

# Iowa captures 7th straight NCAA mat title

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Jim Zalesky captured his third national title at 158 pounds and was named outstanding wrestler after he led the University of Iowa to an unprecedented seventh straight championship at the NCAA wrestling tournament last night.

Zalesky, the only one of five Iowa wrestlers to win in the finals, decisioned Wisconsin's Mark Schmitz 9-5 for the national title as the Hawkeyes amassed 123½ points to claim their ninth championship in 10 years. Zalesky was given the outstanding wrestler award for his six victories in the tournament.

Mike Sheets defended his title at 167 pounds and Kenny Monday won at 150 pounds for Oklahoma State, which finished second with 98 points. Sheets and Monday defeated brothers from Iowa — Lindley and Marty Kistler. Sheets decisioned Lindley Kistler 9-0, while Monday beat Marty Kistler 7-2.

Nebraska twin brothers Jim and Bill Scherr captured national titles at 177 and 190 pounds respectively. Jim Scherr decisioned Iowa's Duane Goldman, 3-2, while Bill Scherr defeated Oregon State's Jim Baumgardner, 14-4. Nebraska finished fourth with 61 points and Oklahoma was fifth with 51½.

North Carolina State's Tab Thacker, the biggest wrestler in the tournament at 6-foot-5, 447½ pounds, decisioned 351½-pound Gary Albright, Nebraska's third finalist, 3-1, for the heavyweight title.

Penn State also had two national champions — Carl DeStefanis at 118 pounds and Scott Lynch at 134. The Nittany Lions finished third in the team standings with 70½ points.

Lehigh's Rich Santoro placed fifth at 126 when he decisioned LSU's Robbie Johnson 11-7 while Engineer Paul Diekel had to settle for sixth at 190 when he lost to Clarion's Jim Veichner 4-3.

Iowa State's Kevin Darkus (126 pounds) and Cal State-Bakersfield's Jesse Reyes (142) also won national titles.

Three champions finished the season undefeated — Zalesky, Sheets and Darkus.

Oklahoma State's Cowboys defeated Iowa 24-6 in a dual match Feb. 10 and were favored to win the tournament, but the Hawkeyes pulled away after sending five out of six semifinalists into the championship finals.

"This (Iowa) team winning the national title has to be rated among the greatest feats in (NCAA wrestling) history when you consider what took place a month ago. We

suffered the worst loss since I've been at Iowa and came back to win the NAAs in such a short period of time," said Iowa Coach Dan Gable, who put aside his duties as coach of the 1984 U.S. Olympic team to help the Hawkeyes prepare for the tournament.

"People would have said I was crazy if I said after that (dual match) loss that we'd beat Oklahoma State for the national title," added Gable, whose team set an NCAA record last year with 155 points.

Zalesky, a senior who has a record of

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41-0 this year and has won 90 straight matches to trail only Gable's 100 victories on the all-time NCAA consecutive win list, held up three fingers to signify his third national title after he decisioned Schmitz in the finals.

"It feels great — a lot better than the first two. When you're a senior you want to go out winning," said Zalesky, the 30th wrestler in the history of the NCAA tournament to capture three national titles. He defeated Schmitz three times this year.

DeStefanis, a senior, won the title at 118 with a 6-4 decision over Northern Iowa's Bob Hallman.

Darkus closed out his collegiate career with a 117-12-6 record, including 46-0-1 this year, after he decisioned Michigan's Joe McFarland 9-6 for the national title at 126.

Lynch, who underwent arthroscopic knee surgery Jan. 13, wrestled with a heavily bandaged right leg as he decisioned Iowa freshman Greg Randall 13-7 in the 134-pound championship. The 22-year-old senior finished the season with a 17-2 record — the least amount of matches of anyone in the finals.

"A lot of people wrote me off (because of the injury), but that just makes me a little more determined about my ability to win," said Lynch, who decisioned 1983 national champion Clar Anderson of Oklahoma State 11-8 in the semifinals.

Reyes, a two-time NCAA Division II national champion, lost his first two matches this season before winning the last 43, including a 19-11 victory over Princeton's John Orr in the 142-pound final. It was Orr's first loss in 32 matches this season.

Monday, a finalist the last three years, captured his first national title with his 7-2 decision over Iowa sophomore Marty Kistler. Sheets, a runner-up as a sophomore, finished the season 37-0 and 121-12 overall, including 75 straight victories.