

# School Slants . . .



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## Edison Matmen Continue Championship Habit in City Competition

By MORRIE KURLANSKY

**B**ASKETBALL may be the talk of the town, but to a group at Edison Tech wrestling is the major attraction.

Ever since the early 20s, when the grappling sport was added to interscholastic competition, Edison has dominated the field. Over a 16-year span, Tech only has lost one championship and this was to Robert (Pete) McKay's squad from East High back in the 1923-24 season.

Hobart Hoff started Edison off on its string of titles back in 1921-22. He guided the Inventors to 10 out of 11 banner years before the sport was discontinued after one meet in 1932-33.



**BILLY BENZ**

. . . guides mat tidists

Wrestling was shelved until 1942 when, at the instigation of Edison's Johnny MacNab, the sport was reinstated on the scholastic calendar.

MacNab, who starred at West High and Syracuse University, immediately picked up the baton and won three straight city tournaments. Last year saw the return of dual competition and MacNab's club annexed the crown with eight straight triumphs.

Billy Benz, back from service with the Navy, took over the coaching job last fall and last week closed the league campaign with his matmen romping off with another trophy with an undefeated mark in eight starts.

The present edition of Edison's title aggregation boasts four unbeaten performers in Ed Goodberlet, Red Thomann, Joe Piccirilli and Gene Phillips. Right on the heels of this foursome come Tom Thompson, Gene Bour, John Houseman, Tom Fitzmaurice, Bob Rutan, Bob Peper, Tom Eagan, Frank Reitano, Ed Blair, Walt Wettach and Pat Cashetta.

In eight matches, Edison accumulated 234 points to its opponents' 68 while beating West, Marshall, Monroe, Madison, Charlotte, Jefferson, East and Franklin.

Benz and MacNab, who still is a member of the Edison physical education department, point out that enthusiasm for the sport and long hours of conditioning have been the big factors in placing wrestling on a high level at the Clifford Avenue school.

Team spirit is exemplified in Houseman who, although a 165-lb. class entry, has entered in several 175-lb. matches to prove his ability. Thompson is the team's scientific grappler, a master at body balance and weight control, who has taken a number of matches from stronger opponents.

Such outstanding wrestlers as Johnny Kress, current civilian physical education director at West Point; Bob Bradbury, physical instructor at Wolcott High School; Jerry DePrez, coach at Charlotte and a member of the fire department; Frank Reddy, Mike Bulavinetz, and Howie Reynolds, to name a few, gained city-wide recognition at Edison Tech.

Benz is likely to see several of his proteges representing Rochester in the first annual sectional tournament next week.

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