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The pre-season wrestling poll conducted by the Amateur Wrestling News ranked Oswego among the top fifty colleges in the United States. However, the Laker Grapplers dropped three tough dual meets to top ranking Penna. teams and dropped out of the top rating. Last Saturday night, Oswego proved that they did deserve that ranking as they completely dominated the State University Wrestling Championships. Oswego placed 10 out of 11 men in the finals and doubled the team score with 127 to Brockport's 12 and Cortland's 60 points. Seven Oswego wrestlers won their final match to tie the record of the 1966 Oswego team which also had seven champs. The nearest contenders, Brockport and Cortland, both put three men in the finals.

Oswego sophomore, Wally Jaskot, won his first State Championship by defeating Potsdam's Tom Brunschmidt 14-0 to get the Lakers off to a good start. Jaskot's 16 out of a possible 17 points made him the high point man of the tournament and definitely one of the more outstanding wrestlers in the tournament. Wally pinned his first three opponents and then did everything but pin his man in the finals.

Oswego's All American, co-captain, John Walter, won his second State Championship in as many years as he pinned Plattsburgh's Walter Martin in 1:34 of the first period. At 130 lbs., co-captain Brian McGann won his second State Championship by beating Cortland's Ken Furnkranz by a dominate 7-0 score. McGann gave Laker fans a scare in the afternoon matches as Doug Clark from Oneonta took him down and had him on his back, early in the first period. Brian battled back and by the end of the match was very much in control of the situation, winning 13-5.

At 137-lbs. Laker Tom DiOrto had the 3,500 wrestling fans again on their feet as he pinned Brockport's highly touted Tom Holmes in 2:34. Sophomore Steve Holburn kept the Oswego momentum going as he squeaked by Cortland's Rom Behe 6-5. Steve kept hammering away at Behe until he finally escaped in the last 30 seconds to give him the close margin of victory.

Grapplers Place 10 of 11 Men in Finals

STATE OSWEGO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1969 UNIVERSITY WRESTLING

