

Wrestling

Eastern Intercollegiate Champs

Three years of coaching effort hit the jackpot for Joe McDaniel when his 1949 Syracuse University wrestlers captured their first Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association title.

Coming to Syracuse in 1946 when Hill wrestling had been dormant for several wartime years following the death of the beloved varsity coach, William Davison, McDaniel took just three seasons to bring the Orange its first title since entering the tourney in 1925.

After completing the regular season with a commendable record of five wins, two losses, and one tie, McDaniel chose an eight-man squad to represent Piety Hill in the Easterns. Syracuse was one of five teams entered in the sixteen team tourney that was favored to seize the title. Other top contenders were the defending champs, Lehigh, runners-up Franklin and Marshall, Navy, and Penn State.

Leading the Orange matmen in their bid for sectional honors was the "Murderers' Row" trio of Kenny Hunte, Pascal Perri, and Captain George Gebhardt. All three grapplers finished the season unbeaten in their class. Right behind them was the very capable duo of Jim Fogarty and Joe Settanni, who were only defeated once during the year. Completing the squad was heavyweight Lee Cohen, welterweight Howie Tice and 128-pounder Bob Valle.



Above—Captain George Gebhardt, 175-pound Eastern champ.



Wrestling Team
McDaniel (coach), Gunther, Gebhardt, Perri, Hunte, Tice, Settanni, Valle, Fogarty.

When the smoke had cleared after the first day of action, Hunte, Perri, Gebhardt, Fogarty, and Settanni were still unbeaten. The quintet copped their semi-final matches and moved into the final round, giving Syracuse the largest final round representation of all competing schools.

Fogarty and Settanni lost close decisions to Lehigh's Mike Filipos and Dick Kelsey to give the defending champs a lead. Then the famed "Murderers' Row" moved into action and three Orangemen scored title-winning victories. Hunte and Perri scored one-sided decisions, Pascal to retain his title, and Hunte to win his first. Gebhardt, fighting with an injured leg, unseated Lehigh's defending light-heavyweight champ, Jim Jackson, for the crown and was awarded the Walter O'Connell trophy as outstanding wrestler of the tourney.

Ken Hunte scored all four points to give Syracuse ninth place in the nationals late in March. After Fogarty and Perri had been defeated in their opening matches, Hunte copped an 11-1 win over Hugh Evans of Colorado Mines and beat Pat Sullivan of Michigan State, 4-0, in the quarter finals. He then continued into the finals by trouncing Roger Snook of Cornell of Iowa, 8-1, only to lose 3-0 to Olympic Star Bill Nelson of Iowa State Teachers in the final bout. Oklahoma won the team title.

Syracuse opened the season with a decisive 32-0 whitewashing of Columbia at New York. Settanni, Howie, Tice, Hunte, and Perri, scored pins to pace the team.

In the second start of the season, still on the road, Captain Gebhardt and mates suffered their first loss, a 21-8 trouncing at the hands of 1948's Eastern runners-up, Franklin and Marshall. An injury to Fred Gunther which forced McDaniel to insert Zell McClure into

The biggest little man on campus, wrestling coach Joe McDaniel.



Gebhardt at work in the Penn State meet.



the lineup at 155 pounds, forced a change which moved Hunte, Perri, and Gebhardt up one notch. Settanni was awarded a draw and Hunte and Perri won on decisions for Syracuse's eight points. Gebhardt, wrestling out of his class in the heavyweight division, suffered his only defeat of the year.

A rebounding 34-0 win over Alfred ushered in the second semester of school. Tice, Perri, and Gunther scored one-sided decisions, while the other five grapplers won on pins.

Win number three came with a 16-13 dumping of Penn State. Fogarty drew, while Tice, Perri and Gebhardt took decisions. Hunte scored his third fall in four matches.

Cornell, early season conqueror of defending champion Lehigh, drew a packed house into the confines of Archbold gymnasium. With the terrific trio paving the way, Syracuse downed the Big Red grapplers 19-9. Hunte and Perri won on quick falls, and Fogarty, Settanni and Gebhardt scored via decisions.

Coach McDaniel and squad traveled to Hanover, New Hampshire, seeking their next victim in Dartmouth. The Indians were easy meat, bowing to their proud visitors, 36-0. The slaughter featured six pins by Syracuse along with decisions awarded Fogarty and Gunther.

The "big" match of the season came at home against Lehigh, Eastern title holders. As part of the move to

gain Hill interest in Syracuse wrestling, the meet was the opening attraction on a novel twin bill at the Coliseum which featured the basketball team in action against Penn State.

Over 4,000 fans came and the wrestlers stole the show even though they were edged out, 15-13. Hunte, Perri, and Gebhardt came through in usual fashion with decisions; Fogarty and Settanni were awarded draws, but the Orange didn't have enough to top the Bethlehem Engineers.

