

Same Old Wrestling Story -- Ithaca Takes Title

1,065 See Vestal Shut Out

By JOHN W. FOX
Sunday Press Sports Editor

A crowd of 1,065 scholastic wrestling fans paid its way into Vestal's new gym last night to see the same old story.

Ithaca High, supposedly struggling through the most critical year of its domination of the sport upstate, "rode" its way to half of Section 4's dozen individual championships while its team score exceeded the total of the second, third and fourth teams put together.

SNYDER BEATEN

Only last week the Ithacans came within one decision of losing the Class A crown to Vestal but this time, with the real chips on the line, Ithaca sent all its seven representatives to the finals where six of them won while Vestal failed to win a single championship.

The tournament's "Outstanding Wrestler" award went to the only two-time champion, game Dan Cole of Horseheads who came back from a last-second overtime win in the afternoon to end the 17-match winning streak of Vestal's Russ Snyder in the 148-pound finals.

Ithaca's six champions ranged from ferret-like little 98-pound Dave Auble to 279-pound Bill Perry, an irresistible force of the old school.

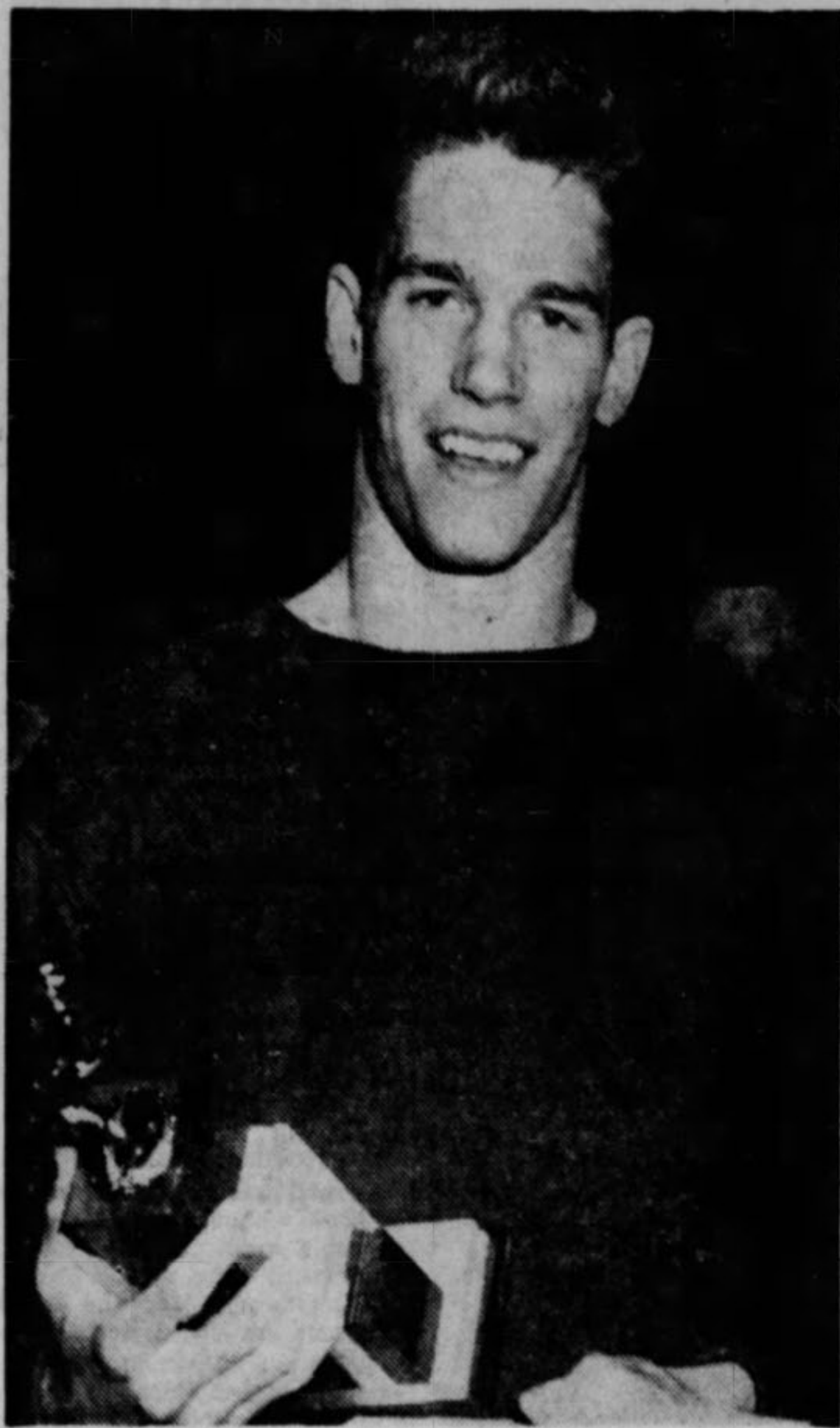
Other Ithacans to win were Al Turco at 106, Larry Iacovelli at 130, Dave Bushey at 136 and John Farrell at 168.