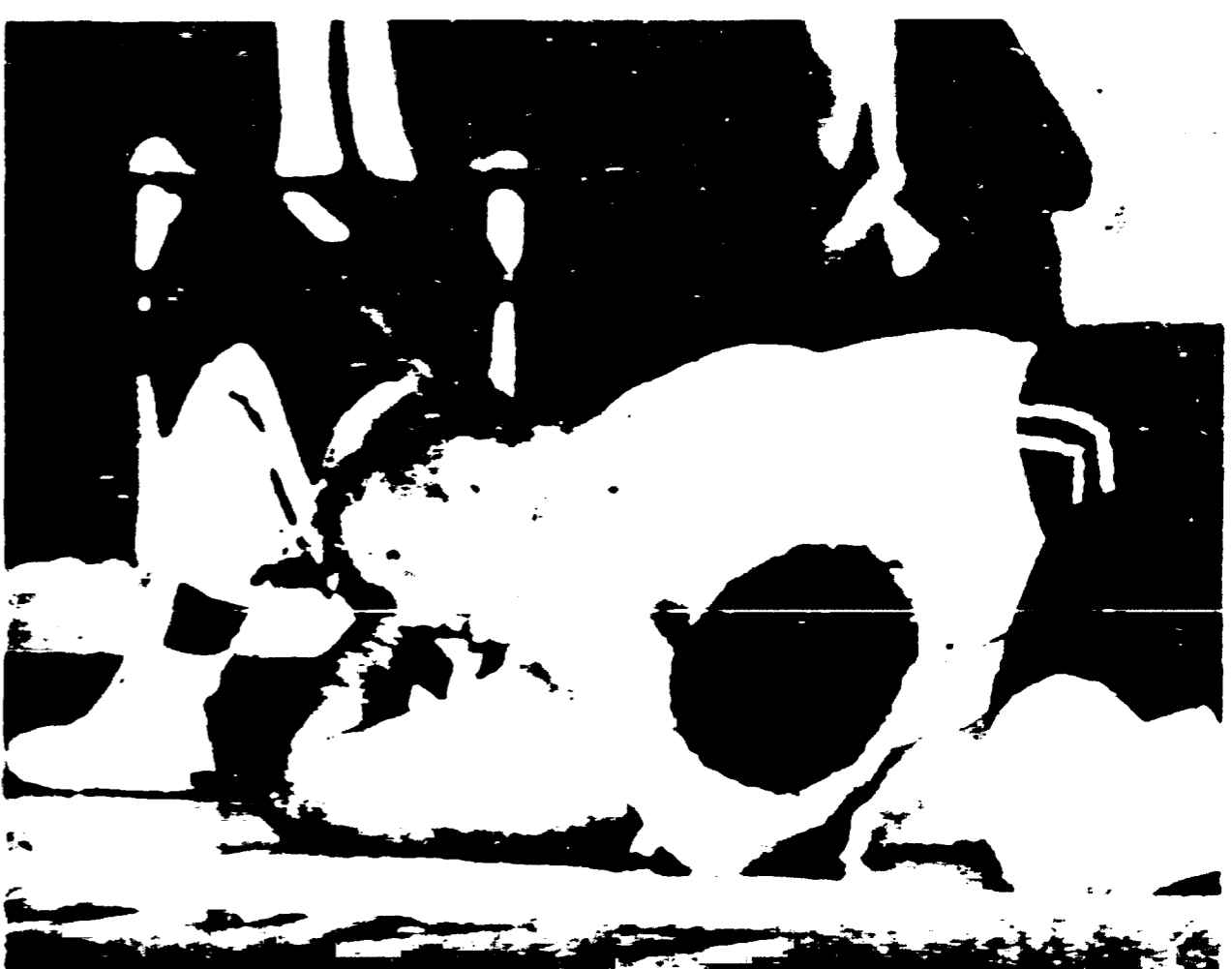
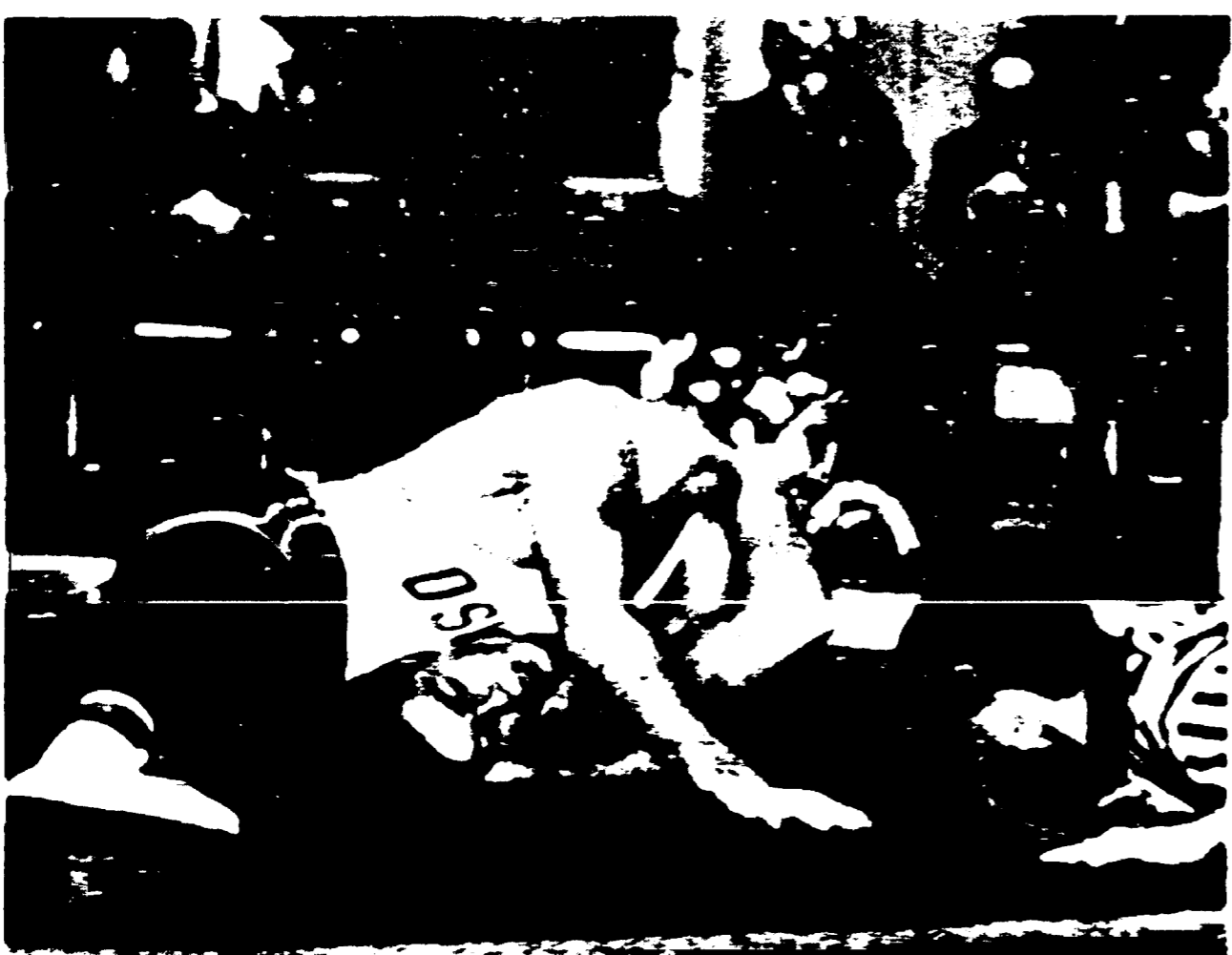
By Ernest LaVigne

