

Mephram Back, Captures Title

Laden with trophies and numerous medals, Mephram High School's wrestling team is back in Bellmore today with seven individual New York State championships in addition to the team title.

Thus, another unbeaten season has come to an end enabling the Bellmore warriors to stretch their streak to 31 over a two-year period. Of the nine grapplers who saw action for Mephram in the tournament, only Jerry Ligouri and Joe Kennedy failed to win a title.

The final score, which resulted in 36 points being scored for Mephram was a rout, and enabled the Long Islanders to gain lone possession of the crown, which was held jointly by Mephram and the Ithaca L. M. C. A. team last year.

Watertown provided Mephram with its sternest opposition, placing 10 grapplers in the semi-finals, but they were quickly eliminated once the Mephram powerhouse squad began operating.

Second in the scoring was Watertown with 14 points. Van Hornesville was third with 11 points, while Edwards trailed with nine and Altoona and Alexandria Bay tied with seven points. In all, 10 schools participated in the tournament, which was held at Watertown, N. Y.

Mephram's claim to the Eastern title was furthered when Teaneck, a team which it easily trimmed earlier in the year, captured the New Jersey State championship over the weekend.

Five of the Mephram individual state titles were won via the decision route, while the other two were captured by falls. The decisions were obtained by Mario Pittelli, 110 pounds; Frank Muscara, 125 pounds; Dick Bensen, 165 pounds; and Pete Krutch, 185 pounds.

Fall victors were Don Moore in the 115-pound class and Lou Schneider in the 155-pound division. Ligouri was pinned in the 145-pound final by Everett Trudeau of Altoona, while Kennedy accepted the same fate in his 135-pound final bout at the hands of Harold Rice of Edwards.

Bill Gray, Mephram's 95-pounder, went along on the trip but failed to compete, since he was overweight. However, fortunately his presence was not needed to insure a victory. That division was won by Arthur Fran of Alexandria Bay, who defeated Kelsey of Edwards.

The squad, together with Coach Sprig Gardner, returned home early last night and was tendered an ovation by parents, friends and well-wishers of the team at the school. The trip was made in automobiles.