

Veterans provide nucleus for Fisher wrestling team

by Tom Crimando

The 1974-75 St. John Fisher College wrestling team, with a number of new faces and welcomed improvements, is anxiously looking forward to yet another successful season.

The team is led by first year coach Roger Woodworth, who has an excellent background in the sport. He had an outstanding dual meet record of 43-2 at Cazenovia High School near Syracuse, and attended the State College at Morrisville and Oswego.

He later became assistant coach at Cazenovia, has participated in various A.A.U. wrestling events, and is currently in his fifth year as a certified wrestling official.

Woodworth noted that the team's lack of depth may provide problems, as the loss of a key individual to injury could make or break the season. However, he believes that if the team can make pins when the opportunity is presented while being pinned themselves, it will be a highly successful season due to the outstanding talent in the upper weight

classes.

He views the season opener against Potsdam on December 4 as the toughest opposition the team will face all season. However, Coach Woodworth foresees tough matches against Ithaca, Geneseo, and arch rival the University of Rochester, as well as RIT, a Fisher opponent for the first time this season.

Woodworth also expresses hope that 3 or 4 of Fisher's wrestlers will place well in the RIT and Queens Invationals, which are two tournaments that the Cardinals have competed in regularly during the past few seasons.

Woodworth plans to build the wrestling program through extensive recruiting during the next few seasons. His goals are to improve Fisher's caliber of competition and eventually to build the Cards into one of the top wrestling powers in the state.

He notes that the extensive cooperation he has received from the entire athletic department, the team's new mat, along with their new practice site in the House of Studies will help greatly to make Fisher's wrestling program more attractive to high school wrestlers. This year's team features a mixture of new faces and experienced veterans. In the 118 lb. class in Ken James, a sophomore from Rome Catholic H.S. who posted a 43-8-3 high school dual meet record and shows great promise.

Other Fisher lightweights are senior Dick Ransom (118-126), from Penfield, and Jerry Buckert (126-134) from Newark Central.

The 134 lb. class will feature veteran Jerry D. EHey, a senior from Brockport who will serve as team captain for the second year in a row. DeHey, an extremely skillful wrestler, has posted a three year dual meet record of 28-3-1 at Fisher and was the most outstanding wrestler in the 1973 Queen Invitational.

In the 142 lb. class will be sophomore letterman Bill Colombo, from Poly Prep in Brooklyn. The 150 and 158 lb. classes should

be occupied by freshman Dave Russo from Canastota H.S. and junior veteran Dan Listrani. Listrani, from Cardinal Mooney H.S., has a two year Fisher record of 17-5. One of the stronger and more consistent members of the team, he has progressed steadily in his college career.

Returning letterman Kevin Dowd, a sophomore from McQuaid Jesuit H.S., will probably wrestle in the 167 lb. class. Though hampered by injuries much of last year, he is expected to be one of the team's mainstays, along with fellow-sophomore Jeff Fischer, from Bishop Kearney, who will be at 177.

Fischer posted an outstanding 7-3 record during the 73-74 season and has shown himself to be a very capable wrestler.

The 190 lb. class will be occupied by senior Frank Valente, also from Bishop Kearney. One of the more colorful members of the team, Valente last year compiled a 7-4 record. He has shown signs of returning to his outstanding form of two seasons ago when he earned his reputation as the "Wild Man."

The heavyweight class will be held down by sophomore Tom VanHall from Webster Schroeder. Mike McGuire, a Freshman from Aquinas, will provide important depth in the upperweights.

Team captain Jerry DeHey believes this year's team will compensate for its lack of numbers with the great spirit that has been shown so far. DeHey echoed Coach Woodworth's view that Potsdam will be Fisher's toughest opposition. He sees the match with Potsdam as crucial since a victory here would give great momentum for the rest of the season.

He also views this year's teams as a possible revival of such teams as the 1972-73 one which was ranked number seven at season's end in the eastern United States.

In concluding their interview with the Pioneer, both captain DeHey and coach Woodworth expressed thanks to the Basilian Fathers for the use of the House of Studies for daily practice.



CARDINAL GRAPPLERS WORK on takedowns during a recent practice. After a slow start the Cards have filled all available positions and are on to another winning season. The season opens with a key match versus rough Potsdam on December 4.

Photo by Tim Matthews

—Sports briefs—

The St. John Fisher College athletic program has been admitted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), district 19, of the small college division. In making the announcement to the PIONEER, Associate Athletic Director Phil Kahler expressed the hope that the new affiliation will help to strengthen all varsity sports at the school by providing both individual performers as well as teams an increased opportunity for post season competition.

Although no previous representative from Fisher has ever taken part in such post season competition, Kahler expresses confidence that this will change in

the near future.

Besides the NAIA, Fisher still maintains full affiliation with the NCAA, as well as basketball membership with the ECAC.