In the most thrilling match of the evening, Laker wrestling fans saw Oswego's Tom Fitch defeat Cortland's Dave Sherman by a referee's decision in overtime. The match ended in a 2-2 tie at the end of the regulation time and was tied again at 1-1 after the three one-minute overtimes. The jury of two judges and the referee then voted and Tom Fitch had his first State Championship. The winner in the overtime is determined by his aggressiveness and his attempts at take-downs, escapes and reversals. All three judges voted unanimously for Tom.

Dave VanGordon, at 167 lbs. won Oswego's seventh championship as he completely outclassed Brockport's Bill Brodmerkel 9-0.

Dan Narcisco, Jim Bovee, and Rick Smith took second place honors. Dan lost in the finals 5-0 to Gary Sehr of Oneonta. Sehr won his fourth State Championship by winning the match. Jim Bovee, in a real heart-breaking match, pinned himself in an attempt to pin his opponent, Jerry Hubbard of New Paltz. Jim said later, "I couldn't hear anyone yelling at me and I didn't feel my back on the mat. I was concentrating so much on pinning him." Rick Smith ended his college career in a great effort against Brockport's heavyweight, Regan Beers. Weighing only 187 lbs., Smith lost 7-4 to the Brockport junior who has yet to lose a college match. Oswego's eleventh man, Jim Patka, took fourth in the 160-lb. class.

