

Janiak, Stevens Reach NCAA Wrestling Finals

Special to The Post-Standard

PRINCETON, N.J.—Former Onondaga League wrestling stars John Janiak of Syracuse University and Greg Stevens of Iowa University both earned berths in the championship bouts of the annual NCAA Wrestling Tournament here at Princeton University Friday night.

Janiak, a sophomore from North Syracuse High, posted a stunning 11-7 upset victory over the No. 1-seeded 158-pounder, Larry Zilverberg of the University of Minnesota in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Stevens gained his third straight tourney win at 190 pounds to also move into the finals.

The fourth-seeded Janiak seized an early 11-2 lead against the favored Zilverberg and held on for the win, upping his record to 24-0 for the season.

In the Saturday championship bout, Janiak will tangle with the No. 2-seeded 158-pounder, Dan Holm (22-2) of the University of Iowa. Holm, a teammate of Stevens', had entered the title bout after having eliminated the defending champ, Rod Kilgore of Oklahoma, via an overtime referees' decision.

In his earlier afternoon bout, Janiak had struggled past rough Dave Chandler of Boise State, 3-1.

While Janiak was winning that match, SU captain Ken Wilson suffered a quarterfinal defeat at 150 pounds and was bounced into the wrestlebacks. Wilson was locked in a 1-1 deadlock with favored Chuck Yagla of Iowa University in the second period when Yagla suddenly managed to put Wilson on his back for the pin, which came at 5:53 of the bout.

The only other New York Stater in the finals, Stevens, had placed second at the Big Ten Tournament recently but he can do no worse than that here at the NCAAs. Finals begin at 7:30 Saturday night, and Stevens will take on the favored Al Nacin of Iowa State in the championship match.

After the semifinals, SU coach Ed Carlin remarked, "Janiak should be able to win the finals. Zilverberg had beaten Holm earlier this winter and now John has eliminated Zilverberg."

As for Janiak, he was a relieved wrestler following the upset win. "I knew I had the match won the first time I put him (Zilverberg) on his back," said John. "I felt I could do it anytime after that. Wrestling the top seed helped. I always seem to do better when I'm the underdog."

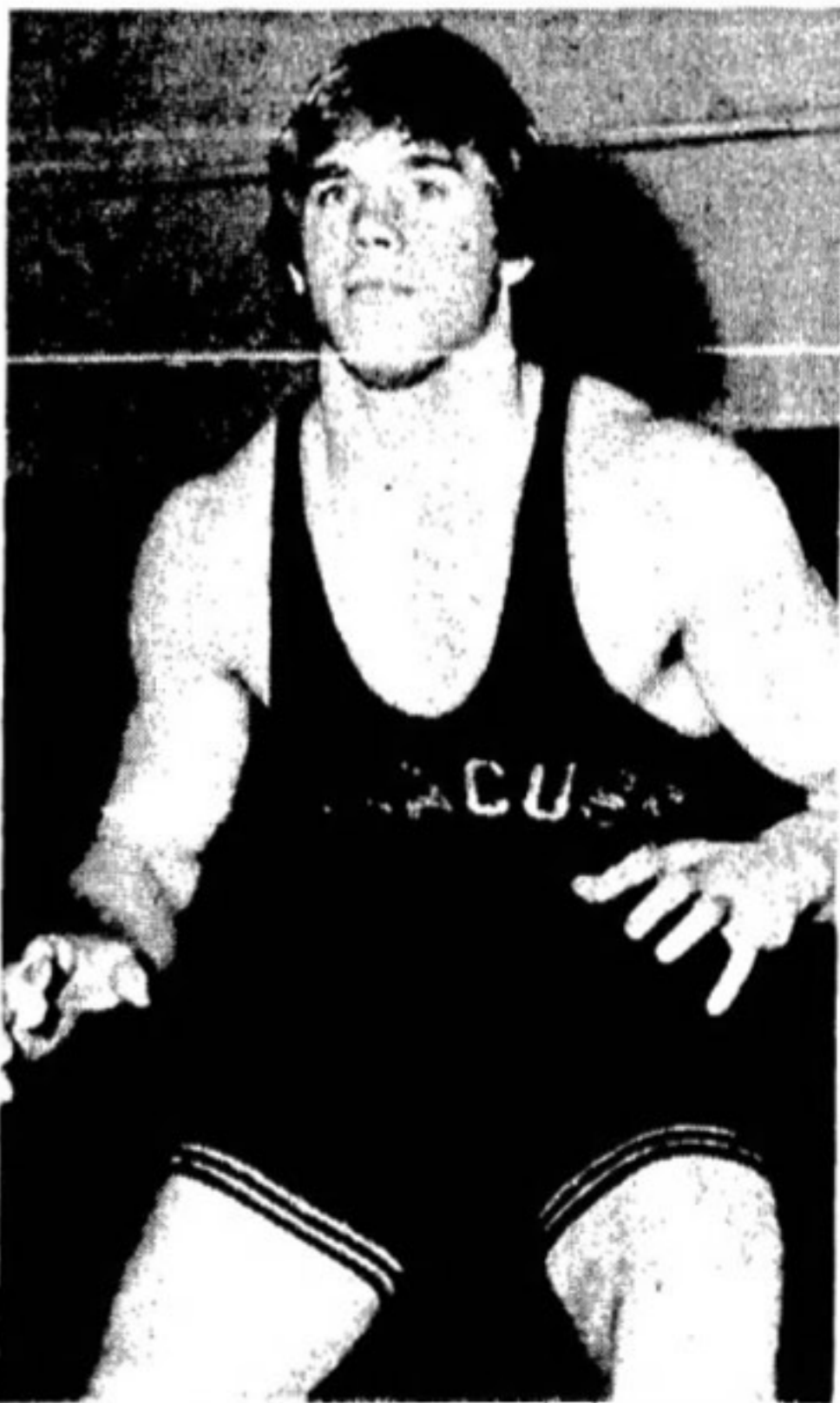
Janiak added, "I strained my shoulder a month ago and it bothered me in my first match here against that Oregon guy (Kevin Kramer). He really ripped it but I got it taped and it feels okay now."

Of his bout with Zilverberg, Janiak added, "I managed to build up an early lead and then I played it safe. I was so nervous that it took a lot out of me."

Stevens, the former Fulton High star who was named "Most Outstanding Wrestler" at the New York State Intersectional Meet two years ago in Utica, reached the championship match following an 8-2 semifinal win over Laurent Soucie of Wisconsin.

Soucie is the wrestler that edged Greg, 3-2, in the title match at the Big Ten Meet two weeks ago.

As for team honors, the powerful, No. 1-ranked University of Iowa team, led by Holm and Stevens, has virtually clinched first place. The Hawkeyes of coach Gary Kurdelmeier had tallied 86 1/2 points Friday night and were almost 30 points ahead of runner-up Oklahoma, a team they had soundly trounced in a February dual meet 34-5.



John Janiak

Janiak Wants to be Traded

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Friday night—John Janiak of Syracuse University wants to be traded to another city. After the Bucks' president told him that Abdul-Jabbar would live in another city.

"I don't have any family in Milwaukee. Milwaukee is not the kind of city for me or the people, it's just that I don't like Milwaukee."

He said he and the Bucks have a contract, but he said he would honor his contract with the Bucks. Abdul-Jabbar has one more year remaining on his contract with the Bucks, but he has an option for one year at the club's discretion.

Bucks' President William Alverson contacted Janiak earlier in the day that Abdul-Jabbar had asked to be traded.

"There have been numerous occasions when he has asked us to trade him to another city," Alverson said.

Abdul-Jabbar said he would like to be traded to another city.

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