

SU Mat Trio NCAA-Bound

By NEIL KERR

With Eastern wrestling titles already achieved, Syracuse University wrestlers John Janiak (158 pounds) and captain Ken Wilson (150) are working out daily in preparation for next week's NCAA Championship meet to be held at Princeton, N.J.

Sophomore Janiak (20-0) and junior Wilson (17-2-1) will both be making second appearances at the NCAAs which begin March 13 in Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium. Last year, the two were in opposite weight classes and didn't place among the top 12 finishers in the tournament.

This time, SU coach Ed Carlin believes that both of his Eastern champs will be among the top NCAA contenders. "Both these guys have the ability to tangle with anybody in the country," observed Carlin. "They'll be up against good competition because the defending champions are returning at both weights, but I'm optimistic."

The defending champs Carlin referred to are Michigan's Jerry Hubbard at 150 and Oklahoma's rugged Rod Kilgore at 158. Last year, Kilgore decided Wilson, 12-1, en route to his title but this year Kilgore is liable to tangle with Janiak in a quarterfinal or semifinal round bout.

North Syracuse's Janiak and Jordan-Elbridge's Wilson are not the only SU athletes who will battle for NCAA crowns, however, because 167-pound Tim Jenks (Chenango Forks) also qualified for NCAA activity by virtue of his third-place finish last Saturday.

Jenks, now 13-2-1 for the season, dropped a hotly-contested 3-2 decision to Ted Petty of Rutgers in the semifinals but he salvaged third place by beating Mark Kowal of Princeton, 7-2, and then George Okorn of Pittsburgh, 3-2. Since the first four finishers at all regional tourneys advance to the NCAAs, Jenks will accompany Janiak and Wilson.

Also at the Easterns, 126-pound freshman Randy Gillette (16-4-1) of Fulton took a fifth-place award and 190-pound Paul Head of Whitesboro earned a sixth. Gillette is thus the first alternate in his weight and could possibly advance to the NCAAs if one of the top four Eastern 126-pounders are unable to take part for one reason or another.

Syracuse tallied 70 1/2 points at Annapolis, good for fifth place behind Lehigh (172), Navy (110 1/2), Pitt (109 1/2), and Princeton (83).

Carlin was not satisfied with that showing. "We could have had 30 more points if (John) DeBiase and (Pat) Greene had placed in the top four as I thought they would," he commented.

Carlin feels that one reason for the fifth-place showing is due to the extensive amount of traveling done by the SU team recently.

"We made a 750-mile round trip by car to meet Bucknell and Temple the weekend before the Easterns and then we spent six more hours last Thursday driving to Annapolis. "Our team was tired all week and I definitely feel that those two

long trips affected our performance at Navy.

"For next year, I've already asked (Ron) Oyer, who helps make up the schedule, NOT to schedule a long road trip just before the Easterns," added Carlin.

SU's Greene, at 142 pounds, lost to Chuck Allen of Army, 9-7, and that was a surprise. "DeBiase beat Allen, 20-4, in our dual meet with Army here," observed Carlin. "I didn't expect Greene to have much trouble beating that guy."

This week, Carlin is busily recruiting scholastic "blue chippers" to fill a few weak spots (118 pounds and heavy-weight) in the SU lineup. At those weights, he's hoping to obtain the services of Baldwinville's George Medina (118) and muscular Tom Smyrlas of Waltham, Mass. If those two enroll on the Hill, Syracuse is going to challenge the Eastern supremacy of Lehigh and Navy within the next three years.

MAT NOTES—Also high on Carlin's recruiting list are South Jefferson's 167-pound Bruce Porter and J-E's Kevin Wilson, brother of SU's Ken...Also expected to enroll at SU is heavyweight Mark Waterman of Fayetteville-Manlius who compiled a 28-5 record this season... Medina is the brother of current Orange assistant coach Bob Medina...Currently enrolled is two-time New York State 145-pound king Tom Capone of Watertown, who dropped out of Penn State. He began classes at SU last month and will be eligible for Carlin's team in September...At the Easterns, Gillette was upset, 13-8, by Jerry Nisivoccia of Rutgers in the quarterfinals, but then "The Razor" earned fifth place in the tourney Saturday by beating that same Rutgers' senior, 7-2, in a return match.



Orange Place-Winner

Syracuse University freshman Paul Head won three bouts and earned a respectable sixth-place finish in the 190-pound class at the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships at Navy last weekend. Head, who also plays football, hails from Whitesboro.