

Coe's Hobbs 2nd At NCAA Meet

★ By Steve Allspach

Montclair State's wrestling team, limping at mid-season, got its health back about five weeks before the NCAA Division III championships.

The clean bill of health couldn't have come a better time for the lean and sassy Indians.

With Vince Tundo, Rick Freitas, Dante Caprio and Dom Digioacchino winning individual titles and Mike Blakely finishing second, Montclair ran away with the team title in the third annual Division III championships in Coe's Eby fieldhouse Saturday night.

Larry Sciacchetano's team rang up 143 points to easily outdistance defending champion John Carroll of Cleveland. Carroll finished with 112 $\frac{1}{4}$ points, while Ashland nabbed third (51) and St. Lawrence fourth (44 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Coe's Nick Hobbs, in the 142-pound final for the second straight year, lost a 10-4 decision to Montclair's Freitas and Upper Iowa's Frank Kuennen suffered a 5-1 setback at the hands of Millersville State's lanky Eric Guyll in the 190-pound final.

"He was just too strong and too quick for me," breathed Hobbs afterward. "I just didn't do many things right. My match in the semifinals was very difficult and it drained me physically more than I thought.

"That kid from Montclair (Freitas) is really good though," added the personable Morning Sun native. He finished the year with a 20-3 record.

Kuennen didn't offer any excuses either. The former Army Greco-Roman champ wound up with a 26-3 record. "I tried to switch him several times but I found out too late, I guess, that he was

just too tall. I've never wrestled a guy who could use his legs as well as he could."

Montclair has taken nosedives in the semifinal round of the Division III for the last two years in its quest for a title, but the Indians used the round this time to clinch their first title.

"True," admitted Sciacchetano, "the semifinals have plagued us but we were ready this time. I wouldn't have given us much of a chance at mid-year though."

Fact of the matter was, Blakely, who lost to defending champion Mark Hawald of Carroll at 134, was a junior varsity performer most of the year and Dante Caprio was healthy for only seven matches during the season.

