

# Pioneer again claims Salamanca Invitational title

By DAN SERNOFFSKY  
Press Sports Editor

Leaving no doubt in the minds of spectators why they have been ranked number one Western New York, the Pioneer Panthers again breezed to victory in the fifth annual Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

While the highly talented squad failed to win as many championships as they did last year, the overall team still scored a record breaking number of points, 111½, en route to capturing their fourth straight title. Pioneer split title honors with Portville when the two tied for the championship in 1972, but since then, coach Dick Post's teams have been the undisputed kings of the mountain.

So complete has Pioneer's domination of the tournament been over the past four years than tournament director George Whitcher quipped while announcing the team winners, "And the winner of the 1975 Dick Post Invitational, uh, make that Salamanca Invitational, is Pioneer."

1. Pioneer	111½ points
2. Olean	77
3. Williamsville North	55½
4. Maple Grove	50½
5. Medina	46½
6. Warsaw	42
7. Portville	38½
8. Southwestern	36½
9. Sweet Home	35
10. Frontier	33
11. Iroquois	32
12. Dunkirk	27
13. Falconer	23
14. Allegany	22
15. Lake Shore	15½
16. Jamestown	13
17. Alden	9½
18. Eden	9
19. Salamanca	6
20. Cattaraugus	5
21. Gowanda	0

But while no one seems ready to break Pioneer's stranglehold on the team title, Pioneer's grip on the outstanding wrestler trophy was snapped.

The outstanding wrestler award had gone to Pioneer's Phil Roblee in each of the last two years, and on a basis of past performance, a member of the Pioneer team could have again been expected to win it. Things worked out somewhat differently, however.

Bruce Meyers, a junior from Olean, in the 121 pound weight class turned in what had to be one of the most outstanding tournament performances ever for a single individual. Coming into the tournament with an unimpressive 6-1 record, Meyers wound up getting the number six

seed and a spot in the lower bracket. He turned in four victories to win the weight class title, with three of those victories coming over seeded wrestlers.

In the first round, Meyers scored a 4-1 decision over Medina's Paul Wilson, controlling the bout all the way. That win pushed him into the quarterfinal round against third seeded Jon Swan, a sectional champ from Southwestern. After falling behind by a 2-0 count in the first period, Meyers came up with a five point seed period, including scoring a three point near fall, then picked up five more points in the third period on a reversal, an escape and a takedown to post a 10-6 decision.

The victory there moved him into the semifinals against Pioneer's Kyle Grunwald, the second seeded wrestler in the weight class. The two swapped points in the first period, with Meyers getting the takedown and Grunwald a reversal. Starting down in the second period, Meyers escaped, then took Grunwald down again for a 5-2 lead. The three points proved to be the key difference as Grunwald was able to reverse in the third period and failed to get Meyers over, leaving Meyers the 5-4 victor.

The final round paired Meyers with John Caulfield, Williamsville North. Caulfield came into the tourney with an impressive 18-0 record and the number one ranking in the weight class in Western New York. A two-time sectional and Sweet Home Invitational tournament champion, he earned Outstanding Wrestler honors at the Amherst Town tournament a week prior to the Salamanca tourney. Seeded first in the Salamanca tournament, Caulfield went into the finals with two pins and a comfortable 8-4 decision. The bout, however, was all Meyers.

A third place finisher in the Salamanca Tournament last year, Meyers picked up a surprisingly easy 6-2 victory. Neither wrestler scored in the opening period and Caulfield got the first point as he came up off the bottom early in the second for an escape. Meyers slid in with a takedown, however, and worked a pair of predicament points off the takedown to pull to a 4-1 lead. In the third period, he reversed early to make it 6-1, rode Caulfield expertly for most of the period, then gave up a meaningless escape late in the bout.

Meyers' performance, along with the performances of several of his teammates, propelled Olean to their second straight second place finish. The Huskies outdistanced the remainder of the field

almost as much as Pioneer outdistanced everyone, coming up with 77 points to Pioneer's 111½. Williamsville North finished as the number three team with 55½ points, closely followed by Maple Grove, number four with 50½ points.

Finishing fifth was Medina with 46½, followed by Warsaw with 42.

Portville headed up the middle of the standings, finishing seventh with 38½. Southwestern was eighth with 36½, followed by Sweet Home, with 35, Frontier, with 33, Iroquois, with 32, Dunkirk, with 27, Falconer, with 23, and Allegany, with 22.

