

# ITHACA HIGH WRESTLERS TAKE SECTIONAL LAURELS

## Score 77 Points to Clinch Section 4 Championship; Cortland Is Runnerup With Norwich, Defending Champions, In Third Place

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An aggressive, strong and well-knit group of Ithaca high grapplers dethroned the Purple and White of Norwich as sectional champions when they annexed the section IV, NYSPIHAA wrestling tourney conducted in the NYS gym Saturday. Compiling 77 points and crowning seven individual winners, the Ithacans won easily. Cortland was the runnerup school with 52 points and two champions, Norwich finished third with 41 and one champion and fifth place Bainbridge crowned two winners to complete the list of 12 champions. Ithaca's champs are Captain Louis Todi (95), Paul Steiger (103), Richard Nicholas (122), Tom McMillan (131), Frank Bettucci (145), James Jacobelli (151) and Walter Purcell (175). Cortland crowned Bob Stevens (146) and Bill Green (unlimited) as their champions while Captain Earl Conant of Norwich repeated as the 112 lb. slug and Bainbridge garnered a pair of winners in Bob Carlin (120) and Bob Owens (137).

Prelims started at 10:20 a.m. with 165 boys, representing 14 area schools, weighing in for the grappling tests. A total of 23 preliminary bouts were staged during the morning and afternoon sessions with the 12 championship bouts held at night before a capacity throng. White shields, symbols of the championship, were presented to the individual winners by Frank Giltner, Norwich, chairman of the tourney and direc-

chairman of the tourney and director of the day-long program. Certificates were awarded the runner-up in each class while the team winner, Ithaca, received the championship trophy and each member of their squad who had not won an individual title but had contributed points to the team's success was awarded a blue shield. Other team scores were: Vestal 41, Sherburne 34, Bainbridge 24, Deposit 20, Elmira Southside 20, Elmira Free Academy 19, Richfield Springs 16, Windsor 5, Union Springs 5, Fouth Otselle 2, South New Berlin 1.

Altho the injury-riddled Purple was dethroned as team champions, the Killbuck put up a valiant fight with Captain Earl Conant, particularly brilliant. The Norwich captain, who finished his NYS grappling career Saturday, will join the ranks of the Purple's greatest, along with such great performers as Harvey Doyer, Ed Hanney, Dan McCarey, Bill Wright, Wilson Bailey and others. For Conant scored 25 consecutive wins, will never be beaten and twice annexed the sectional title in his division, a record unmatched in consistency and brilliance. In annexing the title Saturday, Conant wrestled three times, pinning Bradley of Sherburne in 1:15, Crater of Bainbridge, in 15 seconds (his school record held by Loren Van Steinbutz and Harvey Doyer) and defeating Van Eiten of Ithaca in the finals by a fall in 2:21. Crater and Van Eiten

fall in 2:21. Crater and Van Eiten carried unbeaten records into their matches with the Norwich captain. Conant scored 12 points for Norwich, the highest number tallied by any individual in the tourney except Captain Louis Todi of Ithaca who also garnered 12.

The standout performers Saturday were Conant, Todi and Carlin. Bob Carlin, sensational Bainbridge star, repeated as 170 pound winner and annexed his fourth title. The 15-year-old Bainbridge P.G. won the New Jersey state title in the 95 pound class in 1912-14, annexed the New Jersey state 112 pound title in 1915-16, won the 120 pound Section 4 title here last year and again this season. He compiled a record of 26 wins and no losses during his four-year career, a brilliant and noteworthy performance.

In addition to Conant and Carlin, repeat winners were Bob Stevens of Cortland (won the 151 last year and captured the 165 this season) and Walter Purcell of Ithaca, (165 pound champ a year ago, he won the 175 pound title this season).

Flourishing for the ill-fated Norwich in addition to Conant were Herb Kelly and Bruce Mabley. Kelly progressed to the finals, losing to Bettucci of Ithaca by decision in the finals of the 145 pound division. Mabley was eliminated by Al Michel of Bainbridge in a semi-final bout in the 95 pound class by decision after posting two wins by falls, one over Campbell of Union Springs in the prelims in the impressive time of 27 seconds and one in the quarter-finals over Farley of Elmira Southside in 1:22.

Other results for Norwich: 120--Wright was decisively by Wage of Vestal in a semi-final bout; 127--Sam Mercuria was decisively by Gardner of Richfield Springs in a semi-final match; 137--Walter Everett was pinned by Jones of Sherburne in a quarter-final bout; 139--Bob Brown of Norwich lost a decision to Van

Nesik of Elmira Southside in the quarter-finals; 154--Dick Tillman was pinned by Ferro of Cortland in the quarter-finals and 165--Gustaf Mable lost a decision to Van Eiten of Vestal in the quarter-finals.

Summary of the championship bouts:

95 lb.--Louis Todi, Ithaca, won by a fall over Al Michel, Bainbridge. Time: 2:21.

103 lb.--Paul Steiger, Ithaca, won by decision over Carl Ward, Vestal, 3-2.

112 lb.--Captain Earl Conant, Norwich, won by a fall over Roger Van Eiten, Ithaca. Time: 2:21.

120 lb.--Bob Carlin, Bainbridge won by a fall over Glenn Wage, Vestal. Time: 1:15.

127 lb.--Bob Owens, Bainbridge won by decision over Bob Gardner, Richfield Springs. Referee's decision.

132 lb.--Richard Nicholas, Ithaca won by a fall over Richard Lowe, Sherburne. Time: 3:21.

135 lb.--Tom McMillan, Ithaca won by decision over Howard Williams, Cortland, 3-1.

145 lb.--Frank Bettucci, Ithaca won by decision over Herb Kelly, Norwich, 3-0.

154 lb.--James Jacobelli, Ithaca won by decision over Frank Brown, Vestal, 11-3.

165 lb.--Bob Stevens, Cortland won by a fall over Bob Bruce, Elmira Free Academy. Time 2:53.

175 lb.--Walter Purcell, Ithaca won by decision over Lacey Jones, Vestal, 6-0.

Unlimited--Bill Green, Cortland won by a fall over Don Harnett, Elmira Southside. Time: 4:29.

Referees: Clyde Cole (Ithaca), Bill Steckler (Van Hornesville), Frank Giltner (Norwich); and Tom Conron (Norwich). Timers: Russell Hogue, Ed Weed, Harold Knight, Al Foster, Wes Snow, John Kelly, Harold Baxter, Charles Strasser and Emil Best. Scorers: Kurt Doyer, Harold Barnes, Tom Bennett. Announcers: Tom Bennett and Bob Van Tine.