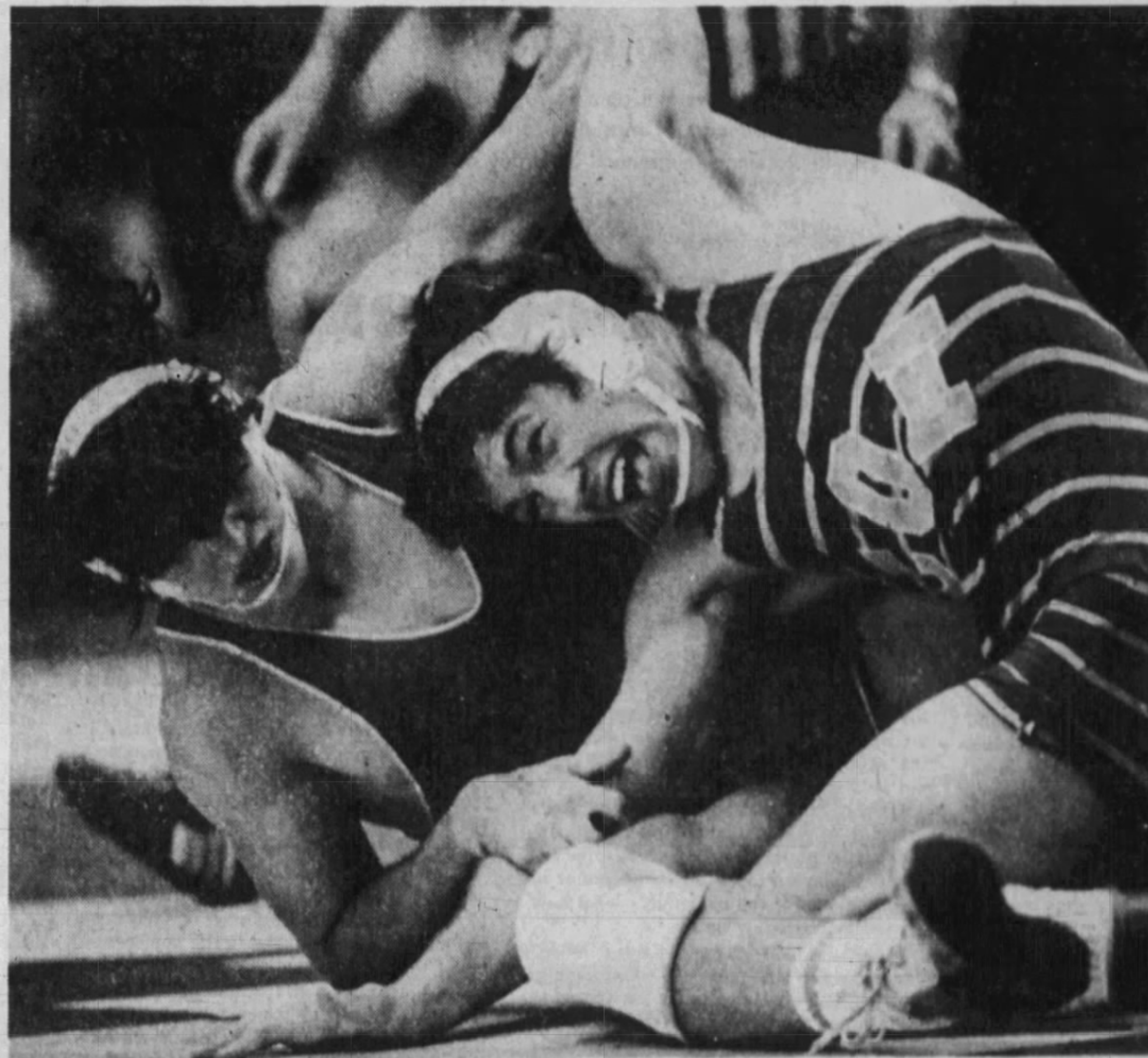
Caprio whipped Clay Barnard 12-3 at 167 and will take a 10-1 record to Tucson for the Division I nationals this weekend. All Division III champs earned tickets to that meet.

Vinco Tundo of Montclair defeated defending champion Craig Helmuth of Gettysburg in the 126-pound final and was named the meet's outstanding wrestler. Andy Zook of Millersville pinned four foes in 13:19 to win that award and Ashland's Chris Ward was named Coach of the Year by his peers.

Only one other defending champion lost. Montclair's freshman whiz Dom Digioacchino handed John Carroll's limping Brad Bowman a 16-8 whipping at 177 pounds.

Luther's Al Grinde finished fourth at 177 after losing to Doug Cope of Delaware Valley 9-4. Teammate Steve Riess, a former Cedar Rapids Jefferson prep, nailed down fifth after edging Joe Collins of Ashland 4-3 at heavyweight.

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Gazette photos by Paul Jensen

Coe's Hobbs Heads for Title Round

Coe's Nick Hobbs (under) began a reversal in this semifinal action Saturday in the NCAA division III wrestling tournament at Coe. Hobbs reached the final round with a 5-4 edge over Alex Massiello of Hiram.

NCAA—

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In another heavyweight tussle, Joe Collins ended the hopes of Coe's Gary Long with a 3-1 overtime decision. Long had nipped Bob Artel of Wabash to remain alive in the wrestlebacks, 2-1. Andrew had pinned Olivet's Dave Firlik in 3:52 before losing to Riess.

Firlik had beaten third-seeded Jim Murray of the Coast Guard Academy in the first round.

Three Gazette area grapplers lost in wrestlebacks at 118 pounds. Luther's Mike Gallagher lost to Scott Puzia of Trenton State, 5-4, while Cornell's Doug Englert dropped a 7-6 decision to Puzia in the next round.

