

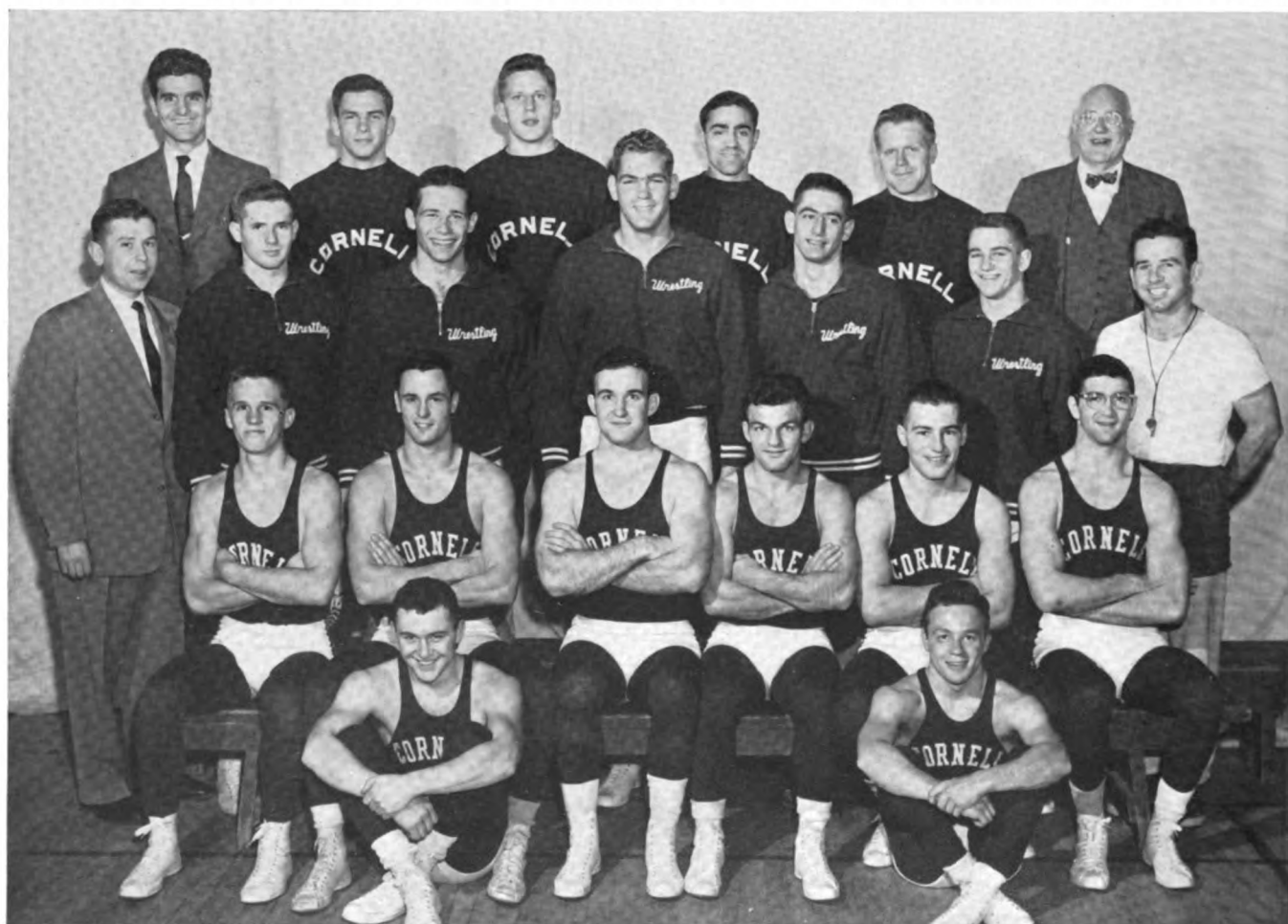


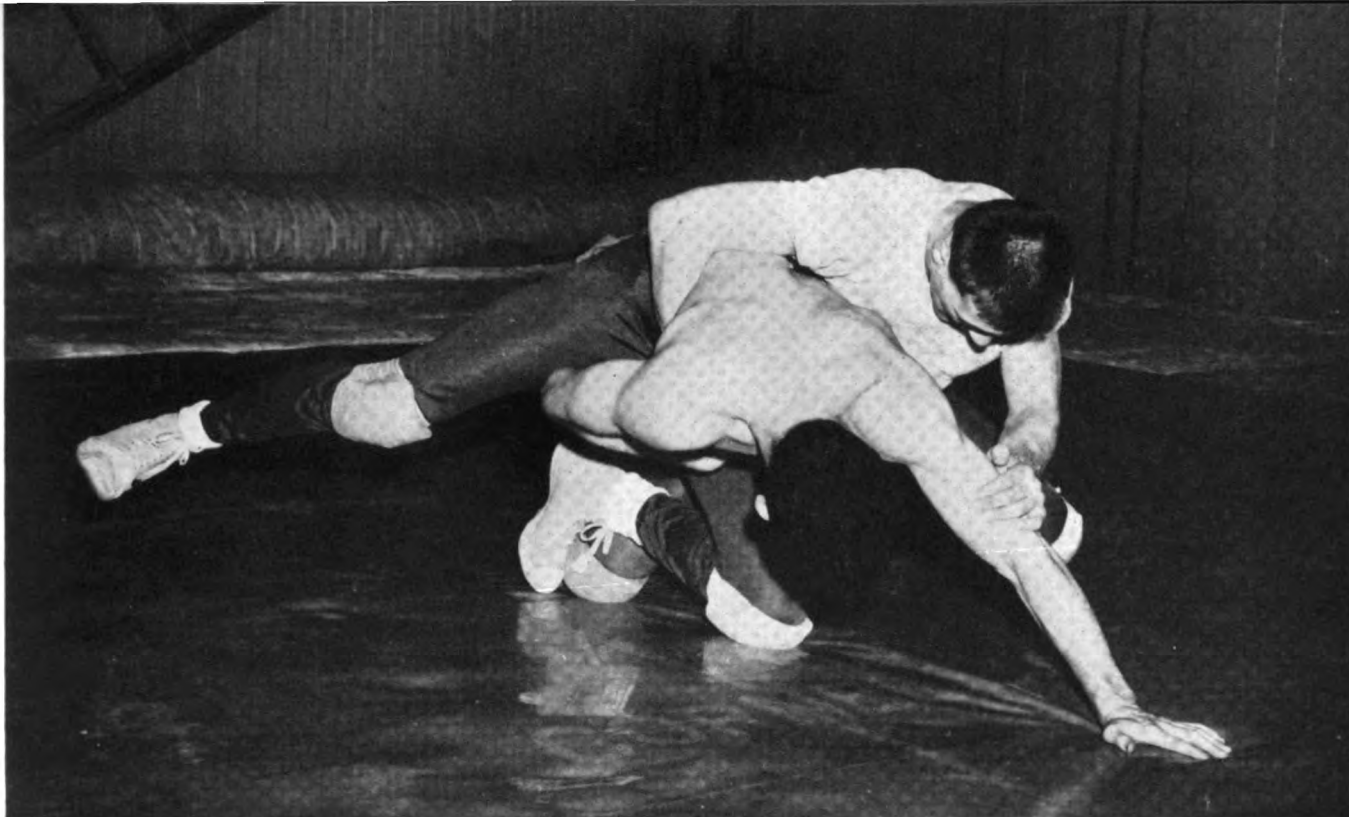
WRESTLING, a sport which requires a rigid training schedule, is becoming increasingly popular at Cornell year after year. This year's Varsity team, with captain Don Dickason and Frank Bettucci, benefitted by the addition of three members of the 1951 unbeaten Frosh team, Billy Morgan, Dick Soars, and John Gerdes. The return of many of last year's stalwarts rounded out the squad of experienced, hard-fighting wrestlers.

The Redmen opened the season with a stunning 26-8 victory over RIT. Although the lightweights met some stiff competition, the heavyweights had little trouble, scoring four of their six victories on pins. Bettucci's easy pin over Ross di Biase was the Big Red's starting gun. His victory was followed by pins by Paul Sampson, Les Simon, and Gerdes. Soars and Billy Van Gilder also won for the Big Red, with 123 pounder Morgan losing a close match to John Ladrocha and the 130 division going their way on a forfeit.

Barton Hall was the scene of the grapplers' second 1952 contest. They lost 20-10 to a powerful Lehigh team. Buttucci and Soars, 147 and 177 pound divisions, turned in the only Big Red victories of the day with Morgan and Gerdes battling to ties; but Miller's men were no match for the engineers from Pennsylvania.

Bottom Row: Blackman, Morgan. First Row: Van Gilder, Pusch, Dickason, Bettucci, Arnold, Sampson. Second Row: Landew—Manager, Joyce, Soars, Gerdes, Simon, Steiger, Miller—Coach. Third Row: Sanford—Trainer, Ebel, Fischer, Haddad, Page, Dr. Britton.





Arnold tries to take down Sampson.

