

# JOHNSTON NCAA CHAMP

## OU Champs; Lions Fifth

By LOU PRATO  
Beware all 130-pound collegiate wrestlers! Johnny Johnston will return for another year of competition.

This was the cry issued by Penn State wrestling enthusiasts following the Nittany junior's overwhelming victory in the NCAA wrestling tournament Saturday night in Pittsburgh.

As a team, the Lions finished fifth, forty points behind unbeaten Oklahoma University, the champion. But Johnston and John Pepe—runner-up at 137—gave Lion fans something to cheer about.

Johnston became Penn State's sixth National champ, and the fifth in the last six years, when he decisively defeated Michigan's Max Pearson, 7-5, in the final round.

Johnston, who upset the seeding committee who had picked him to finish third, entered the finale on the basis of a 5-2 victory over Oregon's Olympic entry Lee Allen.

And Pepe, wrestling despite a painful knee injury, battled down to the wire with Lehigh's Joe Gratto—who he defeated in the Eastern tourney finals—before losing 9-8 on a 1:29 time advantage.

Pepe, who was top-seeded in his division, gained the final round with a referee's decision over Big Seven champ Ralph Rieks of Iowa.

Dave Adams, the only other Lion wrestler to reach the semifinal round, wasn't around for the tournament finals. Adams was eliminated in the afternoon 3-0 by Iowa State's Ron Gray, who finished second in the 147-pound bracket.

Oklahoma won the team title over its nearest rival, the University of Pittsburgh, although the Panthers had three individual champions to the Sooners' two. Coach Port Robertson's boys garnered more points in the consolation round to win the title.

Pitt's Ed Peery and Oklahoma's "superman" Dan Hodge—voted the most valuable wrestling award for the second straight year—entered their



JOHNNY JOHNSTON virtually stands on his head in an attempt to force Michigan's Max Pearson into a pinning position in the finals of NCAA wrestling tournament Saturday night at Pittsburgh. The Lion 130-pound Eastern Champion went on to beat Pearson and win the National title.



ART WEISS, Clearfield High School wrestling coach, congratulates his former student, Johnny Johnston, after the Lion 130-pounder won the NCAA title Saturday night at Pittsburgh. Johnston was the first Clearfield wrestler to ever win a national title.

names into an elite portion of the record book by winning their third straight NCAA championships. Only 16 other wrestlers have accomplished the feat in 27 years of tournament competition, including Peery's brother Hugh and his dad, Rex. It was a rough tournament for Hodge, the "Homicide Menace" from Oklahoma. Before the tournament, Hodge brought to town a long record of victories, the last 19 by falls, and had had only one point scored against him in his entire collegiate career.

But five points were registered against Hodge, including two by Oregon State's John Dustin. Dustin broke Hodge's fall streak in the semifinals when he "stalled" to an 8-2 loss.

Hodge rebounded in the finals, however, to pin Franklin & Marshall's Ron Flemming at the 7:31 mark to close out his collegiate career in outstanding style.

Tom Alberts, 167, and Ron Schrif, 191, were the other Pittsburgh winners. Alberts, who

had just been reinstated to the Pitt mat team after making up credits he had failed in the fall semester, was the "cinderella" man of the tournament. He wavered through a 30-man field to beat Waynesburg's Ralph Schneider, 8-5, in the windup. Schrif, topped Navy's Tony Stremic, the same man he beat for the Eastern Heavyweight Championship, on a referee's decision.

From an eastern standpoint, it was a great tournament for the eastern schools, despite Oklahoma's victory. Of the 20 finalists, 13 were from the East. Five "easterners" won individual championships.

### First and Second Round Consolation Competition Penn State Only

- 123—Mueller, Minnesota, defeated Noland, 2-0.
  - 147—Holzer, Illinois, defeated Adams, 5-1.
  - 157—Poust defeated Malcom, Mankato, 3-2.
  - Kettelson, Iowa, defeated Poust, 5-2.
- Championship Round
- 115—Dick Delgado, Oklahoma, pinned Bill Hulings, Pitt, 8:11.
  - 123—Ed Peery, Pitt, defeated Harmon Leslie, Oklahoma, referee's decision.
  - 138—Johnny Johnston, Penn State, defeated Max Pearson, Michigan, 7-5.
  - 137—Joe Gratto, Lehigh, defeated John Pepe, Penn State, 9-8.
  - 147—Simon Roberts, Iowa, defeated Ron Gray, Iowa State, 2-0 (overtime).
  - 157—Doug Blubaugh, Oklahoma A&M, defeated Mike Rodriguez, Michigan, 9-3.
  - 167—Tom Alberts, Pitt, defeated Ralph Schneider, Waynesburg, 8-5.
  - 177—Dan Hodge, Oklahoma, pinned Ron Flemming, F&M, 7:31.
  - 191—Ron Schrif, Pitt, defeated Tony Stremic, Navy, referee's decision.
  - Hwt.—Bob Norman, Illinois, defeated Henry Jordan, Virginia, 5-4.

### Barr Posts 11-2 Mark

Homer Barr, former Penn State heavyweight wrestler, now coaches the sport at State College High School. His 1957 edition posted an 11-1 record in dual competition.

## Williams Labels Taft 'A Phony'

SARASOTA, Fla., April 1 (AP)—Baseball star Ted Williams affirmed today that he told a New Orleans editor the late Sen. Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio) was a "phony" and that he had "no use for the Marine Corps" as the result of his recall to service in 1953.

But he denied that he criticized former President Harry Truman or said anything derogatory about the government.

"What I said about the Marines and Taft goes," Williams told The Associated Press in commenting on a story written by Crozet DuPlantier, executive sports editor of the New Orleans States. "And I should add that I had a few words about phony politicians, although I didn't intend to single anyone out in particular.

"But charges against Truman

and the government, that's a damn lie," he added. "If I did say it, I don't remember it. But if I'd said it, I'd remember. I remember everything else."

Asked about DuPlantier's description of Williams' having spat at the name of Taft, the Boston Red Sox slugger said:

"I was spitting all over the place, not necessarily at Taft."

DuPlantier, who interviewed Williams last night at the New Orleans Airport as the Red Sox were leaving after an exhibition game, said in his story that Williams spat at Taft's name because the late senator did not help him get out of Marine service as a flyer during the Korean War.

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## ATO, PhiTau Cop Wins

Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Kappa Tau both won their second straight intramural volleyball games at Recreation Hall Friday night.

ATO scored 15-9, 15-12 victories over Sigma Pi, while Phi Kappa Tau had to go three games before they finally downed Chi Phi, 15-10, 2-15, 15-12.

In the other fraternity game, Phi Kappa Sigma trounced Zeta Beta Tau in two games, 15-1, 15-6.

In independent play, after losing the first game, 15-11, Nittany 36 won the following two, 15-7, 15-7, to defeat Pollock 11.

Nittany 25 defeated Nittany 31 in two games, 15-6, 16-4.

The Ramblers emerged victorious over Nittany 24 in a three-game match. Nittany 24 took the lead, winning the first 15-11, but the Ramblers came back to win the following two, 15-13, 15-8.

The Drunks walloped Stan's Boys without too much trouble, 15-8, 15-13.

The Choppers won their third straight game with a forfeit victory over Dorm 43.

Another forfeit game saw the

Nittany Supporters get the nod over the Nasty 6.

Five of nine teams had to go three games to score wins in intramural volleyball.

(Continued on page seven)

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