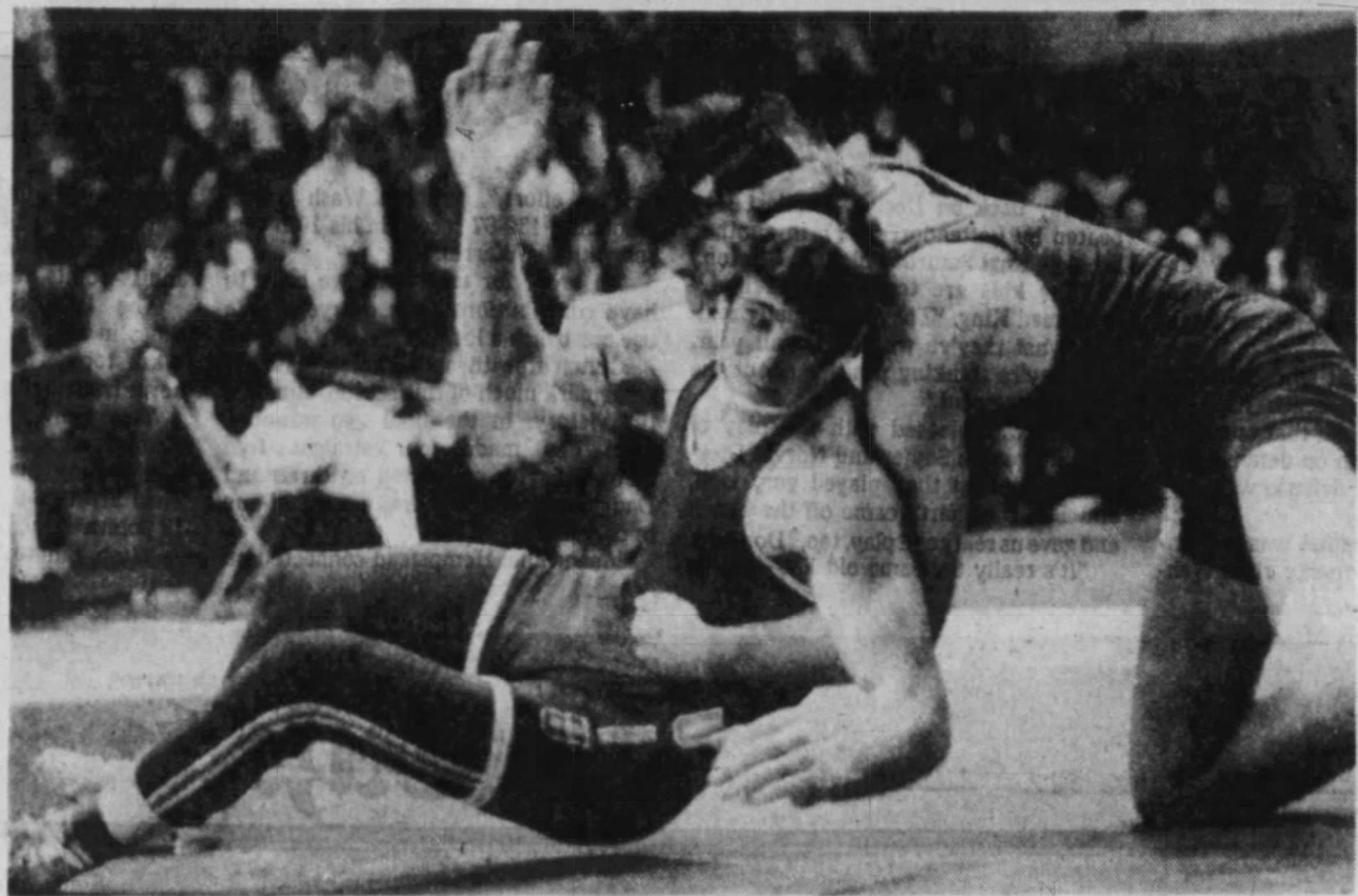
Upper Iowa's Joe Smith took a 6-4 jolt from MacMurray's Mark Tobin.