At the bottom of the standings were Lake Shore, 15th with 15½ points, Jamestown, 16th with 13 points, Alden, with 9½, Eden, with nine, Salamanca, with six, Cattaraugus, with five, and Gowanda, with none.

Perhaps the most outstanding example of wrestling excellence was turned in by Pioneer's Keith Stearns, who totally dominated the 157 pound weight class. Entering the tourney with a 16-0 record and the number one seeding, Stearns won his third straight tournament title and for the second year pinned his way through his weight class.

Stearns had five pins in the tourney, with the quickest coming in 45 seconds. Two of the pins were first period pins, while the remaining three all came early in the second period. He won the championship by pinning Southwestern's Dan Golando in 2:55.

Stearns also pinned his way through the tournament last year in winning the 147 pound championship. He won the 140 pound title as a sophomore and finished fourth as a freshman in 1972. The only other wrestler to have won three tourney titles was Pioneer's Mike Arnold, 114 pound champion last year as a senior.

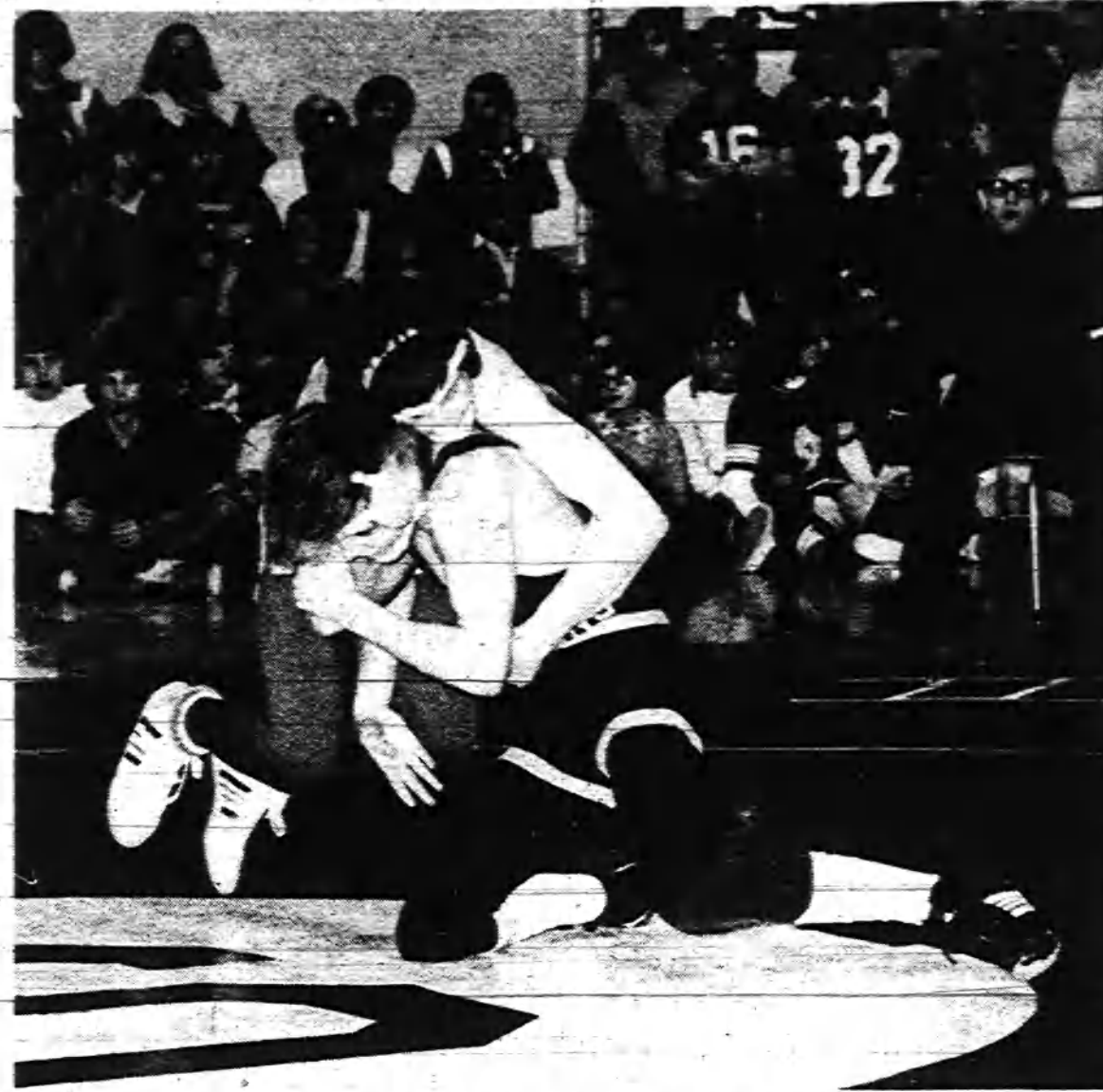
Joining Stearns as champions from Pioneer were Doug Keenen, who scored a decision over Jim Diehl, Olean, for the 100 pound title; Dale Rogers, who decided Dave Butler, Maple Grove, for the 128 pound title; Doug Tingue, who decided Chris Leichtweis, Olean, for the 134 pound title; and Gary Devin, who pinned Sweet Home's Dave Izard for the 147 pound championship. Stearns, Rogers and Devin were all defending Salamanca tourney champs.

