Geneva Captures Auburn's Wrestling Tournament

TWELVE CHAMPIONS IN MAT TOURNAMENT — Geneva High won the Auburn Invitational Wrestling Tournament held yesterday at Auburn Community College gymnasium. Twelve individual champions were also crowned. The champions and their weight classes are, left to right, front row: Peter Achilles, Geneva (95); Stan Urbanski, Edison Tech (103); Bryan Kaiser, West Genesee (112); Larry Plunkett, Rome (120); Robert Cooper, Baldwinsville (127); John Swan, Myaderse Academy (133); back row: Jack Hilbert, Auburn (138); John Green, Rome (145); Dave VanGordon, Geneva (154); Curtis Foulks, Rome (165); Dave Ruetsch, Auburn (180); Bill Pagano, Myaderse Academy (unlimited). VanGordon of Geneva was voted outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

Ruetsch, Hilbert Take Titles; VanGordon Top Matman

Geneva High School captured the team trophy in the Auburn Invitational Wrestling Tournament with a total of 70 points in yesterday's all-day tourney at Auburn Community College gymnasium mats. Auburn High was the defending champion.

In the individual classes—the two defending champions — came through with flying colors. Larry Plunkett retained his 120-pound title while Auburn's undefeated 180 pounder Capt. Dave Ruetsch won three straight matches to keep his crown.

The battle for the team honors was close as six of the eight teams in the tourney were undefeated.

Rome Free Academy, runnerup for the past two years in the Auburn tournament, came in second again with 60 points.

Baldwinsville and a surprisingly strong Mynderse Academy team of Seneca Fall finished in a tie for third and fourth spots with 59 points each. Auburn was fifth with 51. West Genesee of Camillus tallied 40 and Edison Tech of Rochester and Oneida scored 17 points apiece.

The matches started at 10:30 a.m. after the weigh-in and the finals at 8 p.m., witnessed by a large crowd, provided the fans with plenty of action before the 12 champions were crowned.

Rome had the most individual winners with three while Geneva, Auburn and Mynderse had two apiece. Besides defending champion Plunkett in the 120-pound division, RFA had John Green in the 145-pound class and Curtis Foulks copped the 165-pound title.

Jack Hilbert became Auburn's 138-pound champion to join Capt. Ruetsch, 180-pound champ. Peter Achilles won the 95-pound title and Dave VanGordon took the 154 crown for Geneva's two titles.

Mynderse had champions in the 133-pound class with John Swan winning three matches to take the crown and in the unlimited class. Bill Pagano, a hefty grappler, defeated Dave Loveless of Baldwinsville.

Other individual champions were Stan Urbanski of Edison Tech (103); Bryan Kaiser of West Genesee (112), and Robert Cooper of Baldwinsville (127).

Robert B. Hole, president of the Auburn Board of Education presented the trophies to the individual champions. Mr. Hole also presented the team trophy to Coach Joe Morrisette of Geneva.

The trophy for the outstanding wrestler in the tournament was awarded to Dave VanGordon of Geneva. He pinned Bill Brooks of Edison Tech in his first match and then scored an 8-1 decision over Art Cross of Auburn in the semi-finals and threw Joe Vescio of Rome in the finals. VanGordon scored the lone pin of the finals.

Vescio was presented with a trophy for scoring the fastest pin in the semi-finals of the tournament. He threw Aage Hansen of Mynderse in 1:44 to gain the finals.

Auburn, Geneva, Mynderse, Rome, West Genesee and Baldwinsville had unbeaten records coming into the tournament.

Coach Dick Jones' Maroons suffered a couple of tough breaks when Hobie Romig had to default his semifinal match to Joe Rollo of Geneva after being injured. He won his quarter-final match by a 3-0 score over Don Hoffman of Oneida.

Dave Weinstein, who won his opening match by pinning Bill Harp of Oneida in 44 seconds, reinjured his knee and like Romig, had to default his semifinal to Pagano. The latter went on to win the class.

In defending his 180-pound title, Ruetsch, an outstanding guard with the Maroon eleven the past three years, turned in topnotch performances in all his three victories. He decisioned Dave Bellomo of Mynderse 8-2 to successfully defend his crown in the finals.

Hilbert won over Ray Monschein of Edison Tech by a fall and scored victories over Rich Collins of Geneva and PeteNostrant of Baldwinsville to gain his 130-pound trophy.

Auburn had eight wrestlers survive the quarter-finals. Carl Catalano (95), Ron Ross (120), Pete Stephenson (127), Hilbert (138), Art Cross (154), Romig (165), Ruetsch (180) and Weinstein (unlimited) all gained the semifinals. Ruetsch and Hilbert were the only Maroon matmen in the finals.

Following the matches, coaches of the visiting teams congratulated Kurt Beyer, tournament director, on a successful tourney.

Referees were Pete DeBottis of Seneca Falls, Al Emmi and Barney Higgins of Auburn and George Flood of Rome. Jim Cranfield was the announcer.

Besides the championship trophies, the runnerup in each class also received a trophy.

The results:

95—Achilles (Geneva) decisioned Tom Calabro (Mynderse), 3-2.

103—Urbanski (Edison) decisioned Morgan (B-Ville), 4-0.

112—Kaiser (W. Genesee) defeated Litterbrant (B-Ville), 7-1.

120—Plunkett (Rome) defeated Dunham (B-Ville), 4-3.

127—Cooper (B-Ville) decisioned B. Achilles (Geneva), 7-6.

133—Swan (Mynderse) defeated Marks (W. Genesee), 7-1.

138—Hilbert (Auburn) defeated Nostrant (B-Ville), 6-3.

145—Green (RFA) defeated Hatfield (Oneida), 11-3.

154—VanGordon (Geneva) pinned Vescio (RFA). Time: 5:40.

165—Foulks (RFA) defeated Rollo (Geneva), 7-4.

180—Ruetsch (Auburn) beat Bellomo (Mynderse), 8-2.

Unlimited — Pagano (Mynderse) beat Loveless (B-Ville), 4-2.