

WRESTLING

Cornell Big Red
1922-1923 Wrestling



Review of the 1923 Season

At the beginning of the 1923 Wrestling season the outlook for a successful year for the Cornell wrestling team, 1922 Intercollegiate Champions, was indeed bright. Approximately 175 men signed up for the sport in response to the first call for candidates, and among this number were five letter men from last year's team. Three of these, Roberts, Hanson, and Wright, were intercollegiate champions in their respective classes. In addition to these there were also available Ayau, runner-up in the intercollegiates, and Wigsten in the 135 pound class. MacWilliam, who had substituted for Captain Ackerly in the 1922 Syracuse meet, seemed to be the most promising candidate to fill the gap left by the latter's graduation. The 158 pound class presented Coach O'Connell's greatest problem, there being no outstanding man in that division at the beginning of the season.

The Varsity's first two meets were with Syracuse and R. P. I., neither of whom were able to furnish much opposition. The Red and White grapplers took all their bouts against Syracuse with falls, and registered five falls and a decision out of six contests in the R. P. I. meet.

A two-day trip to New York resulted in two more victories for the Red and White. Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute fell before Coach O'Connell's charges by a 24 to 0 score in the first contest, but the strong Columbia team made the Red and White extend themselves to score a close 13 to 11 victory. The surprise of the meet came when Johnson, captain of the Columbia team and last year's 158 pound champion, was defeated by Burr, who secured a fall.

The next week the Varsity went to Philadelphia for a meet with the Penn wrestlers. Though injuries and sickness had necessitated the substitution of three new men in the Red and White lineup, the Varsity had little trouble in taking the Quaker grapplers into camp. Two falls and two decisions were the portion of the Cornell men.

On March 10th the Penn State team, victorious over the Varsity in their last three dual meets, came to the Drill Hall to take the short end of a 12 to 6 score. All the bouts were closely contested, and two men tried the iron man stunt. Captain Evans of Penn State won the 145 pound event and lost the 158, while Hanson of the Red and White scored victories in the 175 pound and heavyweight classes.

The victory over the Navy team, undefeated for three years, was one of the most impressive victories won by a Cornell team this year. The Varsity went into an 8 to 0 lead after the first two bouts when MacWilliam won a time decision over his man, and Roberts secured a fall two seconds before the end of his match. The next three classes went to the Navy on two decisions and a fall, and the Annapolis aggregation were leading, 11 to 8. Then Hanson, after being on the bottom of the pile for a few moments, wriggled from beneath and pinned his opponent's shoulders to the mat. This gave the Red and White a two-point advantage. It appeared as if the result of the meet would hang upon the outcome of the heavyweight bout, but Captain Wright, released from the infirmary the morning of the meet, held his opponent even until the last 22 seconds, during which he had the advantage. The time was insufficient for a decision, and the referee called the bout a draw, Cornell winning by a 13 to 11 score.

On March 23rd and 24th the Varsity grapplers entertained the teams from Penn State, Penn, Lehigh, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia in the Intercollegiate Championships. Crowds flocked to the Drill Hall and were treated to some of the most exciting contests that have ever been staged here. Apparently left at the post on the first day, the Red and White came back in the finals and nosed out Penn State for the title. The final score was 17 for Cornell to 16 for Penn State in second place, and that decision was not reached until the last match when Wilson of Penn defeated Parke of Penn State in a contest for third place. Roberts and Hanson of the Varsity won the championship of their classes, and most of the rest of the team came through with points for the winning total.



Jahn Wigsten Freer Hall Burr O'Connell
 Ayau Roberts Wright Hanson MacWilliam

INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS

1923 Wrestling Team

WALTER DAVID WRIGHT, JR., '24	Captain
RAYMOND FREDERICK JAHN, '23	Manager
CLINTON MONTGOMERY VERNON, '24	Assistant Manager
WALTER C. O'CONNELL	Coach

TEAM

Featherweight Class—115 pounds
 CHARLES MILTON MACWILLIAM, JR., '24
 HOYT SAMUEL ACKLES, '23
Special Weight Class—125 pounds
 HENRY ALLISON ROBERTS, '23
 JAMES ELWOOD DAVIS, '24
Lightweight Class—135 pounds
 RAPHAEL AYAU, '24
 WILLIAM JOHN WIGSTEN, '23

Welterweight Class—145 pounds
 EDWARD FLEMMON HALL, JR., '24
 LOUIS SOLOVAY, '24
Middleweight Class—158 pounds
 CHARLES ROBERT BURR, '24
 GEORGE HOYT FREER, '23
Light Heavyweight Class—175 pounds
 LEONARD CHRISTOPHER HANSON, '23
Heavyweight Class—over 175 pounds
 WALTER DAVID WRIGHT, JR., '24

RECORD—DUAL MEETS

Date	Score	Place
February 8 Cornell 35	Syracuse 0	Ithaca
February 17 Cornell 28	R. P. I. 0	Ithaca
February 23 Cornell 24	Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute 0	Brooklyn
February 24 Cornell 13	Columbia 11	New York
March 3 Cornell 16	Pennsylvania 6	Philadelphia
March 10 Cornell 12	Penn State 6	Ithaca
March 17 Cornell 13	Navy 11	Ithaca

INTERCOLLEGIATES

Cornell 17; Penn State 16; Yale 13; Lehigh 12; Princeton 4; Pennsylvania 2.