Only tie and most surprising event of the year came in the season's finale against the Red Dragons of Cortland State. With three regulars on the sidelines, the Orange was held to a 14-14 deadlock with the Cortland team.

Valle, Settanni, and Gunther were left behind for the meet with the teachers. Hunte and Perri scored decisions, and Gebhardt closed the regular season with a pin, but Cortland, fighting on its home grounds, squeezed through to a tie.



Top—Perri, two-time Eastern champ, uses a cross face hold. Right—Settanni gets the word from the ref. Far right—Ken Hunte, Eastern middleweight champion.



THE SEASON'S RECORD

Syracuse	32	Columbia	0
Syracuse	8	Franklin, Marshall	21
Syracuse	34	Alfred	0
Syracuse	16	Penn State	13
Syracuse	19	Cornell	9
Syracuse	36	Dartmouth	0
Syracuse	13	Lehigh	15
Syracuse	14	Cortland	14

1949 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Champions Ninth in National Ranking

Individual Champions:

Ken Hunte—155 pounds

Pascal Perri—165 pounds

George Gebhardt—175 pounds

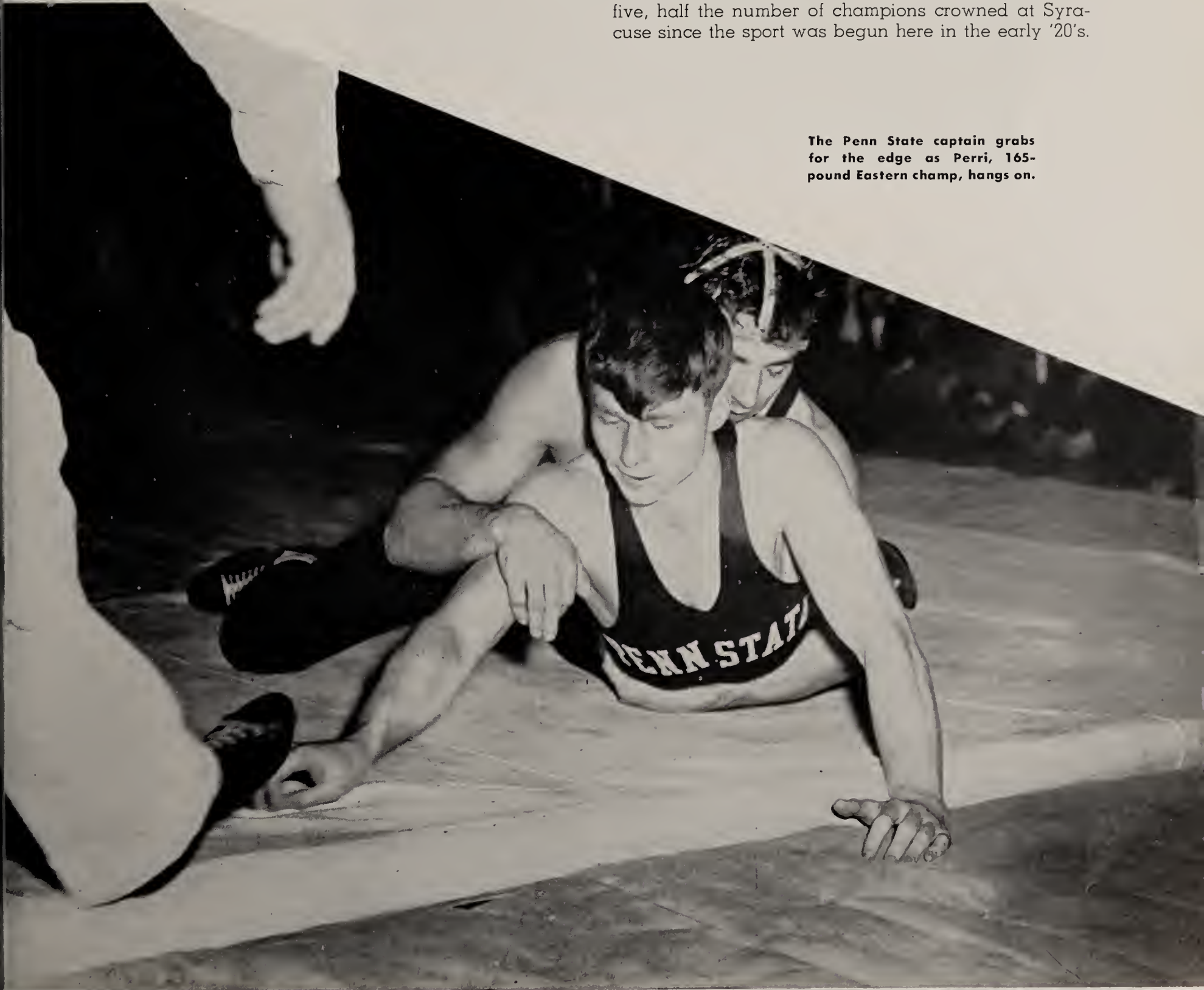
In every meet, the "Murderers' Row" trio was unstoppable. When fighting in their own classes they were unbeaten, and only one member suffered a loss when they moved out of their own division. Their skill, as mentioned before, continued right into the championships, where they won three crowns and brought the first Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association trophy back to the trophy room of Archbold Gymnasium.