At Lockhaven the Red Wrestlers went down to their second defeat in three matches, but seemed to be grappling with more than Lockhaven. Extra weight forced Van Gilder to forfeit the 137 match, and the refereeing seemed to be a hampering factor. In the heavy weight divisions, however, Cornell won fifteen points with Bettucci, John Arnold, and Soars pinning their men. Morgan, Simons, Haddad, and Gerdes lost in their divisions, but the team was cheered by injured captain Dickason's showing in the preliminary bout.

The Cornellians gained their first Barton Hall victory on January 12th. Coach Appleton's West Point Cadets succumbed 16-12 in a match that was close all the way. West Point's Bob Karns won over Morgan in the 123 division to start the contest, but the Redmen took the next three bouts. Johnny Haddad, competing in the 130 division, turned in his first win of the season, with Van Gilder and the still-undefeated Bettucci contributing the other two in the string. The next three contests went to the Cadets, with Dickason losing to his rival Al Paulekas in the Cornell man's first competition since he was side-lined with a knee injury, and Arnold losing to Cadet Captain Don Swygert. The last match, between Gerdes and Gerry Lodge, was the deciding factor, and Gerdes pinned his opponent in 3:43 with an arm lock and body press.

With a record of two wins, two losses under their belts the 1952 Varsity Wrestlers looked forward to an exciting hard-fought season, and anticipated a good showing in the Eastern Intercollegiates at Princeton March 14th and 15th.

Bettucci shows his championship form.