Mike Harr of Humboldt State in California fashioned an 8-2 overtime triumph in ending activity for Cornell's Jim Hafke at 142 pounds.

Teammate Tony Pfiffner took a 13-3 whipping from Ohio Northern's Doug Burton at 150.

Wartburg's Glen Colton handed Washington & Lee's Jim Crytzer a 7-3 setback in the first wrestleback but lost to Steve Borja of Lycoming in the next round.

Borja then ousted Coe's Jim Bruck from further competition at 158 pounds with a 5-3 decision. Borja continued his extermination of Iowa college wrestlers by eking out a 2-1 overtime win over Simpson's Stewart.



Gazette photo by Paul Jensen

Upper Iowa's Kuennen in Finals

Frank Kuennen of Upper Iowa, shown here attempting to escape, wound up with a 7-1 victory over Leon Dunnam of Massachusetts Maritime in the 190-pound semifinal match at the NCAA division III wrestling tournament Saturday at Coe.



Gazette photo by Paul Jensen

It's Really a BIG Win

Erlande VanLidth de Jeude, 400-pound heavyweight from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave the victory sign Saturday at Coe field-house after pinning Steve McRoberts of Wheaton in 1:39 in a semifinal heavyweight match in the NCAA III wrestling tourney. He is about to be congratulated by coach Wil Chassey.

NCAA Mat Summaries

Team Totals

1. Montclair St. 143; 2. John Carroll 112½; 3. Ashland 51; 4. St. Lawrence 44½; 5. Massachusetts Maritime 39½; 6. Millersville St. 38; 7. Lycoming 36; 8. Potsdam St., Gettysburg 29; 10. Humboldt St. 28½; 11. Coe 24½; 12. Binghamton St. 23¾; 13. Brockport 22½; 14. Luther 22; 14. Upper Iowa 21½; 15. Wheaton 21; 16. MacMurray 20; 17. Trenton St., MIT 18; 19. Hiram 15; 20. Delaware Valley 14; 21. Stanislaus St. 13¾; 22. Maryville 12; 23. Grove City 11½; 24. Olivet 9¾; 25. Wartburg 9½; 26. Cornell 9; 27. Simpson 8¾; 28. Ohio Northern 8½; 29. Thiel 7½; 30. Coast Guard 5; 31. Lake Superior 3½; 32. U.S. Merchant Marine, York 3¼; 34. Kalamazoo, Oswego 3; 36. Col Lutheran, Rhode Island, Elizabethtown, Widener, Loras 2½; 41. Baldwin-Wallace, Oberlin, Monmouth, Millikin, Glassboro St., Alma, Brian 2; 48. Augustana 1¾; 49. Oneonta 1½; 50. RIT, St. Thomas, Wash & Jeff, Mansfield St. 1; 54. Hamline, Wabash ½.

118 Pounds

Semifinals: Jack Mulhall, John Carroll dec. George Kacavas, Montclair St. 14-7; Pete Berti, SUNY-Binghamton dec. Rob Ortenzio, Gettysburg 4-3 of.

3rd place: George Kacavas, Montclair St. dec. Scott Puzia, Trenton St. 7-2.

5th place: Mike Tobin, Mass. Maritime pinned Rob Ortenzio, Gettysburg 3-36.

Final: Mulhall dec. Berti, 14-7.

126 Pounds

Semifinals: Craig Helmuth, Gettysburg, dec. Mike Rossetti, Trenton St. 8-6; Vince Tundo, Montclair St. dec. Andy Zook, Millersville 21-6.

3rd place: Andy Zook, Millersville, pinned Mike Rossetti, Trenton St. 3-18.

5th place: John Ciotoli, SUNY-Cortland, dec. Al Evangelista, John Carroll 2-0.

Final: Tundo dec. Helmuth, 7-1.