In the matter of total victories and points, unbeaten Hunte and Perri had a clean slate of eight wins, but Hunte was ahead with 34 points against 30 for Perri. Right behind this unstoppable duo was Captain George Gebhardt, with 27 tallies. He finished undefeated in his class, but was once beaten when he wrestled in the heavyweight division against F. & M.

For McDaniel it was a highly successful year. In his first season at SU, his team had finished third in the Easterns, and in 1948 had slipped to fifth. Yet each year his club had been a threat to cop the coveted title. Not only was it McDaniel's first title, but it was also the first one for Syracuse which had been fielding a wrestling team for almost 30 years.

Besides bringing the Hill its first wrestling championship, McDaniel raised his individual titleholder list to five, half the number of champions crowned at Syracuse since the sport was begun here in the early '20's.

The Penn State captain grabs for the edge as Perri, 165-pound Eastern champ, hangs on.





Freshman Wrestling
Pickett (coach), Babcock,
Korines, Winer, Hass, La-
vine, Nethersole, Gerbino,
Tschirhart.



Frosh-JV Boxing
Back row—Fullerton,
Smyth, Maggiano, Simon.
Front row—Terziev
(coach), Palmiatto, Moss-
berg, Wason.

Syracuse's freshman wrestlers, under the capable direction of Bob Pickett, former EIWA champion, wound up a great season with an unblemished record of four wins and no losses. Pickett's matmen were the only frosh athletes to finish with an undefeated season.

A limited schedule of five games was drawn up for the yearlings. They were to face Ithaca and Cortland twice, and Cornell once, but the final meet against Cortland was called off.

By virtue of their victories over the three upstate powers, the frosh were able to claim the mythical title of central New York frosh wrestling champs.

The frosh began their season at home by beating the Ithaca wrestlers 24-8. The following week the frosh took on the little Red of Cornell and scored a sensational 30-0 shutout victory. Victory number three came with another shutout victory, a 34-0 triumph over the Cortland Red Dragons.

The frosh matmen ended their season at Ithaca with a 33-5 trouncing of the Bombers. Ithaca's five points came on a default due to an injury to Sherm Babcock, Syracuse's heavyweight representative.

The freshman grapplers collected 121 points to 13 for their opponents over the entire season. Leading the frosh in scoring was Lou Tschirhart with 20 points. Other yearlings to score were Bob Gerbino with 18 points, Lee Nethersole, Harry Korines and Murray Winer with 16, Jim LaVine, John Sherman, and John Haas with 11, Sherm Babcock with 10, and Bill Agee with 5. Outstanding for the yearlings was Winer, who was unscored upon all season.

Wrestling

Although suffering defeat at the hands of the Army plebes in their only bout of the year, the Syracuse frosh boxing squad showed promise of producing fine future varsity material.

The team started off at Army with a handicap of two forfeits due to injuries, yielding to the West Pointers in the 130- and 155-pound classes, dropping their only meet by a score of 5½-2½. Jay Wason and Norm Fullerton of the Jay-Vee squad substituted for the injured frosh to fill out the afternoon's card.

Ben Dolphin at 145 and heavyweight Angelo Maggiano accounted for the two wins, and Jack Mahar received a draw. Wason and Fullerton both won their fill-in bouts.

A combination freshman and Jay-Vee squad was assembled to meet Penn State in a preliminary to the varsity encounter here. Syracuse lost 5-3. For the second time, the junior matmen forfeited a match, this time in the 135-pound class. Winners for the team were Norm Fullerton and heavyweight Lee Simon. Jim Palmiotto and Jay Wason drew.

In a preliminary exhibition watch before the Virginia meet the Tangerine sluggers overwhelmed the Syracuse YMCA team 3-1. Ben Dolphin won with a technical knockout of his opponent in the third round and Smith won by decision in the 155-pound class. It was Jack Mahar who provided the outstanding feature of the night. After two rough rounds of hard counterpunching, Mahar outslugged his man in a Pier 6 battle.

Although the yearlings and Jay-Vees were unable to show an impressive record on such a limited schedule, they did produce quite a number of outstanding boxers. Leading the list of "comers" are Fullerton, Palmiotto and Dolphin.

Boxing
