

# Johnson Wins 3rd EIWA Title



1958 EIWA CHAMPIONS are (left to right) 123-pound Dave Auble of Cornell, 130-pound Johnny Johnston of Penn State, 137-pound Joe Gratto of Lehigh, 147-pound Dick Santoro of Lehigh, 157-pound Dave Johnson of Pitt, 167-pound Chuck Crosby of Rutgers, 177-pound Pete Davidson of Lehigh and Heavyweight champion Dave Dunlop of Cornell. The EIWA championships were at Pitt.



FLETCHER AWARD WINNER Johnny Johnston accepts the cup from Pitt's Athletic Director, Admiral Tom Hamilton. Johnston won the award by accumulating the highest number of points in the EIWA tournament this weekend at the Pitt Field House.

## Lion Captain Also Cops Fletcher Award; Guccione Places 2nd, Gray Takes 3rd

By LOU PRATO  
"Some people are 'champions and some people are great competitors. But Johnny Johnston's the best."

That's Penn State's dynamic wrestling Coach Charlie Speidel's opinion of the unbeaten Lion captain—and it may very well be the opinion of every wrestling fan who attended the 54th annual Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association tournament at the Pitt Field House Friday and Saturday.

Johnston emerged from the two-day carnival with two of the most coveted awards in collegiate wrestling ranks—a third straight EIWA championship and the John A. Fletcher memorial cup.

The Nittany ace missed a sweep of the top prizes when Lehigh's captain Joe Gratto was named the tourney's outstanding wrestler by a two-vote margin. Most of the 4500 fans at Saturday night's finals felt that Johnston had earned that honor and were quite surprised with the coaches' selection.

However, Johnston's winning of the Fletcher cup was perhaps a greater honor. The award, named after a former two-time Eastern champion from Navy who was killed in the Korean War, is given to the wrestler who accumulates the most points in three years of tournament competition. Johnston recorded 48 out of a possible 51 points in three years, including nine falls in 12 matches. Only in his three championship finals, did the Lion stand out fail to gain a pin.

Gratto, who won his second Eastern crown Saturday, was runner-up for the Fletcher award with 40 points and Pitt's Dave Johnson was third with 39. Johnson also copped his third EIWA championship Saturday.

Penn State had two other place men besides Johnston and both were unheralded by the seeding committee. Sophomore Guy Guccione was beaten by Gratto in the finals of the 137-pound division,

5-3, and George Gray wound up third at 167.

Coach Charlie Speidel's gladiators finished fourth in the team standings with 35 points, losing their team title to powerful Cornell. The Big Red, which won the championship for the first time since 1930, had a 15-point bulge over its nearest rival Lehigh, 64-49. Syracuse was third with 45 points, Pitt fifth with 27 and Rutgers sixth with 22.

Cornell, coached by young Jimmy Miller, won only two individual titles but had three second place finishers and one fourth place man. Dave Auble, the Big Red sophomore who has never been beaten in collegiate competition, won the 123-pound title and Dave Dunlop captured the heavyweight crown by upsetting topseeded Tony Stremic of Navy.

The other individual winners included unbeaten Dick Santoro of Lehigh, 147; Chuck Crosby of Rutgers, 167; and Pete Davidson of Lehigh, 177.

Johnston won his third title at 130 pounds by beating Cornell's Carmon Molino, 4-2. Molino, whose only loss during the regular season was to Johnston, 4-0, at Rec Hall, used everything he could in trying to upset the Lion star, but experience made the difference. Johnston reached the finals when he flattened George Creason of Syracuse in 8:12 of a semi-final bout.

Johnston wrestled a cautious match against Molino, typical of any champion going after his third straight title, but he still

outclassed the Cornell grappler. Johnston scored an early 38 second takedown in the first period, an escape in three seconds of the second frame and 1:38 of riding time advantage for his four points while Molino had an escape in the first and last periods.

Experience also cost Guccione his match with the cocksure Gratto. The Lion yearling, who had "upset" Pitt's Vic DeFelice in the semi-final round, 2-0, could not cope with the riding ability of the Lehigh senior. Gratto recorded 5:45 of time advantage (in addition to a first period takedown and a second period reversal) over Guccione, expertly defending almost every maneuver by the Nittany matman.

Gray recorded a 9-5 decision over Harvard's Bob Foster in the 167-pound consolation match. Gray, who pulled off the biggest upset of the tourney when he beat Pitt's defending national champ Tom Alberts in a quarter-final battle, was eliminated by Syracuse's Bill Murphy, 12-9, in a rousing semi-final match.

However, the Lion junior was in complete control of his third-seeded Harvard foe throughout most of the consolation final. Foster's points were scored on a last minute reversal in the second frame, a last second takedown in the third period, and an escape. Included among Gray's points was a two-point near fall in the opening period.

## Fans Disagree Pick Of Gratto as 'MVW'

By MATT MATHEWS  
"I don't know how they can give the Most Valuable Wrestler award to a guy like Gratto—after his conduct last year. Then they turn around and 'give' him the award this year."

That was football coach Tor Toretta's comment on the coaches voting Lehigh's Joe Gratto as the most valuable wrestler over Johnny Johnston. There were plenty of fans who agreed with Toretta. The Lions' three-time 130-pound Eastern champ had three pins and a 4-2 decision in the finals, while Gratto had four straight impressive decisions.

But we, like Toretta, remember Gratto's unsportsmanlike conduct after he lost the 137-pound Eastern title to Lion Johnny Pepe last year. He wouldn't shake hands with his conqueror (Pepe) and stormed off the mat in rage. Now the coaches turn around and 'give' him the title over a wrestler who by far out-dominated his tough weight class.

Even Pitt's flying rings champion Tom Darling bet that Johnston was going to win the award. Thanks for the quarter, Tom. We really wanted to lose.

Quick-quotes from the winning team coach, young Jimmy Miller of Cornell: "It's a dream come true." Jimmy has been

dreaming since he took over in 1948, but Cornell has been dreaming since 1930.

How would you like to coach a 295-pound heavyweight playboy whose family has money and who shows up for practice about once a week? That's ex-Lion champ Charlie Ridenour's job down at Penn. And the kid, Frank Traendly, finished third in the Easterns. He's only a sophomore.

We asked Doc Speidel how he would wrestle Ridenour's 295-pound heavyweight and, as usual, Doc riddled out of it. "Well, (Continued on page seven)



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