Other weight class championships were Tim Feltz, Medina, who decided Len Woods, Lake Shore, for the 90 pound title; Seth Becker, Maple Grove, who

decided Olean's Steve Tripodi for the 107 pound title; Vince Stirling, Williamsville North, who won the 114 pound title with a decision over Frontier's Dave Tundo; Gene Tundo, Frontier, who scored a decision over Portville's Terry Miller for the 140 pound crown; Dunkirk's Dennis Long, who decided Dan Hackett, Pioneer, for the 169 pound title; Shahean Simon, Olean, who decided Bill Nice, Medina, for the 179 pound championship; Paul Stebbins, Lake Shore, who decided Allegany's Don Schoonover for the heavyweight title; and Ron Taylor, Medina, who decided John Patt, Warsaw, for the unlimited championship.

**Championship Round**  
90: Tim Feltz, Medina, decided Len Woods, Lake Shore, 2-1.  
100: Doug Keenen, Pioneer, decided Jim Diehl, Olean, 11-8.  
107: Seth Becker, Maple Grove, decided Steve Tripodi, Olean, 2-0.  
114: Vince Stirling, Williamsville North, decided Dave Tundo, Frontier, 9-1.  
121: Bruce Meyers, Olean, decided John Caulfield, Williamsville North, 6-2.  
128: Dale Rogers, Pioneer, decided Dave Butler, Maple Grove, 4-2.  
134: Doug Tingue, Pioneer, decided Chris Leichtweis, Olean, 14-4.  
140: Dave Tundo, Frontier, decided Terry Miller, Portville, 4-2.  
147: Gary Devin, Pioneer, pinned Dan Golando, Southwestern, 2:55.  
169: Dennis Long, Dunkirk, decided Dan Hackett, Pioneer, 6-0.  
179: Shahean Simon, Olean, decided Bill Nice, Medina, 12-5.  
HWT: Paul Stebbins, Lake Shore, decided Don Schoonover, Allegany, 14-4.  
Unl: Ron Taylor, Medina, decided John Patt, Warsaw, 8-3.

**Consolation Round**  
90: Bari Hallberg, Maple Grove, decided Joe Birmingham, Eden, 4-2.  
100: Jim Bender, Williamsville North, won by default over Robert Grandits, Sweet Home, after an injury to Grandits prevented further competition.  
107: Jim Payne, Portville, decided Keith Floyd, Pioneer, 5-4.  
114: Mike Fuller, Warsaw, won by forfeit over Dave Crean, Olean, who was unable to wrestle due to an injury.  
121: Kyle Grunwald, Pioneer, decided Rick Rothfuss, Iroquois, 8-2.  
128: Paul Kemmerer, Iroquois, decided John Ognibene, Falconer, 4-2.  
134: Dan Heintzelman, Jamestown, decided Jeff Winter, 4-2.  
140: Greg Wefing, Maple Grove, won by forfeit over Warren Bush, Warsaw, who was unable to wrestle due to an injury.  
147: Tim Prince, Maple Grove, decided Tom Wheeler, Iroquois, 3-0.  
157: Peter Caldwell, Lake Shore, decided Jeff Cotter, Medina, 5-3.  
179: Dave Golando, Southwestern, decided Ron Schoonover, Allegany, 3-2.  
HWT: Kurt Linke, Southwestern, decided Bob Darling, Jamestown, 7-0.  
Unl: Bryan Smith, Iroquois, pinned Brian McNamara, Sweet Home, 1:41.



