

4 Penn State Wrestlers Win Tournament Titles

Dave Becker said he read in the newspaper the other day that Dave Hauser of Tampa tied Kentucky's Joe Carr in a dual meet at 167 this season.

Becker wrestled Hauser in the finals of the NCAA Eastern Regional Tournament in Rec Hall Saturday night.

Becker beat Hauser, a former New York schoolboy wrestler, 8-2, to capture the 158-pound title and a trip to the NCAA tourney at Princeton March 13-15.

Becker was one of five Penn State wrestlers to reach the finals. John Fritz of the Lions won at 126, Jerry Villecco went all the way at 167 and Jerry White won the 177-pound crown. Teammate Doug Weaver finished second at 150, losing to George Way of Lock Haven State, 4-1.

"The coaches told me after I won my first match that I could go all the way," Becker said yesterday. "I wasn't seeded so there wasn't any pressure. I think the thing that helped me was the fact that I wasn't taken down in the tournament. During the dual meet season, I think I had 30 takedowns but I was taken down 15 times. That's not too good."

Becker took Hauser down three times and added an escape and 1:59

time advantage. Hauser escaped twice. During the bout, Becker hit the deck pretty hard.

"I took a pretty good jolt," he said. "I kind of had the wind knocked out of me."

In the semifinals Becker beat Tom Cavanaugh of Cleveland State, 6-3, scoring two takedowns and two escapes. Cavanaugh had three escapes.

"My goal was just to place," Becker said, "and get a trip to the nationals. I wasn't as nervous as I thought I'd be."

Fritz drubbed Mark Honess of Slippery Rock for all the marbles, 19-5. Six takedowns (he had 17 in four bouts), two near-falls, one escape and 2:59 riding time gave the senior from Bethlehem his 66th collegiate victory.

"I'm going to miss old Rec Hall," Fritz said yesterday. After the tourney different people came up to me and congratulated me. It made me feel pretty good."

In the semifinals Fritz decided Tom Turnbull of Clarion State, 7-5. He had three takedowns and one escape to Turnbull's one takedown (late) and three escapes.

Fritz said the tourney was just about what he expected with regard to talent.

"It wasn't like the Easterns (last year) when Rande Stottlemeyer and Mike Frick. But it was a tough tournament with a lot of good bouts. You didn't have the noise which usually goes with the Easterns. In a couple of years it should get better."

Fritz, who has been bothered by a forehead injury ever since the North Carolina meet, said his right eye was just about swollen shut yesterday.

Villecco pinned Jim Ledbetter of Illinois State in 4:47 of their title match at 167. Ledbetter, who fought off numerous takedown attempts in the first period, reversed to take a 2-0 lead in the second period. An escape and a hard-earned takedown put Ledbetter on his back. Seconds earlier Ledbetter countered Villecco's takedown attempt and both wrestlers hit the deck. Led-

better had a headlock and Villecco countered with a strength move that resulted in a takedown and the fall followed.

Villecco beat Gene McCune of Cleveland State in the semifinals, 11-1, scoring two takedowns and two near-falls and 5:08 time advantage for 10 of his points.

"The thing I liked about the tourney," said Villecco, "was that we saw some new faces. The tourney was a lot better than I thought it would be."

White beat Dave Gaunt of Indiana State in the afternoon, 5-3, and then shaded Bill Shuffstall of Slippery Rock in the finals, 5-4.

Two takedowns and an escape beat Gaunt, who had three escapes.

In the finals White countered a Granby roll and picked up two near-fall

points in the second period. White had two escapes and 1:09 riding time while Shuffstall registered one takedown in the last period. White also was penalized twice for stalling.

White said he liked the idea of 137 wrestlers from 26 schools. "Different teams and a lot of wrestlers mean different styles."

Way beat Weaver with a first-period takedown, an escape and 3:03 time advantage. In the afternoon Weaver beat Mickey Rzymek of Morehead State, 13-4. Four takedowns, a near-fall, one escape and 1:48 time advantage put Weaver in the finals.

Wayne Packer, Penn State's 118-pounder, lost in the semifinals to Clarion State's Pete Morelli, 3-2. An escape and takedown in the second period gave Morelli a revenge victory.

Packer then came back to beat Marquette's Mike Beining, 5-3, in the consolation semifinals, and Shippensburg State's Glenn Burkett for third, and a trip to the nationals, 5-3.

Lion Denny St. Clair, junior 190-pounder, qualified for the nationals by placing third, marking his first collegiate appearance. He lost to Buffalo's Charlie Wright, the eventual champ, 11-2, in the semifinals. St.

Clair, the darling of the crowd, then came from behind twice to beat second-seeded John Kleban of Cleveland State and Jack Fenstemaker of Indiana State. He pinned Kleban in 2:56 and beat Fenstemaker for third, 7-4.