So it's just going to be Ithaca, Ithaca, Ithaca . . .

Perry is the only June graduate of the entire Little Red team. And Turco was the only one of the six Ithaca winners who lost a match all year. Thrice he had lost to Vestal foes, twice to Jack Tobbe and once to Terry Merritt. But in last night's big one, he was too much for Merritt, one of two defending champions who failed to repeat.

2-D THE SUNDAY PRESS

Binghamton, N. Y., March 7, 1954



—Sunday Press Photo.

COLE IS KING—Dan Cole, Horseheads High School's 148-pound wrestler, grins as he holds the trophy awarded him as "Outstanding Wrestler" in the Section 4 tournament at Vestal yesterday. He edged Bainbridge's Len Owens in the semis, then stopped the 17-match streak of Vestal's Snyder in the final.



—Sunday Press Photo.

CHAMPIONS ALL—BUT ONE—Six of these seven members of Ithaca High's great wrestling team won individual championships at the Section 4 tournament finals last night at Vestal. John Driscoll, 141, standing far right was the only member who did not gain championship status. Seated, left to right: Dave Auble, 98 pounds; Dave Bushey, 136; Al Turco, 106. Standing, Larry Iacovelli, 130; John Farrell, 168; William Perry, 279; Driscoll, 141.

UNBEATENS CUT IN HALF

In all, 14 of the 48 boys in the big tourney started the day with unbeaten records for the year. By 10 p. m., however, only seven remained—the Ithacans plus Eddie Carlin of Bainbridge and Henry Wilde of Union Springs.

Wilde, a kid with a chest the size of a lion's, finally won his title after three years in the finals. He and Perry took both their matches by pins and when Wilde beat the buzzer by one second to put down Ithaca's John Driscoll in 1:59, he leaped higher in exultation than did Paddy DeMarco Friday night. Driscoll, the only Ithacan to lose, had not previously been beaten.

The coaches voting for "Outstanding Wrestler" could have gone for Wilde easily. He was in one of the toughest brackets, but Cole was in THE toughest. Snyder had edged Cole a week ago and won outstanding honors in the Class A meet. But before he could get another crack at Snyder, the Horseheads boy who beat Ithaca's Ned Tudi in the 136-final last year, had to beat Class B champion Len Owens of Bainbridge.

Owens is a veteran and in addition he had Bob Smith, last year's winner of the Outstanding Wrestler award and now a Syracuse frosh grappler, in his corner. After three rounds the two were even, 2-2. A year ago such a match went to the referee's choice but now the boys wrestled two extra rounds of a minute apiece.

Cole started on top and Owens escaped midway in the round. All he needed now was to "ride" Cole for his minute on top and the match was his. Ride him he did for 30, 40, 50, 55 seconds. But with three seconds remaining, Cole with a tremendous effort achieved a 2-point reversal for the win.

Snyder, on the other hand, has an easy afternoon match and figured to have too much reserve for Cole at night. But Dan scored an early takedown and piled up riding time. Snyder twice escaped but Cole kept regaining the advantage. At least four times during the match it seemed Snyder would roll him over into pinning position, only to have Cole wriggle back into control.