134 Pounds

Semifinals: Mark Hawald, John Carroll, pinned Gil Waterman, Wheaton 5-2; Mike Blakely, Montclair St. dec. Gerald Bouchard, SUNY-Potsdam 6-3.

3rd place: Abe Lang, SUNY-Brockport, dec. Mel Harris, Stanislaus St. 4-1 of.

5th place: Gil Waterman, Wheaton, won by default over Gerald Bouchard, SUNY-Potsdam.

Final: Hawald dec. Blakely, 13-7.

142 Pounds

Semifinals: Nick Hobbs, Coe, dec. Alex Massiello, Hiram 5-4; Rick Frietas, Montclair St. pinned Jackson Bittenbender, Kutztown St. 1-56.

3rd place: Hal Shaw, Lycoming, dec. Alex Massiello, Hiram 9-3.

5th place: Jan Bittenbender, Kutztown, dec. Mike Harris, Humboldt St. 4-0.

Final: Frietas dec. Hobbs, 10-4.

150 Pounds

Semifinals: Tony Perazb, SUNY-Potsdam, dec. Roy Whipple, SUNY-Cortland 13-8; Fred Wideman, MacMurray, dec. Greg Digiacchino, Montclair St. 11-7.

3rd place: Greg Digiacchino, Montclair St., dec. Craig Savitsky, Lycoming 6-5.

5th place: Doug Burton, Ohio Northern, dec. Roy Whipple, SUNY-Cortland 3-4.

Final: Peraza dec. Wideman, 12-6.

158 Pounds

Semifinals: Bob Harris, Mass. Maritime pinned Mat Mitch Brown, St. Lawrence 2-51; Jim Weir, John Carroll, dec. Jerome Stewart, Simpson 11-9.

3rd place: Mitch Brown, St. Lawrence, dec. Steve Borja, Lycoming 4-3.

5th place: Jerome Stewart, Simpson, dec. Mike Karges, Humboldt St. 11-5.

Final: Weir dec. Harris, 9-1.

167 Pounds

Semifinals: Clay Barnard, Ashland dec. Kris Henry Humboldt St. 3-1; Dante Caprio, Montclair St., pinned Ken Meditz, John Carroll 5-53.

3rd place: Kevin Meditz, John Carroll, dec. Kris Henry, Humboldt St. 9-3.

5th place: Dave Bauchman, Grove City, dec. Wayne Dunn, Maryville, Tenn. 4-3.

Final: Caprio dec. Barnard, 12-3.

177 Pounds

Semifinals: Brad Bowman, John Carroll, dec. Ron Bates, Olivet 11-9; Dom Digiacchino, Montclair St. pinned Skip Fair, Ashland 2-43.

3rd place: Doug Cope, Delaware Valley, dec. Allen Grinde, Luther 9-4.

5th place: Skip Fair, Ashland, dec. Ron Bates, Olivet 17-3.

Final: Digiacchino dec. Bowman, 16-8.

190 Pounds

Semifinals: Frank Kuennen, Upper Iowa dec. Leon Dunnam, Mass. Maritime 7-1; Eric Guyll, Millersville, dec. Kevin Hinkel, John Carroll 24-4.

3rd place: Ed Hissa, Ashland, dec. Leon Dunnam, Mass. Maritime 12-4 of.

5th place: Kevin Hinkel, John Carroll, pinned Bob Valentine, Maryville 3-20.

Final: Guyll dec. Kuennen, 5-1.

Heavyweight

Semifinals: Ron Pelligra, St. Lawrence, dec. Steve Caldwell, Montclair St. 7-5; Erlend Van Lidh de Jeude, MIT pinned Bob McRoberts, Wheaton 1-39.

3rd place: Steve Caldwell, Montclair St., dec. Steve McRoberts, Wheaton 3-1.

5th place: Steve Riess, Luther, dec. Joe Collins, Ashland 4-3.

Final: Pelligra dec. Van Lidh de Jeude 4-1.