

Monday, January 31, 1977

★ Portville's Miller Most Valuable In Salamanca Tourney

Olean Has 5 Champs, Pioneer Has 6



(Times Herald photo)

CHAMPIONS. The champions in the Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament, which had a one-day run Saturday, are shown here. Front row, left to right: Clar Anderson, Olean, 91 pounds; Steve Arnold, Pioneer, 98 pounds; Dan

Mason, Pioneer, 105 pounds; Dave Sanders, Pioneer, 112 pounds; Tom Bennett, Pioneer, 119 pounds; Kevin Forrest, Olean, 126 pounds and Keith Floyd, Pioneer, 132 pounds. Back row, left to right: Kyle Grunwald, Pioneer, 138 pounds;

Chris Leichtweis, Olean, 145 pounds; Terry Miller, Portville, 155 pounds; Tim Prince, Maple Grove, 167 pounds; Dave Simon, Olean 177 pounds' pounds; Tom Morton, Olean, 215 pounds and Peter Lee, Salamanca, unlimited.

TEAM SCORING			
Olean	201	Map. Grove	93½
Pioneer	161½	Xavierian	44½
Falconer	109	Salamanca	16
Portville	96		

By MIKE ABDO

Times Herald Sports Writer

SALAMANCA — Believe this or not, folks, George Whitcher's miracle at Salamanca Central School came about Saturday — and it had its touching moments —

Such as the kid from Southwestern Central School who hitch-hiked in the sub-zero weather to make it to the wrestling site.

Such as the Portville Central kids, one of them Terry Miller, who had tears in their eyes when told, Friday, that Portville would be unable to make it to Salamanca.

The seventh annual Salamanca Wrestling tournament — originally booked with 21 schools and assured of SRO turnouts on the Friday and Saturday dates — was a bruised and battered event, compliments of the arctic-like weather, but it did come through as a one-day stand.

And, that's where that "Miracle of George Whitcher's" comes about.

The persistence and tenacity of the Salamanca football coach who is also the tournament's guiding light was the ultimate payoff. The one-day stand — starting at noon and ending up with the championship bouts at 10 p.m. — was trimmed down to seven schools and, in the end, it was the two schools — Olean High and Pioneer Central — that were regarded as the favorites, who battled it out for the team title.

Olean emerged as the winner, making it two straight years as champ of the tournament but Pioneer ended up with six individual titlists to Olean's five.

THE KID who hitch-hiked was Southwestern Central's Jon Swan and he made it to the title bout of the 155 pound division, losing out to Portville's Terry Miller. It made Miller the tournament's Most Valuable Performer. It was the battle of unbeaten, as well.

Miller's selection as the MVP was razor-thin, winning by one

vote over Pioneer's Kyle Grunwald, the 138 pound victor. Miller had a pin and decision victory before his 7-5 win ("what a battle, it was one that saw both of them going at it like hammer and tongs" — Whitcher) over Swan.

Grunwald — last year's New York State champ and still unbeaten over a two-season span — had two pins and a decision.

In all, there were 128 bouts and the balance that Olean coach Mike Foster has at his command, was the story. Pioneer's strength is in the lighter classes — all six victors from the 138 class on down. Olean scored points in all but one weight class, the 165 pound class, while Pioneer failed to pick up points in the 145, the 155,

the 177 and heavyweight classes.

THE SALAMANCA gym was heated by an alternate plan, using an old, discarded boiler that had never been removed from the heating area. "Also," Whitcher added, "I had the complete backing of our administration. Here we called the tournament off, twice on Friday, and each time I came back to Bill (Valent, superintendent of schools) and Clair (Wescott, high school principal) and asked to have it back on. Here are two men who have a number of pressing problems to think about and they were 100 per cent in our corner."

Portville almost never made it.

On Friday, coach Dutch

Sturdevant notified his squadmen that Portville would not make the trip. A number of the squadmen, had tears in their eyes, one of them being the unbeaten Miller.

"Somehow," Whitcher added, "they prevailed on the coach and a mighty fine director of athletics (Mike O'Brien) how important this was to them."

Swan was one of two

Southwestern wrestlers who made it to the tournament as did coach Walt Thorneau.

The championship bouts (records included):

91: Clar Anderson (Olean, 19-0-1) pin .51 Lee Friend (Pioneer)
 98: Steve Arnold (Pioneer, 11-3) dec. 7-4 Ed Jennings (Olean, 12-4)
 105: Dan Mason (Pioneer, 10-1) dec. 6-3 Andy Taylor (Olean, 7-4-1)
 112: Dave Sanders (Pioneer, 12-3) dec. 4-3 Bob Betts (Falconer, 20-2)
 119: Tom Bennet (Pioneer, 12-2) dec. 7-4 Seth Becker (Maple Grove, 18-3)
 126: Kevin Forrest (Olean, 22-1) dec. 11-2 Jeff Pettit (Pioneer, 7-7)
 132: Keith Floyd (Pioneer, 9-1) dec. 9-1 Garry Bliss (Olean, 18-2)
 138: Kyle Grunwald (Pioneer, 16-0) pin 1:23 Bill Thomas (Olean, 13-5)
 145: Chris Leichtweis (Olean, 20-0) dec. 11-2 Mike Garvey (Falconer, 12-2)
 155: Terry Miller (Portville, 14-0) dec. 7-5 Jon Swan (Southwestern, 16-1)
 162: Tim Prince (Maple Grove, 21-0-1) dec. 11-6 Mike Haberberger (Portville, 11-2)
 177: Dave Simon (Olean, 20-0-1) dec. 16-0 Jack McCall (Maple Grove, 9-3)
 HVY: Tom Morton (Olean, 19-2) dec. 7-4 Jim Reinhardt (Xavierian, 13-2)
 Unlimited: Pete Lee (Salamanca, 11-3) pin .53 Mike Doherty (Xavierian, 3-4)

Portville Matmen Defeat Allegany

ALLEGANY — Ready or not, here goes... and it's the wrestling match that saw Portville Central School the 31-24 victor over Allegany here Thursday night.

It marked, in a way, the resumption of sports action that was disrupted by Blizzard '77. Terry Miller, Portville's undefeated grappler, was a victor.

98: Gleason (P) pin 4:33 Scacchi
 105: Grabbitt (P) forfeit w/in
 112: E. Nannen (A) dec. 9-1 Blue
 119: B. Nannen (A) dec. 12-4 Martello
 126: J. Nannen (A) dec. 6-4 Williams
 132: M. Faulkner (P) pin 5:39 Kelly
 138: Newberg (P) dec. 20 L. Crisavulli
 145: Lehnon (A) dec. 11-4 Hollamby
 155: Miller (P) def. w/in J. Crisavulli
 167: Wexel (A) pin 1:19 Burdick
 177: B. Faulkner (A) draw 2-2 M. Haberberger 140-1
 HVY: Barrett (A) draw 8-8 Bretzin