

Sports Scope

A Second Chance

by Jim Klurfeld

Vaughn Harper went high into the air, extended his arms, met and grabbed the ball and came down. He hesitated for a second, looked up court and started to dribble. Past the mid-court line, past the foul circle, faking to his left and right, he then took off, threw his arms above the basket's rim, and stuffed the ball through it.

Two points for Syracuse? No! That was a purely fictitious account of what might have been, because Vaughn Harper did not play basketball this year—at least not for Syracuse University.



VAUGHN HARPER

But it won't be that way next season, because on Feb. 1, with 2,000 other students, Harper re-enrolled on the Hill.

"I'm back in school but I'm only taking five credits, that's all I could afford," Harper said. For those who don't know the entire story, though, let's go back to the last basketball season.

Harper arrived on campus with press notices second only to Dave Bing's. By mid-January, though, he had aroused the wrath of press and fans alike.

The clincher came when he was ejected from a game for supposedly starting a fight. Harper's pugilistic caper elicited comments from a local sports broadcaster, comments that weren't too complimentary.

"That was the changing point," Harper now says. "I was a young boy then, but after that I began to change. I realized that my attitude was affecting my play."

And Harper did change. He thanked the sportscaster for putting him on the right track and his actions towards the press and fans improved. But there was more to his troubles than that.

"I was in the art school taking 50 hours and it was too much. I couldn't play basketball and keep up with my studies."

The result — Harper flunked out of school. And if this were the Vaughn Harper of old, our story would be over.

But Harper returned to Syracuse this fall — on his own. He found a job and saved enough money to enroll this semester. Now he is working at the field house so that he will have enough money to enroll next semester.

"I have matured since last year," Harper says. "Especially since the fall when I've had to be on my own and make it on my own. I know what I want now and I know what I have to do to get it."

Harper's attitude is not the only thing that has improved.

"I didn't think I played up to my potential last year. Not at all. I threw my game off. I usually do what you call unorthodox passing, but last year I attempted passes I never would have dreamed of trying."

"Maybe it was because I had trouble adjusting to the backcourt, a position I hadn't played before. But this year I've played on a local team and worked on my weak spots. My shooting has improved. It makes no difference to me where I play, now."

For Vaughn Harper it has been a tough road back to Syracuse and he's still not there. But it is to his credit that he is still trying.

"Vaughn has learned a lesson," Syracuse coach Fred Lewis said. "He learned it the hard way. He learned that to be a good athlete you have to know when to stop fooling around."

"There's no doubt about this boy's ability to play ball, though. He could be one of the greatest."

Whether Harper will fulfill his potential or not is a question that will have to wait until next season. The important thing is that he has given himself a second chance.

— Part I —

Eastern Mat Preview

The following is the first of three articles concerning teams participating in the Eastern Wrestling Championships this weekend at Cornell. Viewed today are Army, Navy, Cornell and Colgate.

By RICH GOULD

Army's problems at the Eastern Wrestling Championships Saturday will be the opposite of Syracuse's. Whereas the Orange strength lies in the upper weights, Army is strongest in the lighter divisions, with winners in the upper brackets.



BOB STEENLAGE

"From 157 pounds up, we'll probably be lucky if we score points at all," said an Army official.

Gary Fowler at 123 has a season record of 8-2 and is ranked among the top four in the East. At 130 Bob Steenlage is the brightest prospect for an individual championship for the Black Knights.

Sporting an 11-0-1 record, Steenlage boasts wins over such opponents as Mike Caruso of Lehigh, Larry Lloyd of Minnesota and Bob Trail of Purdue.

A battle of the Armed forces will occur at 137. Bob Robbins (6-3) of Army will be one of the favorites along with Wayne Hicks (6-1) of Navy, who was last year's Eastern champion.

In three years as a Navy wrestler Hicks has won 10 of his 18 matches by pins. Other possibilities in this weight division will be the Cornell duo of Joe DeMeo and Don New.

Mark Scureman (9-11) of Army and Bob Sanders (3-0-3) of Navy are co-favorites in the 147-pound class. When these wrestlers met in a dual meet this year the result was a tie.

Cornell's chief hope lies at 157 in the person of Jeff Stephens. After dropping his first two matches of the 1965 campaign, Stephens came on to win his next 15 in a row.

