

The Sportseer



Did Coaches Err In Gratto Choice?

By Lou Prato
Asst. Sports Editor

Just what is an outstanding wrestler? That's the question which ran through my mind following the selection of Lehigh's Joe Gratto as the "outstanding wrestler" of the 54th annual Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association tournament at the Pitt Field House last weekend. We always assumed that the outstanding wrestling award was given to the man who made the best showing in the tournament—not only in victories and falls but also in match performance. But apparently we were wrong.

There was no doubt in my mind or in the minds of most of the 8000 fans who attended the two-day EIWA circus who the "outstanding wrestler" of the tournament was. Even many of the most devoted Lehigh fans figured Penn State's captain Johnny Johnston was a cinch for the award. And Lehigh followers are more prejudicial (in my opinion) than the most rabid Elvis Presley fan.



Johnston

Johnston scored three straight falls in the tourney before taking a 4-2 decision in the championship final against Cornell's Carmen Molino. All three of the Lion star's pins were impressive and although he played a cautious (and sometimes waiting) game in his final, he still looked good.

Gratto, on the other hand, recorded decisions in all four of his appearances. He was flashy, but did not display the form that made him the NCAA 137-pound winner last March. (That was not just the opinion of this writer).

As for the quality of the opposition, well, we'd venture to say

that Johnston's foes were slightly tougher, although both Johnston and Gratto met soft touches in the first and second rounds. In the semi-final round, the Lion captain met and pinned Syracuse's veteran George Creason, an old war horse who won the AAUs a couple of years ago. The best Gratto could do against Cornell's sophomore flash, Les Austin, was a 6-2 decision.

Molino, a senior tournament veteran who was Johnston's victim in the finals, only lost one match this year and that was a 4-0 decision to the Lion champion earlier in the year at Rec Hall. In the 137-pound final, Gratto beat Penn State's sophomore surprise Guy Guccione, 5-3, a man he had whipped 9-3 earlier in the year. (And Guccione had won only two dual meets all year, too.) Granted that Gratto looked better than Johnston in the finals, but should one match make a man an outstanding wrestler?

We don't know what reason the coaches had for choosing Gratto over Johnston. Maybe they wanted to split the awards for a change. In the last two tournaments one man (Ed Eichelberger in 1956 and Ed Peery in 1957) had walked off with both the outstanding wrestler and John Fletcher Memorial Cup—given an-

'Sugar' Arrives In 'Lucky Town' For Title Bout

CHICAGO (AP) — Challenger Sugar Ray Robinson & Co. arrived in his lucky fight town for his title rematch with middleweight champion Carmen Basilio next Tuesday night in the Chicago Stadium.

Robinson's entourage of 14 included George Gainfor, co-manager, who promptly said Sugar Ray has become so irked at Basilio's demand for a "fair" officiating shake he will knock him out within five rounds.

"That way Robinson will make certain there will be no question of Basilio hollering about being robbed," said Gainfor.

Basilio, who arrived Monday, claims Illinois officiating and not any Chicago jinx mainly was responsible for him losing all of his three previous bouts here.

Robinson let others do most of the talking when he stepped off the train with his wife, three sparring partners, two trainers, two managers, a bodyguard, a lawyer, a barber, a press agent, his personal physician and a fellow named soldier Jones.

"If that other fight had been here in Chicago, I would have won it," said Robinson.

usually to the grappler who accumulates the most points over three years of tournament competition. (Johnston had 48 of a possible 51 points to Gratto's 40).

Then again, maybe some of the EIWA coaches just don't like Penn State or Johnny Johnston. There were 16 coaches voting and more than half picked Gratto. We would like to know just what they based their judgment on. They robbed a superlative wrestler of a great honor and their consciences should certainly be bothering them right now.

We won't take anything away from Gratto. (That includes no mentioning in detail his unsportsmanlike conduct at last year's EIWA affair). He's a great wrestler and deserves to be a champ. But the outstanding wrestler—no. (Continued on page eight)

IM ROUNDUP

BOWLING

The AVB's edged the Gutterballers in total pins, 2319-2316, to tie in match total 2-2, in Monday night's leading Independent League B bowling match.

A 2-2 tie between Nittany 34 and the Bruins highlighted Independent League A bowling. Nittany 34 led in total pins, 2232-2174.

The Zeros rolled the highest pin fall of the night, 2466, in beating the Darkhorses, 3-1. The losers had a total pin fall of 2355.

In other League B matches, the Brats defeated the Aces 4-0, leading in total pin fall, 2299-1996. Navy beat Jordan II, 3-1. After losing the first match, Navy retaliated, winning the second and third contests, as well as the total pinfall, 2224-2018.

Twenty plus 3 also lost their first game before winning 3-1 over the Peanuts. The winners total pin fall was 2295 compared to the losers 2198. In the final League B tilt of the evening, McKee III-IV topped WDFM, 3-1. McKee led in total pin fall, 2305-2232.

In Independent League A bowling, the Capitalists defeated RAR, 3-1, leading in total pin fall, 2276-2245. McKee II also won 3-1 over the Vets. McKee had 2391 total pins compared to the Vets' 2232. The Hamilton Hornets beat McKee I in league A's only shutout. In the final match of the evening, the Hucksters defeated the Wacs, 3-1.

HANDBALL

Al Jacks, Beta Theta Pi's defending intramural handball singles king, slammed his way to the finals of his flight via a victory over Larry Royer, Alpha Tau Omega, in Monday night's competition. Jacks took top scoring honors for the evening with his 21-1, 21-4 win over Royer.

Ed Datasch, Pi Sigma Upsilon, won the right to face Jacks in the flight's finals by defeating Charlie Kunkle, Lambda Chi Alpha, 21-18, 21-9.