Other NAIA teams in district 19, small college division, are: Maryland East Shore College; Delaware State; Eastern College, in Pennsylvania; Bowie State, in Maryland; Roberts Wesleyan; Eisenhower College; Wilmington College, of Delaware; Lincoln College, of Pennsylvania; Elmira; and Coupan State. Kahler expressed a belief that all sport schedules will be expanded to include some of these NAIA schools.

Anyone interested in refereeing intramural athletics should report either to Tom Fierro in Ward 420 or Phil Kahler in the athletic center. Basketball

and volleyball officials receive \$2.00 per game. A basic knowledge of the rules is required for all candidates.

The women's volleyball season at St. John Fisher is swiftly coming to an end. The Cardinal women have however been extended an invitation to the New York State Women's Athletic Association volleyball district 6 tournament to be played at the Brockport Athletic Center.

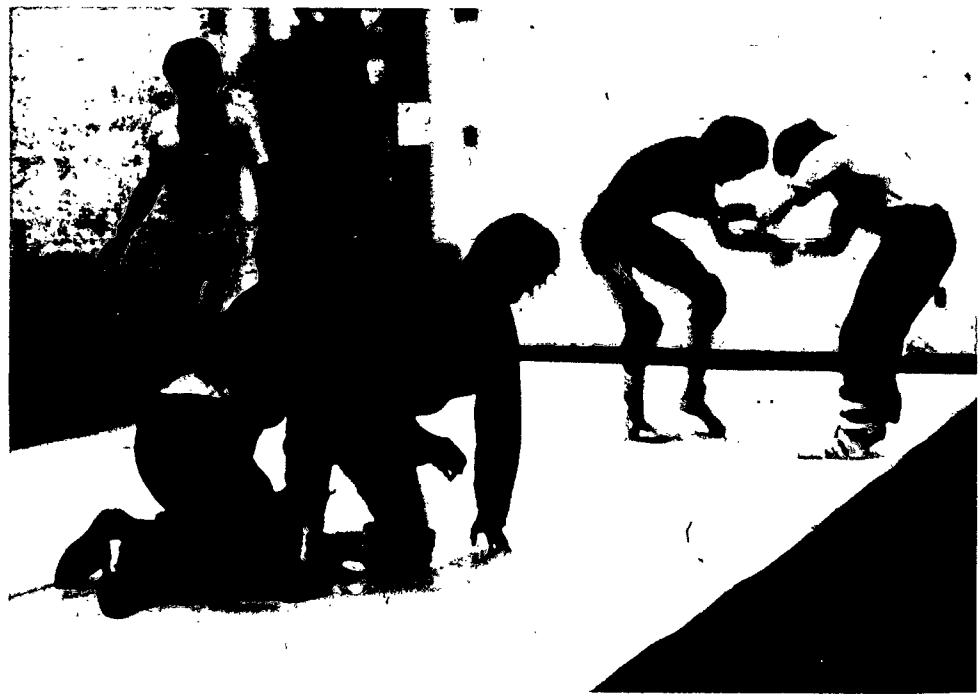
Participation in this tournament represents the first time any team from Fisher has been invited to

such a post season event. Although the girls volleyball team is in its pioneer season, coach Phil Kahler reports a continued improvement and a competitive spirit on the part of the girl's team.

Mary Bayer still leads the Fisher scoring with 45 serve points and 20 volley points, followed closely by Jean Mining with 18 serve points and 26 volleys along with "Rock" Chirello's 31 serves and 12 volleys.

The St. John Fisher Athletic Center is opened for general use of students and faculty daily from 9 a.m. to 3:30 and from 7 p.m. until 9, Monday through Fri-

day, with Thursday nights restricted to women's use only. Saturday and Sundays the center is open noon until 5 o'clock.



HOPEFUL WRESTLERS WORK OUT under the watchful eye of first year coach Roger Woodworth at the team's new practice site. Coach Woodworth

feels he has a strong squad and is eager to build the team's future schedule and recruiting program.

Photo by Tim Matthews



WITH A MIXTURE of old and new faces and added strength in the upper weight divisions, the St. John Fisher wrestling team hopes to repeat its role as a contender in the Eastern U.S.

Photo by Tim Matthews

The 1974-75 St. John Fisher Cardinal Varsity Wrestling Team

Class	Weight	Home
Soph	118	Ken James Rome, N.Y.
Frosh	126	Jerry Buckert Rochester
Senior	134	Jerry DeHey Brockport
Soph	142	Bill Colombo Brooklyn
Frosh	150	Dave Russo Canastota, N.Y.
Jr.	158	Dan Listrani Rochester
Soph	167	Kevin Dowd Rochester
Frosh	—	Mike McGuire Rochester
Soph	177	Jeff Fischer Rochester
Sr.	190	Frank Valente Rochester
Soph	Hvy.	Tom Van Hall Rochester

Coach—Rodger Woodworth; Team Manager—Tom Crimando