

# Grapplers earn third place national ranking

by Neil Scher

The Oswego Great Laker wrestling team upped their dual meet record to 12-2 with a lop-sided victory over the Clarkson Golden Knights, 38-4 on Tuesday night. The Lakers are now ranked 3rd in the nation. For the Lakers it was the last home dual meet of the year and they finished up the year with a 5-1 home dual meet record, the only loss coming at the hands of the Brockport Golden Eagles.

The evening opened with Tom Barton taking on Brett Cook in a battle of 118 pounders. Cook opened up the scoring with a pretty double leg takedown for the 2-0 lead. Barton (wrestling injured) closed it to 2-1 with an escape but Cook used another double-leg takedown to take a 4-1 lead after period one. In period two Cook made a gorgeous reversal move and went on to win 9-1 despite an all out effort by the gutsy Barton.

At 126 pounds Terry Meila won on a forfeit. Meila was only one of two Laker wrestlers to gain a victory in the Brockport meet.

For the 134 pound division Lou Chartrand completely shutdown Clarkson's Dave Vascianna. Chartrand scored quickly with a takedown. Then with a nearfall and a successful point for riding, Chartrand won it 7-0. As usual a strong, solid, consistent effort for the 134 pounder.

Mike Letcher was pressured early in the season by coach Jim Howard to be a consistent winner. Letcher has proved to be a big-game performer as he has been involved in some of the most exciting, see-saw matches of the year. His opponent was Al Possner who is no pushover in anyone's book. Possner broke the ice with a pair of points on a single leg takedown. Letcher got one back with an escape. A scoreless second period saw a 2-1 Possner advantage heading into the final two minutes of dueling. Letcher picked up a point with an escape to knot things up at two. Then the Great Laker brought the crowd to its feet with a beautiful takedown. Possner got one back with an escape but Letcher got the riding time and the win, 5-3.

One-hundred fifty pound John O'Gorman picked up some team points with a victory by forfeit.

All-American Mark Bowman, second in the conference last year, did a number on Clarksons Chuck Vester. Bowman built a 6-0 first period lead and coasted the rest of the way as he combined an early first period takedown with four backpoints, two each on nearfalls. A third nearfall made it 8-0 and the rest was history as Bowman won it 12-0.

Tom Stanbro was eighth in the NCAA Division III at 177 lbs. However, on Tuesday Stanbro wrestled at 167 pounds and he exhibited his versatility by dumping Todd Reed 10-5. Reed was fourth in the nation at 150 pounds. Stanbro was taken down quickly by Reed and trailed 2-0. Stanbro tied it up with a beautiful reversal and took a 4-2 lead with a nearfall. In period two a Stanbro escape and single leg takedown gave him a 7-2 lead. The third period almost saw Stanbro pin Reed as the 167 pounder used two backpoints and a reversal to wrap things up.

Ted Fleming might not be a familiar name to most but he can wrestle. Paul Fisk could tell you that. Fleming came out like a house of fire building up a 9-2 first period lead. Fleming used a double leg takedown to score 9-2.

two more takedowns to close out the first three minutes. Fleming displayed control throughout. With the score 13-4 and 1:16 remaining on the clock, Fleming put Fisk down and pinned him. For the freshman it was his third win of the season.

Paul Newman has been wrestling at 177 pounds for a good portion of this season. Against Clarkson, Newman went up to 190 and took on Dan Lathorp. The bout was up and down and close-knit. With Newman trailing 5-4 in the third period the senior got riled up and took an 8-7 lead and gained the momentum to pin Lathorp with 1:02 remaining in the third.

Doug Morse wrestled in the heavyweight division on Tuesday against Rich Lust. The Great Laker blue chip was simply awesome as he picked up his ninth pin of the year getting the task done at 1:03 of period one. Morse stands at 18-2 on the year.

Coach Howard elected to give some of the regulars a night off against Clarkson. Pat Wittekind (11-6), John Wilcox (8-2), Jim Capone (10-2), Mark Glickman (10-6-1), and Mark Howard (12-8) got the night off.