**OUTSTANDING WRESTLER IN ACTION** — Olean's Bruce Meyers (top) runs a tight waist while working for a nelson combination against Williamsville North's John Caulfield in the finals of their 121 pound bout. Caulfield broke loose for an escape, but Meyers scored on a takedown and predicament en route to winning a 6-2 decision over the previously unbeaten wrestler, a decision which helped Meyers win outstanding wrestler honors for the tourney. (Press Staff Photo)

Salamanca Republican-Press

## SPORTS

## Danes prove anything is possible in basketball

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anything is possible in college basketball. Just ask Albany State Coach Dick Sauers.

Sauers' Great Danes were trailing by 20 points twice in the second half of their game with Ithaca Saturday night. They were down by nine points in the last minute. And they were six points behind with six seconds.

But they pulled out a stunning 111-94 victory after Ed Johnson sank a clutch jump shot at the buzzer, forcing it into a five-minute overtime in which the Great Danes outscored Ithaca 23-6.

Sauers was asked afterward if he ever thought he could pull it out. "It's possible, always possible," he replied. "Just try everything you can."

Albany State was led by sophomore guard Mike Suprunowicz and Johnson and Tom Morris each added another 21. Ithaca's Charles Jones led game scoring with 31.

In other college basketball games involving upstate teams Saturday, Syracuse upset seventh-ranked LaSalle for its 15th straight home victory. Cornell overcame Dartmouth, Canisius turned back Providence, and Geneseo State scored 12 points in overtime to defeat the University of Buffalo.

Massachusetts edged Niagara, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Hobart, St. Lawrence defeated Utica by one point, and Assumption beat LeMoyne. Buffalo State whipped Cortland, Oneonta State defeated Castleton, Brockport State outscored Potsdam State and Plattsburgh State was victorious over Oswego State.

Syracuse 82, LaSalle 78.

Jimmy Lee sank two clutch free throws and scored on a fast break to spark Syracuse. The loss for LaSalle, 16-3, was its second straight. Rudy Hackett led the Orangemen, 12-4, with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

Cornell 71, Dartmouth 60. Maynard and Stan Brown teamed up for 43 points as Cornell defeated Dartmouth. The lead changed hands six times before reserve guard Rex Parsells hit on a 20-foot jumper to put Cornell ahead to stay.

Canisius 93, Providence 85. Canisius amassed a 17-point lead midway through the second half, then fought off a Providence rally. It was Canisius' 10th victory in 14 outings. Larry Fogle, hitting 11 of 12 shots from the free throw line, led all scorers with 27 points.

Massachusetts 65, Niagara 64. Alex Eldridge scored six points in a 1½-minute span for Massachusetts, finishing the night with 18. Niagara's Andy Walker had 26 points, but failed in a desperation 25-footer with two seconds on the block. The ball bounced off the rim. Niagara is now 11-8.

Buffalo State 105, Cortland 62. Buffalo led all the way, soaring to a 57-27 halftime lead. Joe Jackson struck for 26 points and teammates Dave Hoch and Bennie Eison each added 18 more.