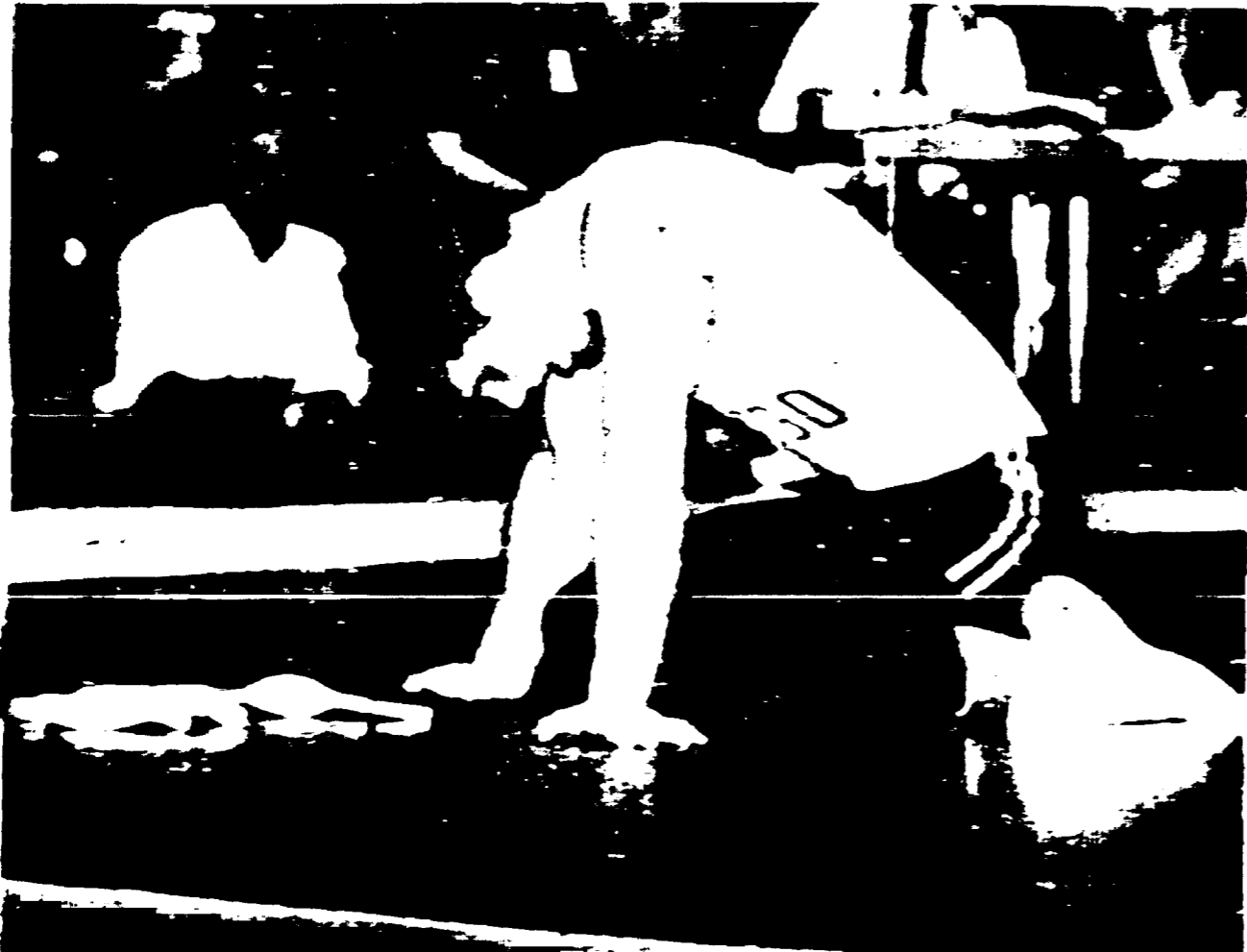
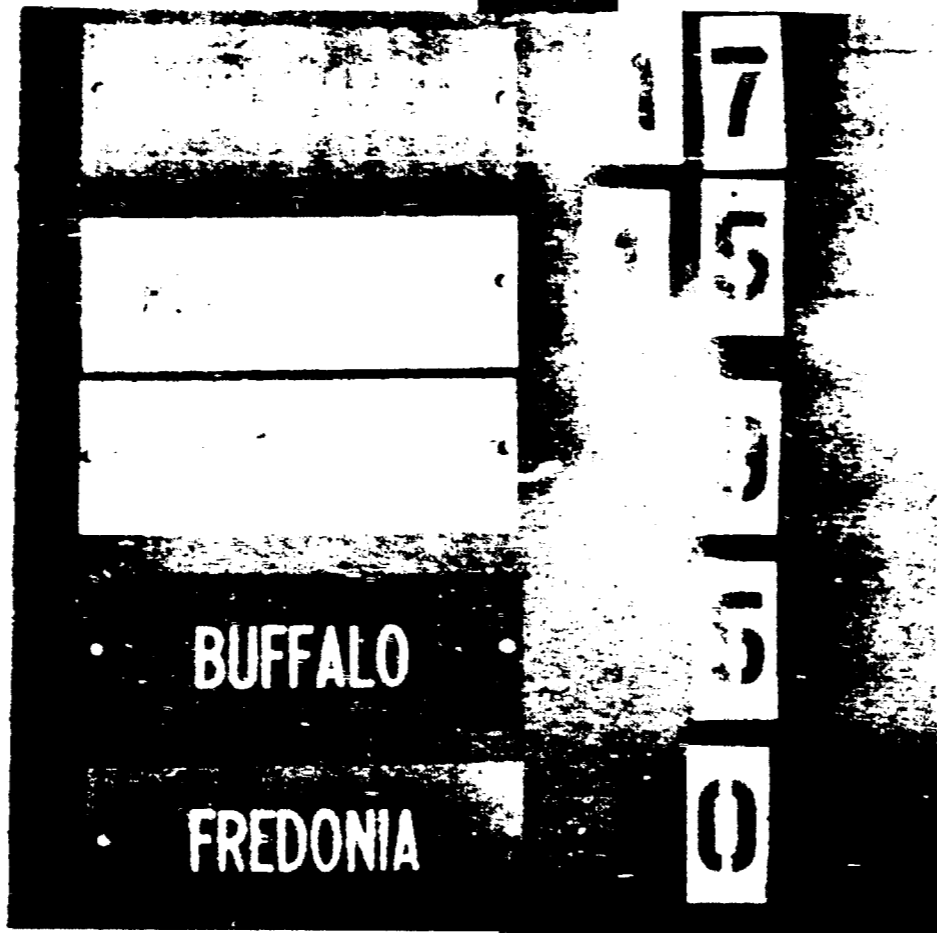
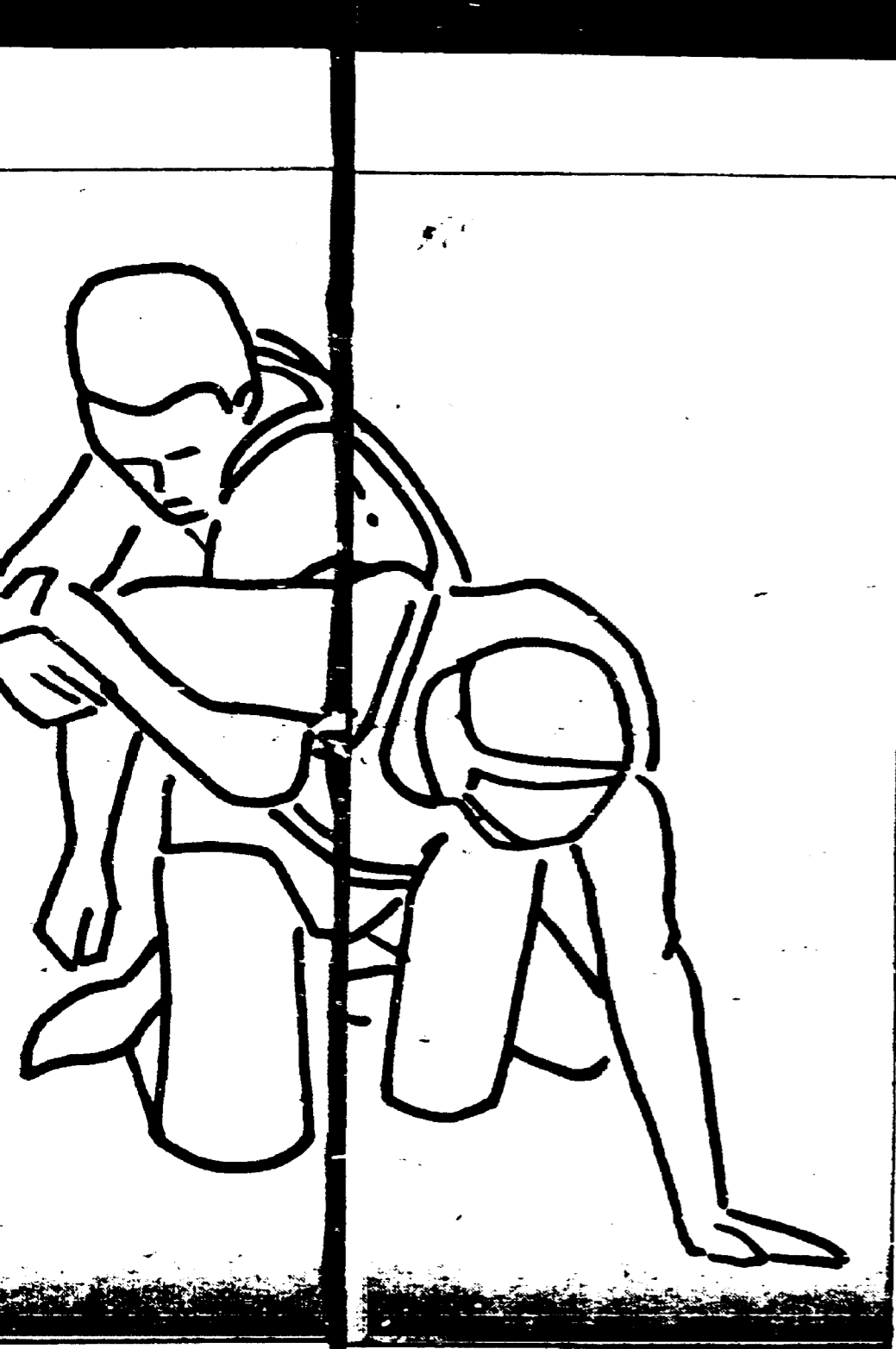
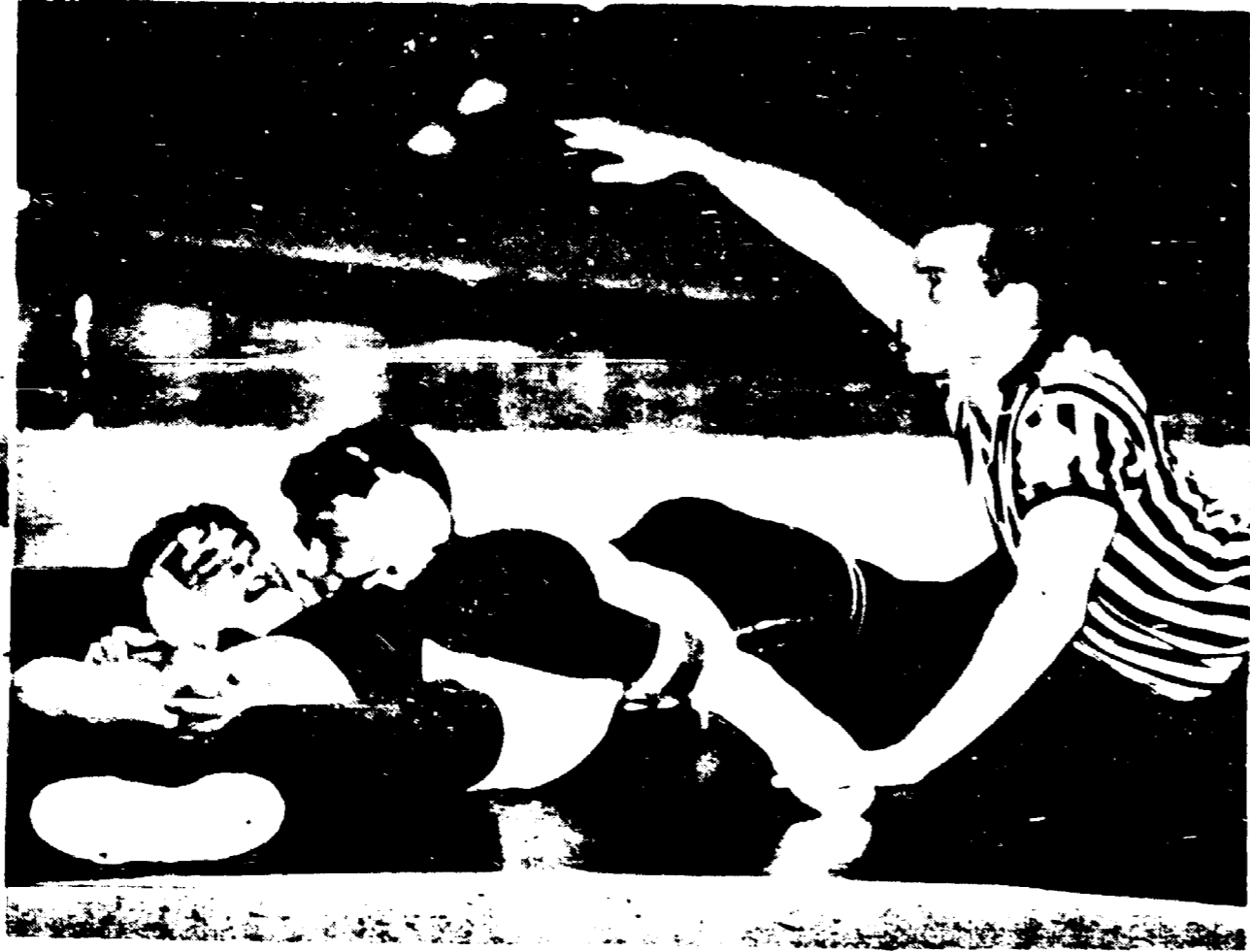
The tournament has a point system for rating teams. Each individual wrestler wins points as he progresses in the tournament. He receives one point for each pin he wins and one point each time he wins, so if he wins by a pin, he receives 2 points. Second place is worth 7 points and first place is worth 10 points, 11 if by a pin. The most any wrestler can win is 17 points. All the points won by all members of a team are added together for team scoring. Oswego won a record 127 points.





