

Potsdam Wrestlers Sweep State Tournament



Members of the All-tournament team at last week's Northern New York Wrestling Tournament, won by Potsdam State. (Mike Kane Photo)

by Dave Pienkowski

Last Saturday night, the Potsdam area got it's long-expected freeze outside, but in Maxcy's main gymnasium, things were just beginning to warm up as the Potsdam Bear Wrestling Team copped this year's Northern New York Wrestling Tournament. Potsdam (70 3/4 points) displayed their wealth of talent as they exploded past teams such as Colgate (62 1/4), St. Lawrence (62), Mansfield (56 3/4), Cortland (47 1/4), Oswego (40 1/4), Clarkson (3), and Geneseo (2 1/2).

Showing a depth that may easily surpass that of the mighty Racquette, everyone on the team contributed to the score by winning at least one match. Big points were scored by winners Tony Perraza, Terry Atwater, and Paul Goodwin, runner-ups Dave Jensen and Steve Carr, and 4th placers Joe Creighton and Mike Niziol.

The relatively minor crowd responded like a major batallion to the high caliber wrestling; and they saw plenty. Terry Atwater, from Baldwinsville, New York, bulled his way through opponents from Mansfield and Cortland before annihilating a Colgate wrestler 15-4. Perraza brought the fans to a boil with a 1st period pin that he delivered to his Colgate adversary. This put an impressive lid on his night in which he recorded a 5-1 victory over Cortland and a 12-2 decision over last year's 6th place All-American from Oswego. Goodwin, who looked to be most improved from the Brockport meet, marched through an onslaught of grapplers from Clarkson, Oswego, and Mansfield, the last win coming on a default after a collision which drove the Oswego wrestler's tooth deep into his mouth.

Freshman Jensen started off the finals by losing a close deci-

sion to one of Mansfield's best. This succeeded a day that saw him squeak by Oswego 9-8 and put it to Colgate 10-2. Steve (commonly known as Austin) Carr pinned Mansfield in the 1st round, downed the 3rd place wrestler from Pennsylvania in the 2nd and, to the chagrin of the crowd, was on the short end of a squeaker, 15-14, which came as a result of several rather controversial calls.

Niziol wrestled his way into the consellations before he lost, 7-3, to the verdict of another of the many disputable calls that seemed to plague the day's events. Creighton progressed just as far, when he was set back, 9-8, after a takedown that was viewed by many as out of bounds. Steve Olsuik, Tim Kolb, and Don Verni also drew acclaim as they showed themselves immensely improved from their effort in the Brockport meet.

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S)---There's more than one of inflation that college administrators are complaining about. Grade inflation has drawn criticism of administrators throughout the country who are beginning to question how many students deserve the grades they

As evidence, they point to plastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for collegebound seniors which are falling to new lows at the same time that grade point averages are climbing.

Wrestlers

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In that meet, last Wednesday, the untouchable green squad from Brockport was just short of manhandled by the Bears. Jensen's draw, Atwater's pin, combined with wins by Peraza, Lyndaker, and Carr, gave Potsdam a lead going into the last two matches. Brockport then struck back with their heavier weights and rallied for the win, to the tune of 27 - 19.

The J.V. match Friday night, turned out as an encoura-

ging one for the Bear matmen as they lost only to Colgate while surpassing six other teams, to take second place in the tourney. Following in the Varsity footsteps, just about everyone contributed to the score with Lenny Kerznowski decisioning his way to a 1st place ranking. Other place winners included Jerry Bouchard, Nels Eliassen, Bob Wolff, Bob Shaw, Steve Quartier, and Bill Gribbin.