

Pitt Retains EIWA Mat Crown

Lions 2nd; Fornicola Wins Title

By ROY WILLIAMS

When Pitt opened its 1954-55 wrestling season it had a long, uphill climb in front of it. But the defending Eastern champs, who had only two holdovers to help bolster a team that was sliced apart by graduation, capped off its season-long grind by edging the Lions, 51-50, to win the Eastern crown again and come out on top of a 16-team race Saturday night at Rec Hall.

The Panthers entered the finals of the two-day EIWA tourney with 21 points—one marker behind the Lions. Pitt opened its final attack—which eventually scored 30 points compared to the Lions 28 markers—with wins by Bill Hulings and Ed Peery.

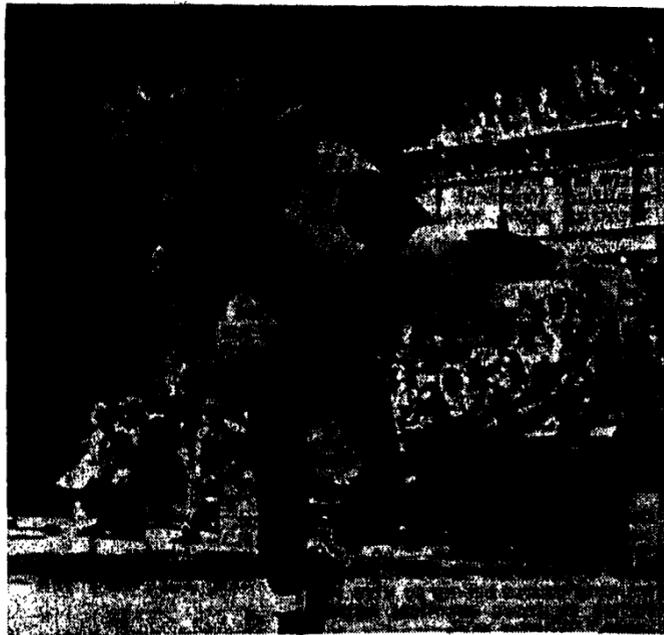
Hulings edged Gene D'Alessandro of Rutgers, 2-1 to win the 123-pound championship; Peery then stepped up and finally managed to clip the Lions' Captain Bob Homan, 2-0, by gaining an escape in the second period and a tally for riding time.

The loss to Pitt, however, was somewhat brightened when Larry Fornicola, second-seeded to Lehigh's Ken Faust who lost in the semi-finals, whipped Bill Simmons of Temple in a hard-fought 1-0 contest which wasn't settled until two overtimes had elapsed.

But that was the end of any more champions for the Lions, although they were still in the race with possible contenders, Ed "Ike" Eichelberger defeated Ed Muse, Brown, with a pin in 5:21; Ed Rooney, Syracuse, defending champ at 157, decisively Army's Dale Ward in the final seconds to retain his title by inches, 9-8.

One of the Navy's two defending champs—Joe Gattuso—decided one of Pitt's four finalists, Ed DeWitt, 6-2 to win the 167-

Down You Go --



SID NODLAND, Penn State's 123-pounder who copped third place in the EIWA tourney Saturday night in the consolation round, is about to crash to the mats at the hands of Pitt's Bill Hulings.

pond title; Pitt rebounded with its third champion, however, when Joe Solomon defeated the Lions' Joe Krufka, 8-4, although Krufka managed to get the initial takedown and led briefly, 2-0.

Navy boosted its point-total by eight more points when Pete Blair, defending heavyweight champ, decisively Werner Seel, Lehigh, 2-0.

The Lions third-place winners were 123-pounder Sid Nodland and heavyweight Bill Oberly; Dave Adams placed fourth in the 147-pound class.

Penn State entered the semi-finals Saturday afternoon with six men, but at the end of the two-and-one-half hour session the compliment was cut to only three although the Nittany squad led with a pre-final point total of 22 points. Fornicola, Homan, and

Krufka won in the semi-finals while Oberly, Nodland, and Adams lost.

Nodland lost a squeaker to Hulings, 2-1 who scored on an escape and time; Nodland's point came when Hulings was called for stalling in the final period; Homan defeated Lehigh's Parker Mangus to gain a final berth, while Fornicola and Fred Futchko battled to a 9-9 deadlock at the end of the regulation nine minutes. Rutgers got the first two points, but Fornicola broke loose with six tallies to finally win, 6-2, and enter the finals Saturday night.

Adams lost to Ed Muse of Brown 8-7 when he lost three points to the clever matmen in both the second and third periods. Krufka pinned Navy's Ed Zabrycki in 4:03, at 177 but in the heavyweight battle Oberly was nicked by Seel of Lehigh, 2-0.



PITT placed three EIWA champions Saturday night at Rec Hall to edge the Lions out of the Eastern mat crown, 51-50. Above are Pitt's Bill Hulings, 123-pound champ, and Ed Peery, 130-pound champ and son of Pitt's coach; Penn State's Larry Fornicola; Ed Eichelberger, Lehigh's 147-pound champ who was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tourney and

awarded a trophy; Ed Rooney, Syracuse, who retained his 157-pound championship; Joe Gattuso, Navy, also was a repeat champ at 167 pounds; Joe Solomon of Pitt moved up to cop the 1955 championship after placing second last year; and Navy's heavyweight, Pete Blair—the third returnee who again notched a championship berth.

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DU to Open Defense Of IM Mat Title Tonight

The annual intramural wrestling tournament, one of the most popular from a spectator's as well as a participants' viewpoint, gets underway at Recreation Hall with the first bout scheduled for 7:30 tonight.

Last year's fraternity champion, Delta Upsilon, will be gunning for its second straight title and is expected to field a strong team. Delta Upsilon wrapped up the crown last year when they edged a strong Chi Phi club in the finals, 103-98. Delta Chi finished third, with Pi Kappa Phi winding up in the fourth position.

Intramural directors Gene Bis-

choff and Dutch Sykes have urged participants to weigh in by 7:45 p.m. each evening or bouts will be forfeited.

Because of an intramural ruling, defending champions must move up one weight in order to compete the following year.

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