

## Wrestling Bulls

# Grappler goal: national place winner

by Lynn Everard  
Spectrum Staff Writer

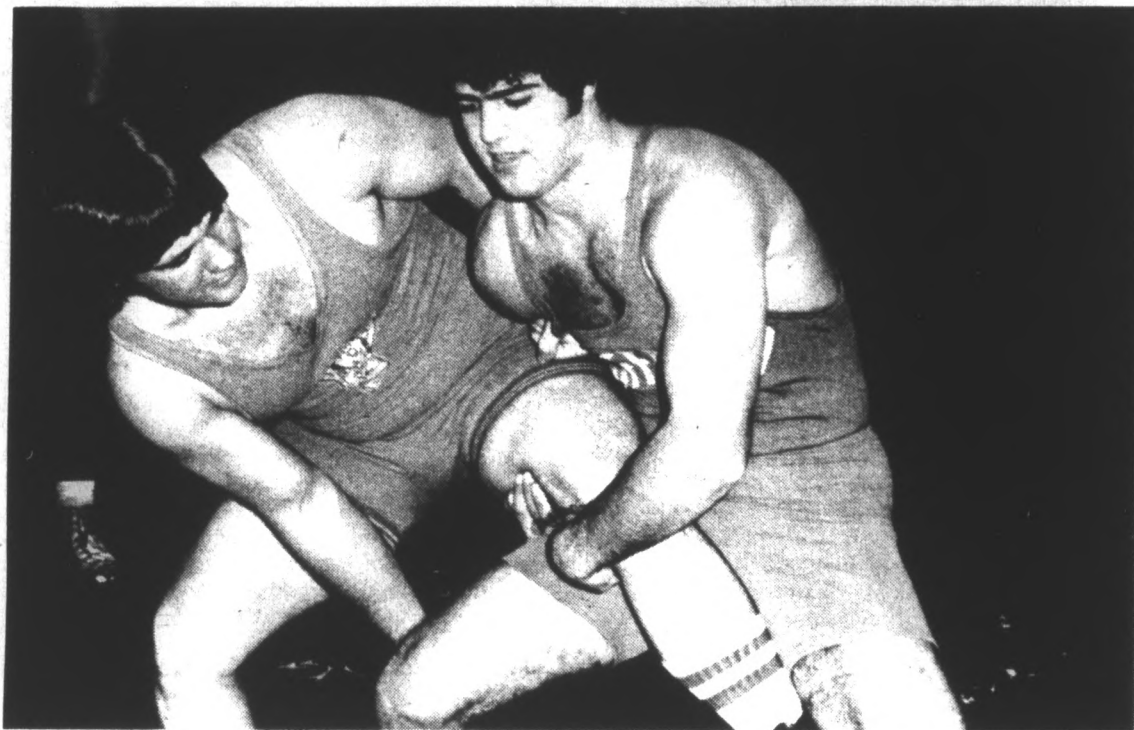
"Last year's team was the best I ever coached," says Buffalo wrestling coach Ed Michael, looking back on his squad's 22-1 record of a year ago. But that great year is behind him, and Michael now finds himself without six starters and several top substitutes from last year, leaving this year's edition of the wrestling Bulls with some prominent holes to fill.

"The degree to which we are successful in filling these gaps will determine to a large extent our success or failure," Michael said. People like former co-captains Bill Jacoutot and Jerry Nowakowski, as well as the super exciting Ed Hamilton, may be sorely missed this year.

Though the Bulls have always had excellent dual meet records (55-4-1) over the last three years, national place winner has always eluded them. "Our main goal this season is to have national place winners," Michael said.

### Place winners?

This year's squad is well suited to produce that national place winner when the National Championships roll around next March. Last year's stars, Jim Young and Charlie Wright, are back for their final year



—Santos

of competition, and both would have to be rated among the nation's best at their respective weights.

Young set several Buffalo records — including an incredible 21 dual meet wins — in last year's campaign. Jim recorded eight pins and defeated many tough wrestlers. He qualified for the Nationals by finishing second in the regionals to an eventual National place winner, Don Rohn of Clarion State, then lost in the second round of the championships to another place winner, Mark Belknap of William and Mary.

Charlie Wright made it to the national quarterfinals, farther than

anyone from Buffalo had ever gone before. This season Charlie should see a lot of dual meet action as a heavyweight rather than at his tournament weight of 190 lbs., but he can also beat the bigger guys consistently. Wright thrilled the crowds many times last year with his exciting go-for-broke style, featuring many judo-type throws and muscleman moves.

Wrestle-offs have just begun, and at this time a definite lineup has not been determined. But most of the weights have only one or two leading contenders.

### The rundown

Sophomore Ron Langdon is back at 118 and seems to be a cut above the rest. "He has the will to win and can push himself in a match situation," Coach Michael said. "Ron has the potential to be great at his weight."

The 126-pound berth is left wide open by the departure of Bill Jacoutot, who held it down for two years while compiling Buffalo's best career record for dual meet wins. Ray Pfeiffer, Rich Ruth and Greg Jones are all in contention.

Young, last year's MVP, returns at 134. Jim has only recently joined the squad because of his commitment to the soccer team. He will need some time to get adjusted, but should be ready for the first match.

Tom Lloyd-Jones may come into his own this year at 142 lbs. Jones won his weight at the New York State Freestyle championships a few weeks ago and was named the outstanding wrestler in that tournament.

The 150-lb. class sees Kirk Anderson — third in the state high school tournament last year at 134 with the inside track. But he'll get fierce competition from sophomore Bob Martineck, who was impressive in limited action last season.

### Overload

The Bulls will have two of their better athletes in the 158-lb. class — Wally Davis and Bruce Hadsell. Hadsell had the best season any freshman has ever had for Buffalo last year. He used his long arms and legs resourcefully and was able to pin many of his opponents. It will be interesting to see if his success can continue after moving up two weight classes. "Bruce is still filling out, and we can't be sure how it will affect him," said Michael. Paul Grandits is another possibility in the 158-lb. category.

Warren Rogers and Erik Drasgow are the frontrunners in a wide open battle at 167. Drasgow may go up to 177, but there he would face stiffer competition from last year's 167-pounder, Jim Lamb, and from Emad Faddoul, who started at 177 last year. Faddoul is a step above everyone else in this range and might even move up to 190 if the lineup has to be juggled. He was a standout at times last season and now needs only consistency to be a great wrestler.

### Wright and friends

Freshman Bill Bartosh and sophomore Ted Kucharski will keep Charlie Wright company in the 190 and heavyweight ranges. Michael expects a lot of shuffling here, with only Wright seeing action all the time. Mammoth heavyweight Pat Russi has decided not to come out for the team this year. Pat's long history of injuries made it difficult for him to prepare himself for a match. It is unlikely, even if he were to wrestle, that he could go the full season without hurting himself again.

Inflation seems to have reduced the schedule, although fortunately most of the lost opponents are poor teams. Notable additions this year are Kentucky, with Olympian Jimmy Carr and a rapidly improving Binghamton team.