National spots for NC stars

Niagara County Community College's high-powered wrestling team will have four representatives in the national junior college championships this week in Worthington, Minn.

Coach Eric Knuutilaand his quartet of stars leave Tuesday for the nationals, rewards for their spectacular showing in the Region III championships over the weekend.

NCCC wound up third best in the regionals, tied by Alfred Tech at 90 1-4 points. Delhi was the champion with an all-time record 141 1-4 points, far above the old standard of 117. Monroe almost broke the mark as well, with 116 1-4.

Trailing were Mohawk 50 1-2, Jamestown 45 3-4, Cobbleskill 36 3-4, Morrisville 35 3-4, Cayugo 32, 1-2, Corning 27 3-4, Cortland 22 1-4, Herkimer 14 1-2, Broome 1-2.

Marty Flowers won the regional 118 for NCCC. He down drew a bye in his first match, then beat Bill Garrity of Cayuga 14-8, Tom Biel of Delhi 17-3 and Marty Lundmark of Jamestown 6-4 for the title.

Art Pittman took the 167 crown. He pinned Paul Manni of Broome in 2.20; pinned Willie Maloney of Cobbleskill in 4:45, decisioned Guy Lucas 15-3 and then edged Brad Johnson of Alfred 4-3 for the title.

Tom Murty was third in the 150. He trimmed Kurt Tloszay of Mohawk 17-1 and John Lehmann of Morrisville 5-2 before bowing to top-seed Phil Mattera of Delhi 10-8. He was ahead 8-4 in that one. In the wrestle-backs Murty beat Reggie Marks of Cobbleskill 6-3 and pinned Bill Gallow of Cortland at the 55-second mark of an overtime period.

Mike Regent also finished third to become the fourth man to go to the nationals. He competed in the 190 and beat Mark Nelson of Cobbleskill 28-3, then lost to Paul Gibson of Monroe 7-1. Showing his desire to make the nationals, he humbled Joe Benedict of Alfred 17-4 and Mike Anderson of Jamestown 14-0 for the trip clincher.

Vince Schiavitti was impressive with a fourth place finish at 134 and Paul Poeller also was fourth in the heavyweights.

"I was extremely pleased with our finish," Knuutila said, despite a trio of misfortunes that hampered the team's efforts.

For one, NCCC's star 142-pounder Ed Ruffin did not wrestle because of a pulled back muscle and 126-pounder Bob Sluberski was knocked out in the second round by a probable broken wrist.

Then Poeller was unable to reach the finals as his coach anticipated.

However, with third place on the line, Pittman came through. Under pressure he put his man down with only two seconds to go for a 4-3 victory.

With Ruffin and Sluberski in full-time action and had it not been for the fluke defeat by Poeller, NCCC might have finished even higher.