

Wiser Pifer Rated NCAA Mat Threat

By JIM KARL
Ron Pifer has a sparkling 7-3 record and an EIWA title to his credit going into the first round of the NCAA mat tournament at Corvallis, Ore., today.

But Charlie Speidel thinks his star could have done even better this year if it weren't for a tendency to "overwrestle."

The Lion mentor is hoping that Pifer learned his lesson after literally handing Pitt's John Zolikoff a 3-2 decision in the next to last dual meet of the season.

However, if the former Bellefonte star performs in the nationals the way he performed in the easterns, Speidel's worries are over.

"He has more balance now than he had before," Speidel said after Pifer defeated Army's Mike Natvig for the 147-pound crown.

"There's a time to throw a guy and there's a time not to. Ron's never ran away from

anybody—I just had to hold him back a little."

Ron's desire to "mix it up" as he calls it, has resulted in troublesome situations more than once. A good example is his encounter with Zolikoff.

Pifer moved down from his customary 157-pound spot to 147 to meet the Pitt star and was leading 2-1 with less than a minute remaining.

Instead of being cautious he moved in on Zolikoff and the Panther grappler succeeded in getting a takedown with only 10 seconds left.

Speidel was happy with Pifer's wrestling in the Easterns, though. The Lion junior was never in real trouble, breezing through three matches before shutting out Natvig for the title.

Besides the loss to Zolikoff, Pifer's only other setbacks were to Michigan's Don Corriere and Lehigh's Kirk Pendleton.

Pifer dropped a 3-2 decision to Corriere and was pinned by Pendleton.

He may run up against either Corriere or Zolikoff in the tournament, but Pendleton is wrestling at 157.

Penn State's other two entrants, Johnston Oberly and Dan Johnston, will also see action in this afternoon's opening round.



Pifer

Williams, Ebert Score Falls; Advance to IM Mat Finals

Seven pins were recorded last night with 15 independent wrestlers advancing to the finals of IM Wrestling.

Jim Williams and Chuck Ebert scored impressive falls and will meet each other for the heavyweight championship in the finals tomorrow night at 8.

Williams pinned footballer Joe Blasenstein at 4:35 and Ebert scored a fall over Larry Ring at 4:58. Bob Miles was down 8-6 when he pinned Duane Arison at 5:20 in the only 135-pound encounter.

Mike Beck racked up an easy 13-1 decision over Dick Quick in the 150-pound class. At 176, Bob Bierly had little trouble scoring a fall over Chuck Tomajko.

One independent and 16 frat-

ernity semifinal matches are scheduled for tonight at 7:30.

- Summaries
- 128—Patton dec. Spatafore, 8-0; Abramson dec. Meredith, 3-2.
 - 136—Miles pinned Arison, 5:20.
 - 142—Smith pinned Cummings, 3:03; Haverstick pinned Sender, 3:15.
 - 150—Hazen dec. Stevens, 7-2; Beck dec. Quick, 13-1.
 - 158—Nilles dec. Pennauchi, 7-3; Loomis pinned Mueller, 3:50.
 - 167—Sforzi dec. Synnestvedt, 11-0; Kasubick dec. Anderson, 4-1.
 - 176—Demmler dec. Haines, 3-2; Bierly pinned Tomajko, 4:20.
 - Hwt.—Ebert pinned Ring, 4:20; Williams pinned Blasenstein, 4:35.

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