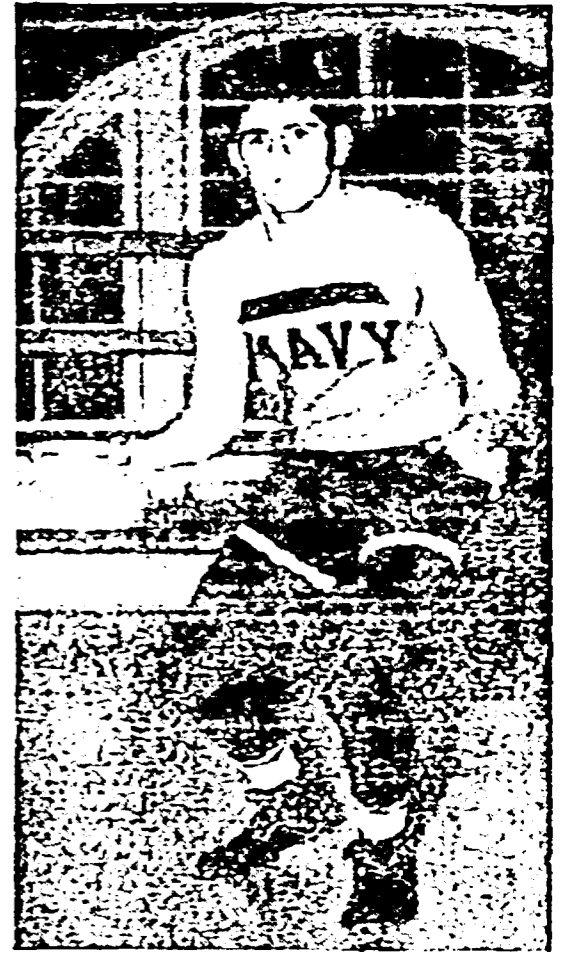
Another upstate New York challenger for the title in this division is Brian Small of Colgate.

Dave Palmer of Navy is a threat at 167 along with Fran Ferraro of Cornell.

Two-time Eastern champ Gerry Franzen (Navy) is one of the outstanding wrestlers at 177. His only two losses came at the hands of Tom Schiendorf of Syracuse.

Another service academy clash will come at 191. John Nichols sports a 5-2 record for the Middies while Tom Abraham is 5-5-1 for Army.

In their encounter during the season Nichols came out the victor with a lopsided 15-3 decision. It is interesting to note



WAYNE HICKS

that Abraham tied Syracuse's Gerry Everling.

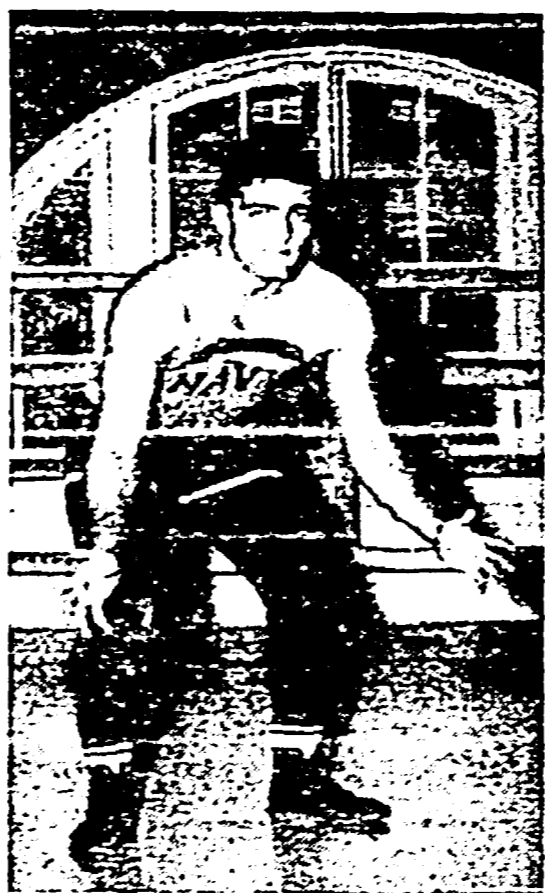
Bob Buchwald of Cornell could come through in the 191 bracket.

Guido Carloni (4-2) has been a strong heavyweight for Navy all year. "In the Penn State and Army meets, we went into the final match needing a fall to tie," commented a Navy spokesman, "and in both cases Carloni came through."

Other wrestlers going for Army, Navy and Cornell are: Army - Ed Sharkness (157), Bob Arvin (167), Ray Sepeta (177) and Jerry Huckey (unlimited).

Navy - Bill Horn (123), Jim Buchli (130) and Bo Wiley (157).

Cornell - Bo Stock (123), Neil Orr (130), John Hubbell (147), Dwayne Storie (177), and Dick Moore (unlimited).



GUIDO CARLONI



BOB ROBBINS



MARK SCUREMAN

JUNIOR EDITORS

Sports Editor Bill Cronauer today announced the appointment of Neil Kerr and James Klurfeld as DO junior editors.

Kerr, a junior majoring in history-journalism, has a 1.5 cumulative average. He lives in Newfield. Klurfeld is a political science - journalism major from Syosset. He has a 2.0 average.