On January 29, the Binghamton Colonials invaded Laker Hall for an afternoon affair. The Lakers won it going away 36-12. Wittekind came up with an overpowering victory over Sam Hazleton 18-0. Wittekind had five nearfalls in the match for a total of 13 backpoints.

Mark Howard battled Tom Murphy at 134 pounds. Howard picked up two points with a takedown. The match remained that way until period three when Howard unleashed for eight points to win it 10-4.

Next up on the mat at 142 pounds was Letcher. Little did he know this would be the most thrilling match of the afternoon. Letcher trailed 5-2 after period one. The Great Laker tied it at five with an escape and a takedown in period two. Then his opponent Gary Bochner escaped in period three to take a 6-5 lead. But with one second remaining, Letcher got his man by rolling on top for the victory. A simply outstanding performance.

At 158 pounds, Bowman had no trouble as he trampled on John Bullis 11-3. Stanbro and Newman were winners by forfeit picking up 12 team points. Morse wasted no time in pinning Rich Disciullo at 190 pounds turning the trick with 45 seconds remaining in the first period. Glickman wrestled his heart out but lost a tough one 6-5 to Joe Mackin.

On January 26 the number two team in the nation (Brockport) took on the third ranked Lakers. The Lakers had the advantage being that the match was home as compared to last years which took place up in Brockport. But much to the disappointment of all, the Golden Eagles came away with the win 32-9. The only two winners for the Lakers were Terry Meila at 118 pounds knocking off Ed Morales 6-4 and Morse at 190 pounds pinning Ralph DeSantis 40 seconds into the second period.

January 21-22 marked the start of the 14th annual New York State Intercollegiate wrestling championship to held at RIT. The Lakers finished sixth overall as a total of 17 teams competed. Highlights for the Lakers included Howard at 136 pounds. With his 7-0 victory over Binghamton's John Egitto, Howard clinched third place overall. Tom Stanbro wrestled tough as he finished third overall in the 169 pound division by winning five matches. At 177 pounds, Newman finished fourth place overall as he defeated Cornell's Bob Wirth who was seeded fifth in the weight class. Newman then dropped a tough one to the number one seed Tony Connetta of Brockport. However, despite that defeat, Newman still finished in the top four.

