

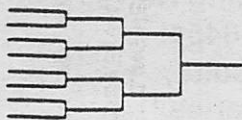
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SUNYAC, and NCAA Division III Champ this past season.

Also outstanding were:

**Junicho Saito**, 114.5, who beat everyone easily, including Issac Ramaswamy, on the way to his title

**Bill Starke**, 125.5, who had two pins and wins of 8-3 and 14-3 in the tournament

**Open Greco MOW: Shawn Sheldon**, 125.5, **Adirondack**

Sheldon either pinned or shut out all opponents, including Bill Starke (7-0), who has won many ESG gold medals.

Also outstanding were:

**Chris Kumrow**, 114.5, who shrugged off a prior loss to Darren Goldstein to score a shocking pin over Goldstein in the finals. Goldstein won both styles last year.

**Dale Oliver**, 163, who went through the tournament with four pins and an injury default.

**Frank Fronhofer**, 136.5, who beat defending champ Fritz Zagorski, and came from a loss to Vin Innes to beat Innes back in the finals.

**Van Fronhofer**, 149.5, who looked great in pinning or easily beating all opponents.

**Jim Hall**, 198, who pinned his way to finals, then shut down veteran Mike Paquette, 9-0.

## Empire State Games Special Awards

as voted upon by the staff of New York Wrestling News

The twelfth annual Empire State Games concluded on August 7th after hundreds of matches, tons of action, and a lot of surprises. As one of the state's four annual statewide wrestling events (the others are the scholastic states in March, the freestyle states in May, and the Greco states in May), it brought together many of the top athletes in New York, scholastic and open, in freestyle and Greco.

Every single match wrestled is reported in this issue of **New York Wrestling News**. Please be sure to also read the summaries following each weight class for details on how the event went. As we did last year, **New York Wrestling News** will attempt to name a "Most Outstanding Wrestler" from each division. We found this extremely hard to do, since every division had several wrestlers who were outstanding. After much agonizing, here is our list of Most Outstanding Wrestlers:

**Scholastic Freestyle MOW: Ken Porter**, 154 pounds, **Western**

Porter, a state champ at 138, pinned his first two opponents, Ian Baird and Mike Rodecker. He then lost 8-5 to John Spiegelman, who he had beaten in the state finals. Next came a pin victory over Brett Lassen. In the semifinals, he beat a very talented Kareeb Howard, 6-3. And to take the gold, he beat back Spiegelman, 6-2. By triumphing over such a talented weight class, we voted him the most outstanding wrestler in the scholastic freestyle division.

Also very outstanding were:

**Joe Yanis**, heavyweight, who had three pins and two victories (6-4 and 13-1) on the way to his title;

**Jason Miller**, who won easily over a rugged

group of 192-pounders;

**David Brewer**, 91 pounds, who pinned four out of four opponents;

**Todd Rutecki**, 98 pounds, who came back from a defeat by pin to win the title;

**Lenny Fries**, 105.5, who pinned three opponents and then scored 45 points in winning three other matches in claiming the title;

**Juan Carlos Garcia**, 123, who overcame perhaps one of the toughest weight classes in winning.

**Scholastic Greco Roman MOW:**

**Eric Katz**, 132, **Adirondack**

Katz scored three falls and two decisions (6-4 and 15-0) in taking his title. His title was punctuated by his 3:30 pin in the finals over Juan Carlos Garcia.

Also outstanding were:

**Jeff Prendergast**, 143, whose closest match was a 7-3 win over David Colgan, last year's gold medalist. All of his other matches were by fall, disqualification, or superior decision.

**Mike Jamison**, 114.5, who shrugged off a 14-10 loss to Marc Duquette to make it back to the finals and beat Duquette 10-9. All other matches were blowouts. Jamison also won the freestyle.

**Kareeb Howard**, 154, who had three pins and a 12-5 win on his way to the title

**Todd Rutecki**, 98, who had four pins and two shutouts (16-0 and 7-0) in breezing to his second gold medal.

**Kevin Brinkworth**, 220, who pinned or tech failed all four opponents.

**Open Freestyle MOW: Mark Kerr**, 220,

Kerr had two pins and decisions of 11-7, 16-0, 15-0, and 8-2. The last win was against Brian Quick, who had beaten Kerr in the Central Region trials. Quick was the NYS,