Mechanics Grapplers Get First Test Under New College Wrestling Rules

Face Mansfield Squad Tomorrow at Civic Center

• • •

RIDING and stalling, the two factors which have made intercollegiate wrestling so unpopular with sport fans, will be elimination this year by two changes in the 1937-38 rules.

The first rule provides that "if no fall has resulted after the expiration of the regular period of wrestling, the referee shall award the bout to the contestant who shows greater mat ability and aggressiveness." The second change cuts the time of wrestling from 10 minutes to nine minutes.

Rochesterians will get their first view of intercollegiate wrestling under the new rules tomorrow night when Mechanics Institute's grapplers meet the Mansfield State Teachers College squad at the Columbus Civic Center. The Institute squad has been drilling for an open style of wrestling to take advantage of the new rules.

In previous seasons it was possible for a college wrestler to clamp his arms around the waist of his opponent, hang on for six minutes and win the meet. According to the old rules, as long as the wrestler had control of his man he was earning "time advantage."

Although the man underneath could be exerting his full strength, it was almost impossible for him to break a "riding" hold. As a result, spectators often would have to sit through an evening watching eight sets of wrestlers lying on the mat.

Under the new ruling, as soon as one wrestler has control of his man he must make an effort to pin him. If he "rides," as was the practice encouraged by last year's rules, his opponent will score advantage points. It will be possible for a wrestler to be on the bottom during the whole match and yet win because of "aggressiveness."

The new rules also will make the sport much more scientific in that the referee in making his decision must "award the bout to the contestant who shows the greater wrestling ability." Strength will still help, but the man who can apply different holds and show the most knowledge of the sport will win.

The second major change in the 1938 rules is that of cutting the time of bouts from 10 to nine minutes and cutting of overtime periods from six to four minutes. This change was made to encourage wrestlers to speed up their efforts in pinning a man. Under the old 10-minute bouts and six-minute overtime periods, wrestlers tended to stall around while trying to wear their opponents down.

The new regulations have already won unanimous approval of coaches throughout the United States.

Murlan S. Corrington, Institute coach who wrestled with the South Dakota School of Mines, said that Western coaches have been asking for the present changes for years.

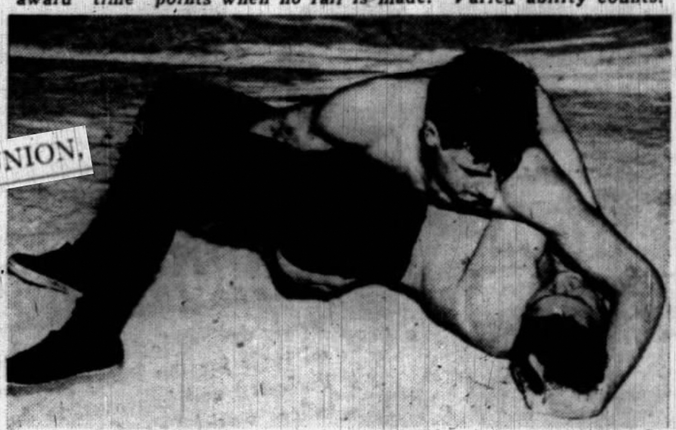
Representing Mechanics against Mansfield tomorrow night will be Fred Druseikus, 199; Jack Johnson, 175; Walter Navik, 165; Bob Kleifgen, 155; Jimmy Castleano, 145; Murray Reinman, 135; Edward Blum, 126, and Jerry Ricci, 118.

Other college teams which the Institute will wrestle this season are University of Buffalo, University of Toronto, and Alfred University.

Here's old "riding" act as illustrated by Mechanics matmen. It gave the top man "time" advantage, but ruined interest. There can't be any riding points under new rules, a step for reviving big turnouts.

Mechanics grapplers here illustrate new "pinning" rule which cuts time limit from 10 to 9 minutes and overtime periods from six to four minutes. This is done to encourage the matman to attempt to pin his man in a hurry, not just wear him down.

The referee! He's the sole judge now. No more time judges to award "time" points when no fall is made. Varied ability counts.



Aggressiveness is very important now. This is to encourage the man with ability and fight and must be considered in the verdict.

Ken O'D[illegible] Lima Inte[illegible] Pittsford

ROCHESTER TIMES-UNION, JAN. 28, 1938

Pittsford—Ken O'Dea will lead the Lima Firemen quint into town tomorrow night. It will be the second straight major test this week for the Pittsford Merchants.

O'Dea and Don McDonald will shoot the works against the Merchants.