January 15 saw Oneonta and Kings shuffle

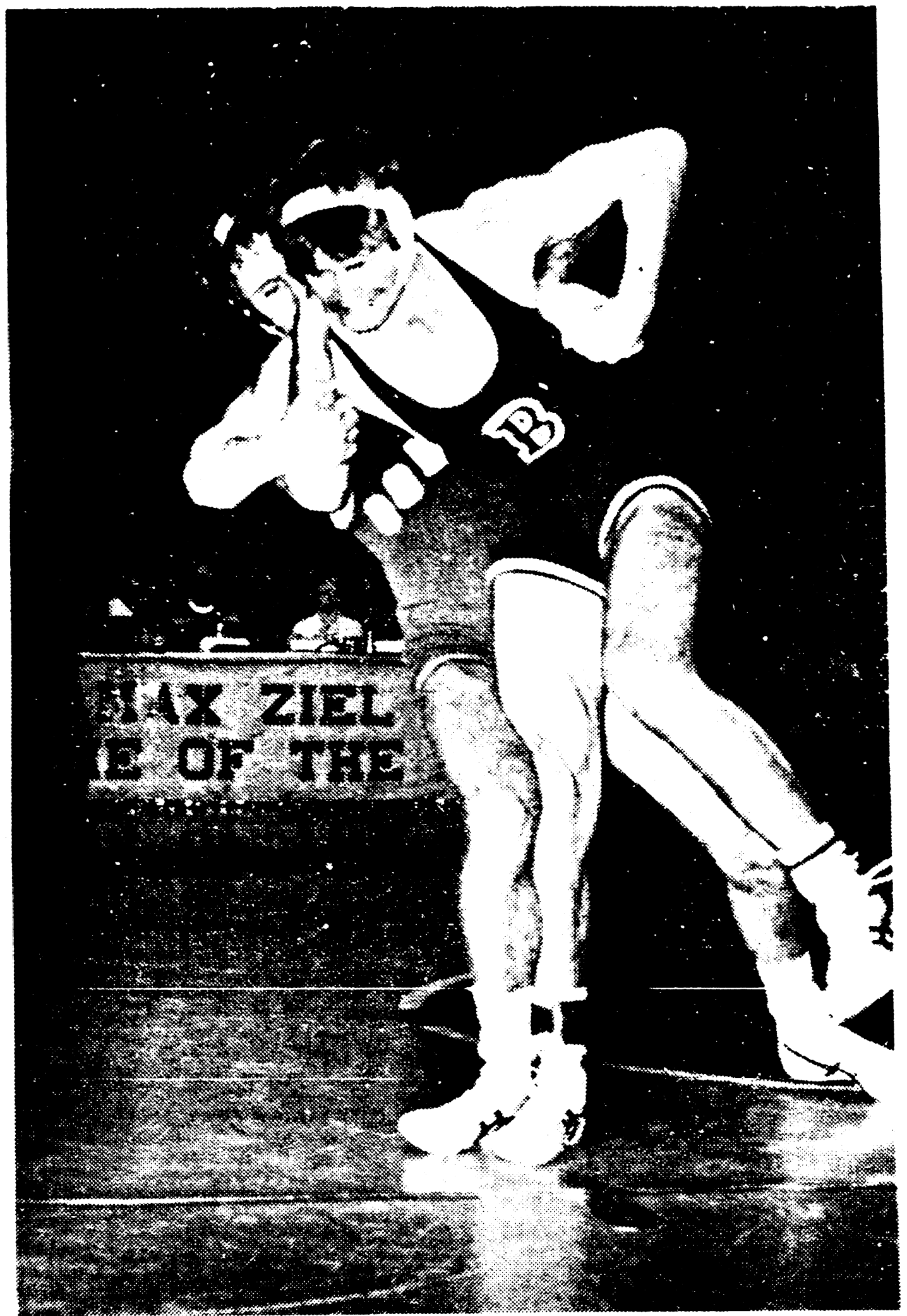


photo by Bill Butcher

COMPETITION WAS tough in the wrestlers 32-9 loss to number two ranked Brockport. The Lakers did come back against Binghamton, 36-12 and proceeded to whip Clarkson 38-4 to earn them a number three spot on the Division III national poll.

swamped Kings College 46-6 and romped the Red Dragons of Oneonta 32-11. Against Kings College winners included Chartrand, John Wilcox, and Letcher who pinned his opponent 39 seconds into the match. Leo Kellet, getting a shot a 150 pounds, shut out Tom Gunther 8-0. Jim Capone pinned Mike Sasso and Stanbro along with Newman and Glickman were also victors.

Against Oneonta Wittekind, Wilcox, Letcher, Capone, and Stanbro all came out on top. Newman used every move in the book to pick up 29 points and bury Howie Goldberg 29-6. Morse had another outstanding effort in pinning Harry Higgins at 2:27 to close things out for the Lakers.

