff Cox— 167 lbs.**

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