VESTAL, HORSEHEADS TIED

Referee Jim Miller, Cornell mat coach, penalized Cole 2 points in the closing seconds as the tired youngster began stalling which left the scoreboard 2-2 at the buzzer. But the riding time

swung the margin. Ithaca finished with 37 points. Vestal and Horseheads had 11, Bainbridge 10, Union Springs 9, Windsor 3, Cortland 7, Greene 7, Southside 5, Deposit 3, EFA 3, Elmira Heights 3 and Owego 3.

It was the first time in many years Vestal went title-less. Jim Potter, 157-pound king last year, came close in his fourth battle with Farrell but the final result was the same as the others although coach Phil Persle, thought the key reversal a questionable call by Miller.

Seven of the 12 winners will be wrestling again next year. Only Perry, Carlin, Wilde, Cole and Irv Kaplan of Cortland are seniors.

CARLIN SAVED BY BELL

The afternoon semis drew almost as well as the finals. Carlin had his closest call in the afternoon, the buzzer saving him from almost certain pinning position at the hands of Phil Kresge of EFA. Fate also won for Fran Woidzik, Elmira Heights heavy. With 5 seconds to go, the 215-pounder was about to lose a 4-2 decision to Green's 155-pound "heavyweight," Bobby Lobdell. But Woidzik swung his pin.

Perry used only 2:31 of a possible 12 minutes for his two wins. Wilde took 4:40 for his double over Driscoll and dangerous Jud Bronson. Horseheads' Ron Schroth was the only man to shut out his foe in two decisions although mechanical little Auble racked up one pin and a 9-0 finals win.

98 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Danny Claire (EFA) defeated Al Bennett (Deposit), 10-1; Dave Auble (Ithaca) pinned Ed Bronson (Windsor), 2:31.

Final

Auble def. Claire, 9-0.

106 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Al Turco (Ithaca) defeated Whitey Bush (Windsor), 4-2; Terry Merritt (Vestal) def. Bob Parks (Greene), 11-1.

Final

Turco def. Merritt, 3-2.

115 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Billy Williams (Bainbridge) def. Jack Tobbe (Vestal), 7-0; Jerry Lawes (Southside) def. Joe Gould (Windsor), 7-5.

Final

Lawes def. Williams, 6-1.

123 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Ed Carlin (Bainbridge) def. Phil Kresge (EFA), 7-2; Ray Watkins (Vestal) def. Dick Kohlback (Windsor), 6-0.

Final

Carlin def. Watkins, 9-2.

130 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Don Shaffer (Windsor) def. Bruce Hallock (Horseheads), 6-2; Larry Iacovelli (Ithaca) def. Mel Carpenter (Greene), 6-2.

Final

Iacovelli def. Shaffer, 4-1.

136 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Tom Fantacone (Cortland) def. Bob Hanrahan (Deposit), 8-0; Dave Bushey (Ithaca) pinned Chuck Ekstrom (Greene), 2:30.

Final

Bushey def. Fantacone, 4-0.

141 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Henry Wilde (Union Springs) pinned Jud Bronson (Vestal), 2:40; John Driscoll (Ithaca) def. Dave Bartlett (Greene), 6-2.

Final

Wilde pinned Driscoll, 1:59.

148 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Dan Cole (Horseheads) def. Len Owens (Bainbridge), 4-3, with two extra one-minute periods; Russ Snyder (Vestal) def. Mac Haines (Union Springs), 12-2.

Final

Cole def. Snyder, 8-6.

157 POUNDS

Semi-finals

Ron Schroth (Horseheads) def. Gerald Carpenter (Windsor), 3-0; Ray Latini (Owego) won by default over Dick Parks (Greene), Parks injured in bout last week.

Final

Schroth def. Latini, 2-0.



HENRY WILDE
A wild man at 141

Farrell def. Potter, 4-2.

178 POUNDS

Semi-Finals

Bob Norton (Greene) def. John Barry (Vestal), 6-4; Irv Kaplan (Cortland) def. Clark Bugbee (Bainbridge), 7-0.

Final

Kaplan def. Norton, 8-2.

UNLIMITED

Semi-finals

Fran Woidzik (Elmira Heights) pinned Bob Lobdell (Greene), 5:55; Bill Perry (Ithaca) pinned Eldredge Axtell (Deposit), 1:01.

Final

Perry pinned Woidzik, 1:30.