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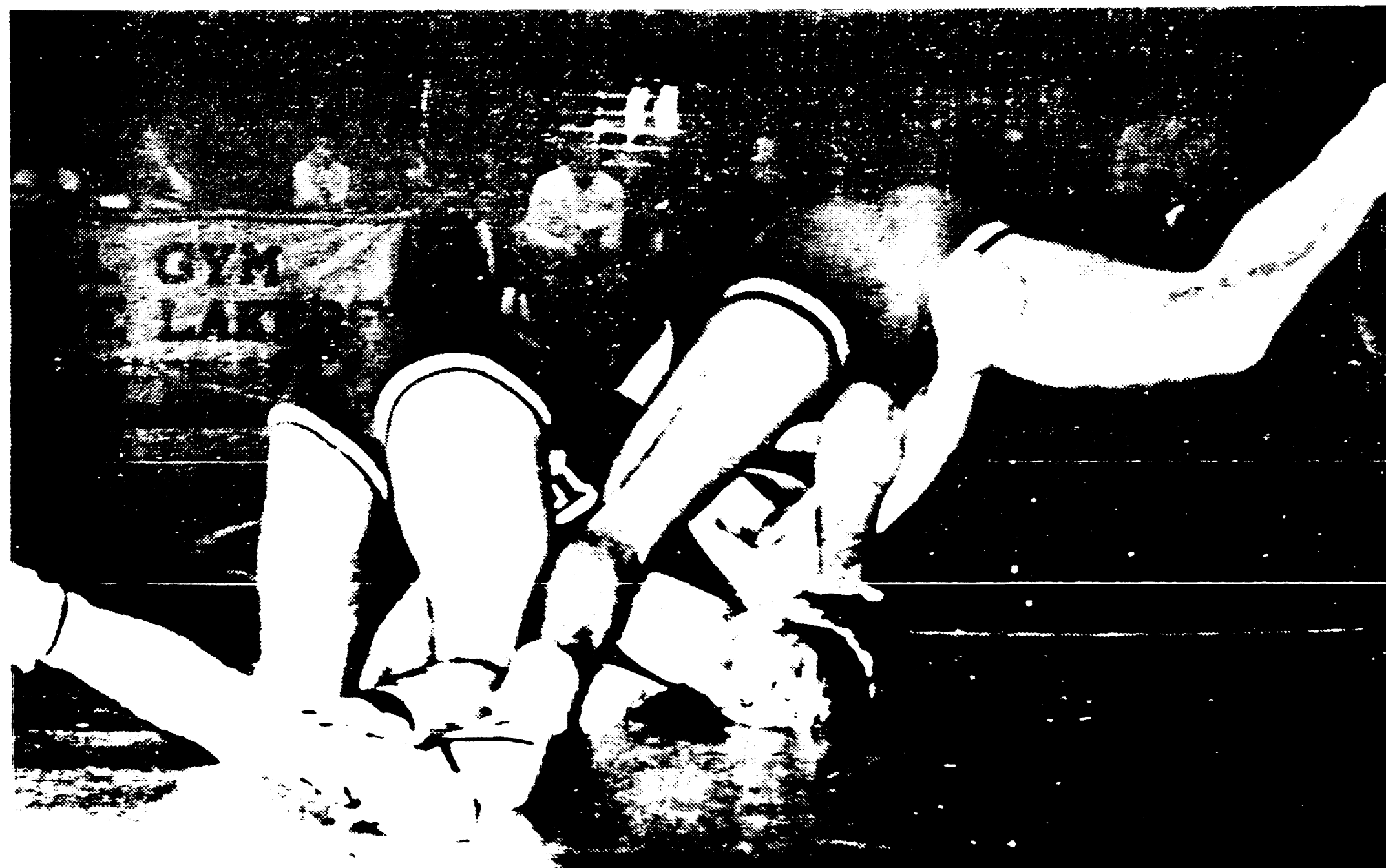
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## MRA Schedule

**Bowling Entry Extended:**  
Anyone still interested in entering a bowling team can do so by securing an entry form in room 211, Laker Hall. Entries are now due on February 11, by 4 pm. No \$5.00 fee is required. Games will begin on Feb. 14, in Hewitt Union. The cost is .75 per game and shoes are just .30.

**Swimming Meet:**  
All entries are due in room 211 by 4 pm Friday, Feb. 11. The meet will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Entry forms can be picked up in MR Brennan's office, Laker Hall.

**MRA Extends Hand:**  
"We were all very sorry about the recent fire that destroyed the DKK House," said Coach Brennan. "If MRA can be of any help, please call upon us for maybe a benefit basketball game between the DKK Alumni and the present DKK team."



The SUNAC Finals will be here February 11 and 12

photo by Bill Butcher