Brad Benson wound up fourth at unlimited for the Lions, who will resume drills Wednesday. He lost to Chuck Coryea of Clarion in overtime, 1-0. The regulation score was 2-2 as Benson just missed a takedown in the final stages. Benson came back to beat Brian Welsh of Illinois State, 5-2, and then lost to Gerry Anthony of Morehead State, 6-3, in the battle for third. Benson beat Anthony Friday, 4-1. Coryea beat Jim Schuster of Lock Haven for the title, 8-2.

And finally, Denny Sciabica of the Lions placed fifth at 134. He beat Dave Mertz of Shippensburg State, 7-3, and then bowed to Buffalo's Jim Young, 2-1. In his final match Sciabica beat Frank Sorace of Cleveland State, 4-0.

Morelli won by default because Jack Spates of Slippery Rock was hobbled by a knee injury. Other winners were Don Rohn of Clarion at 134 and Gene Costello of Slippery Rock at 142. The four sessions drew a total of 5,400 fans. D. McD.

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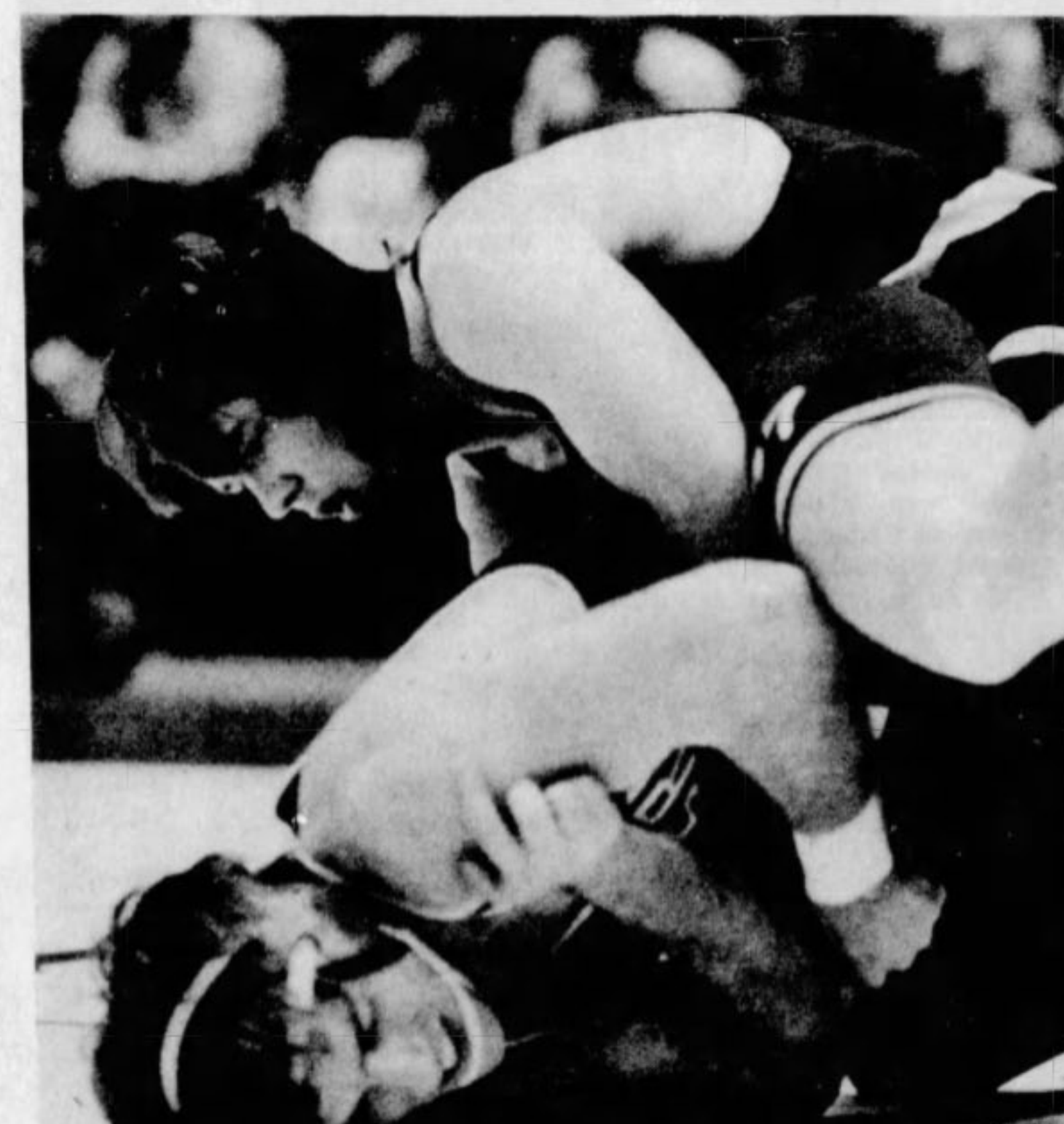
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Dave Becker of Penn State beat Dave Hauser of Tampa to capture the 158-pound title and a trip to the NCAA tourney.



Jerry Villecco of Penn State went all the way to beat Cleveland State's Gene McCune in the 167 bout.



PENN STATE SOPHOMORE Jerry White controls Bill Shuffstall of Slippery Rock State in 177-pound title bout.