Barry Hough, Phi Gamma Delta, turned in an impressive performance as he trampled Dick Hinkle, Alpha Sigma Phi,

21-5, 21-8. Hough will face the winner of the match between Joe Fenkel, Beta Sigma Rho, and Rick Eldredge, Phi Delta Theta, for the championship of the second flight.

Phi Kappa Sigma's Dick Spitko became one of the third flight finalists by downing Paul Bauer, Alpha Sigma Phi, 21-15, 21-10. Spitko will meet the winner of the contest between Charlie Bibleheimer, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Paul Schonbachler, Phi Delta Theta, for the flight's crown.

Bob Campbell, Tau Kappa Epsilon, scored his third lopsided victory by topping Bill Nichols, Phi Kappa Tau, 21-3, 21-5. Campbell will meet Frank Magalski, Phi Mu Delta, for the fourth flight championship. Magalski defeated Ed Zimmerman, Theta Xi, 21-4, 21-5.

Gene Flick, Tau Kappa Epsilon, recorded a win over Bob Neff, Alpha Gamma Rho, and will meet Walt Krauser, Sigma Pi, in the finals of the fifth flight. Krauser downed Bill Hutchinson, Phi Kappa Sigma, 21-19, 21-11.

John Krall, Phi Mu Delta, whitewashed Everett Barber, Acacia, 21-3, 21-4. Krall will face Paul Trimmer, Phi Delta Theta, in the finals of the sixth flight.

Don't Go Half Way

The I.F.C. dance is a big event in any date's life. But with dinner at Duffy's Tavern before the dance the whole evening will be even bigger! Don't go half way on this big weekend. Dinner at Duffy's is as much a part of I.F.C. as the dance itself.

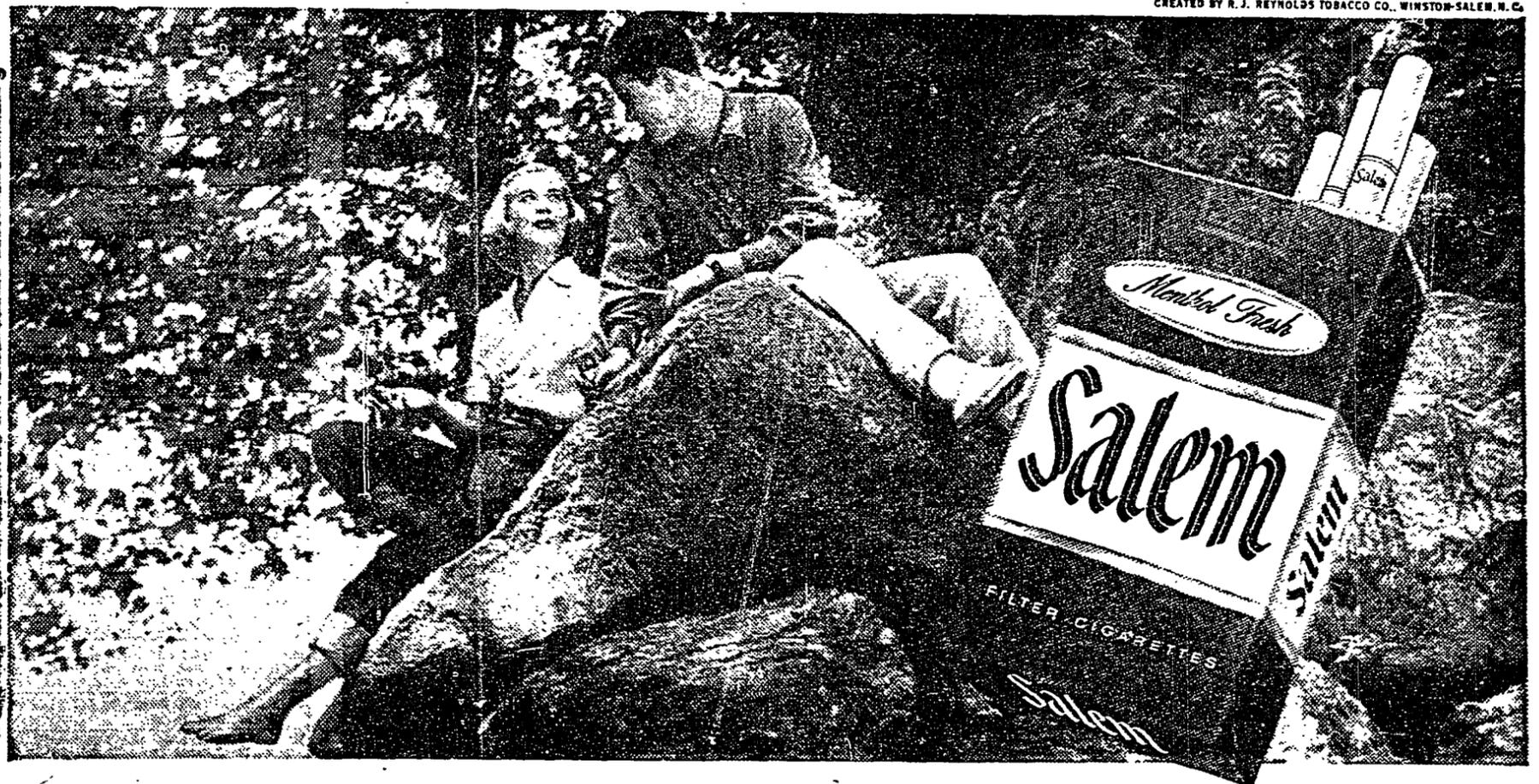
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