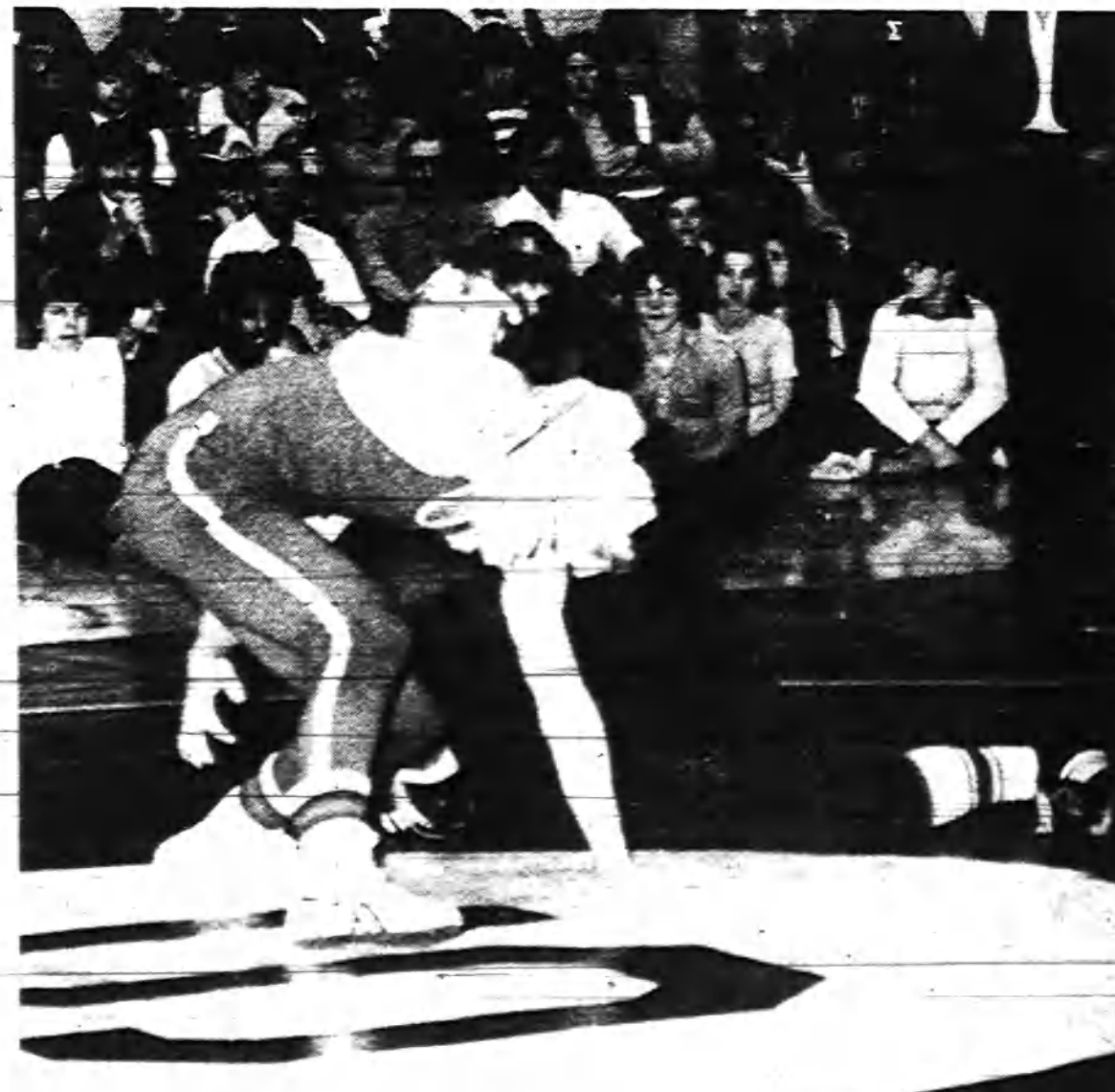
Oneonta 64, Castleton 47. Jackie Dalton and Kevin Croutier had 15 points each while Dave Whiting led the visiting Vermonters with 11. Castleton led 34-32 at the half, but was held to only four second-half field goals. Oneonta is now 10-6. Castleton is 5-4.