	1	2	7
BROCKPORT	6	2	
CORTLAND	5	0	
POTSDAM	5	5	
ONEIDA	3	9	







Wally Jaskot is presented 1st place award by President Perdue after winning at 115 lbs. with 3 pins and a 14-0 decision.



Coach Howard and Co-Captains Walter and McGann posing with President Perdue after having won 1st place team trophy.



Coach Howard contends the "spoils of victory."

Wrestling, like any other sport, has its triumphs and its heartbreaks. Out of the seven first place winners, four-time winner Gary Sehr of Oneonta, Brockport's Tom Dentich, who won at 160, and Regan Beers, and surely Oswego's fine coach, Jim Howard, experienced the triumphs of the day. Coach Bob Hughes, whose Geneseo team won only 9 points, was satisfied because his new team had made a showing in its first State Tournament.

Cortland's 152-lb. Dave Sherman was one of the most disappointed. He went three years undefeated in dual competition with a record of 23-0. Yet, he never won a State title. He lost twice in the finals to Lloyd Jerauld of Oswego, and he lost this year in a referee's decision to Tom Fitch, Brockport's Fred Prentice was carried off the mat on a stretcher as a result of a back injury sustained in his semi-final match against Dan Narcisco. Fortunately, his injury was not serious. The hospital reported he had a badly bruised hip and a pinched nerve. New Paltz had their first State Champion in Jerry Hubbard at 191-lbs.

What is to follow the State Championships has yet to be announced. Coach Howard would like to take five men to the College Division of the nationals. I am often questioned about the NCAA system. Coach Howard explained it to me. There are two NCAA divisions: the university and the college. The athletic director of every school decides in which division his sports program will participate in. Every sport in that school must then participate in that division. Thus, we are in the college division while Lock Haven, which is 2500 students smaller, is in the university division.

The long grind of the season has just about ended. The team distinguished itself last Saturday as the individual members have distinguished themselves throughout the season. Jaskot won the C.W. Post Tournament. Jim Nanos placed fourth behind John Walter at Wilkes-Barre in December. The very dedicated Ralph Pizzo won 3 and lost none, but could not break into a starting position. Oswego should be very proud of its 1968-69 wrestling team.

photo
essay
by
Nancy Gregorovic
AND
Jim Gemza



Teamwork is the key word even at the victory "splash party!"



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