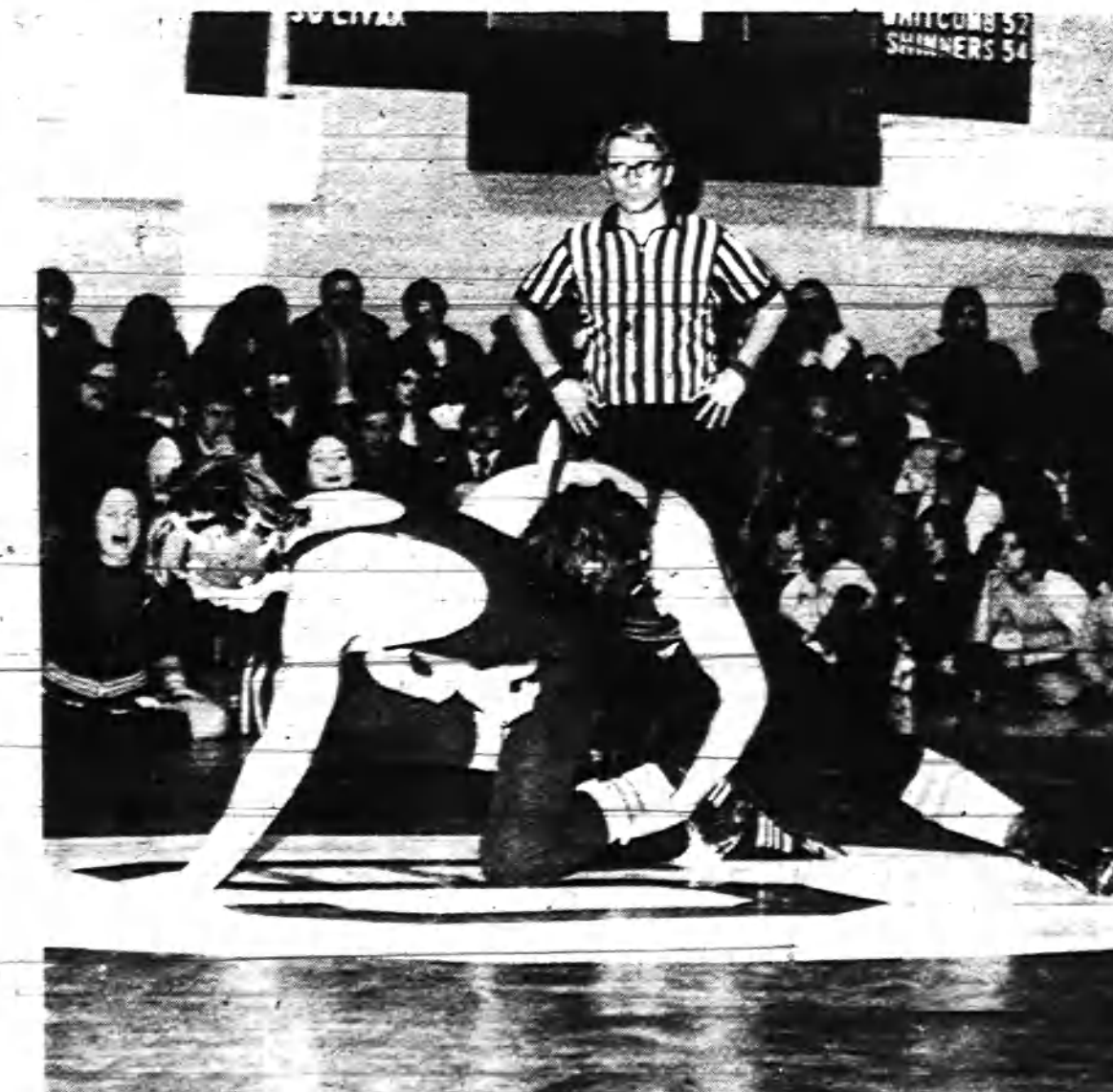
**TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS** — Champions in the 1975 Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament were, front row (l-r): Tim Feltz, Medina, 90 pounds; Doug Keenen, Pioneer, 100 pounds; Seth Becker, Maple Grove, 107 pounds; Vince Stirling, Williamsville North, 114 pounds; Bruce Meyers, Olean, 121 pounds and outstanding wrestler of the tournament; Dale Rogers, Pioneer, 128 pounds; Doug Tingue, Pioneer, 134 pounds. Back row: Gene Tundo, Frontier, 140 pounds; Gary Devin, Pioneer, 147 pounds; Keith Stearns, Pioneer, 157 pounds; Dennis Long, Dunkirk, 169 pounds; Shahean Simon, Olean, 179 pounds; Paul Stebbins, Lake Shore, heavyweight; Ron Taylor, Medina, unlimited. (Press Staff Photo)



**NICE EFFORT** — Salamanca's Ward Wheeler (light jersey) tries to work a cradle combination against Pioneer's Doug Tingue in their quarterfinal bout at 134 pounds. The effort failed and Tingue came on strong in the third period to win an 8-0 decision. Tingue later decided Olean's Chris Leichtweis to win the weight class championship. (Press Staff Photo)



**PIN NUMBER FIVE** — Pioneer's Keith Stearns reaches around to come through with a cradle against Southwestern's Dan Golando as Golando tried to hit a stand-up coming off the bottom. Stearns put Golando on his back for a three point near fall in the first period, then pinned him 55 seconds into the second period for his fifth tourney pin. The championship, at 157 pounds, was the third Salamanca title for Stearns and marked the second year that he pinned his way through the tourney. (Press Staff Photo)



**REVERSAL** — Pioneer's Dale Rogers (bottom) starts to move out for a second period reversal in his bout at 128 pounds with Maple Grove's Dave Butler. The two points tied the score, with Rogers picking up a third period reversal to post a 4-2 win and claim the class championship. The title gave Rogers a successful defense of his Salamanca tournament crown. (Press Staff Photo)