

Engineers Win EIWA's

Capture Six Crowns; Lions Finish Fourth

By DEAN BILICK

Assistant Sports Editor

The 58th annual EIWA tournament is history now, but the upsets and records it produced may take future wrestlers another 58 years to erase.

The upsetting of six of nine top-seeded grapplers, the winning of six individual titles by one team, the almost unbelievable losses of two national runners-up and defending eastern champs and the scoring of 96 points by the champions all combined to make this year's tourney at Rec Hall one of the most record-breaking in history.

Lehigh ran away with the team title, copping six championships and setting an EIWA record by scoring 96 points during the two-day affair. In fact the Engineers so dominated the action that the finals Saturday night looked like a dual meet with Lehigh against the rest of the East.

THE OTHERS stacked-up like this: Pitt 69, Navy 49, Penn State 48, Army 43, Rutgers 37, Syracuse 16, Yale 9, Cornell 7, Brown 7, F&M 6, Harvard 4, Penn 4, Columbia 3, Temple 2, and Princeton 1.

In winning their 16th EIWA title, the Engineers copped championships with Bill Merriam at 123, Pat Smartt at 130, Kirk Pendleton at 157, Dave Angell at 167, Jim Detrixhe at 177, and Chuck Moore at 191.

Other title winners were Mike Harman of Navy at 137, Daryl Kelvington of Pitt at 147 and Ed Scharer of Rutgers at heavyweight.

Lehigh's six champions are the most since State produced six in 1918 when there were only seven weight classes.

The evening of upsets began with the first bout at 123 and didn't end until the heavyweight clash. Pitt's national runner-up and defending eastern champion Dick Martin was the first top-seeded grappler to go down the drain.

MARTIN RAN HEAD INTO Lehigh's little tiger Merriam and the two hooked-up in one of the most thrilling bouts of the tournament. Martin, who has never lost a dual meet match and whose three year record was 35-3, scored a first period takedown. But Merriam reversed and then added a takedown and escape in the second period to go in front, 5-2.

Martin came right back with a reversal in the last stanza but so did the fired-up Merriam. The Panther added an escape with 59 seconds remaining and then tried desperately for the takedown, Merriam was warned for stalling in the last seconds, but the Engineer had the 7-6 stunning upset and the 123-pound championship.

Smartt was the next Engineer to win. The 130-pounder came from behind with a last period reversal to score a 6-4 win over Navy's Denny Farrar.

Farrar built up a 4-3 lead in the third period, but Smartt countered with a last minute reversal and riding time.

At 137, top-seeded John Zolikoff of Pitt lost a 3-2 overtime decision to Navy's Harman. The pair battled to a 1-1 draw in regulation time, each scoring an escape. In overtime Zolikoff had two escapes while Harman had a takedown and an escape.

State's defending champion Pifer suffered one of his most humiliating defeats, 3-1, to the Panthers' Kelvington. (Continued on page two)



—Collegian Photo by John Beauge

DEFENDING 123-POUND CHAMPION Dick Martin (top) tries desperately to hold Lehigh's Bill Merriam during their EIWA championship

match in Rec Hall Saturday night. Merriam reversed the Pitt star and went on to record a 7-6 victory.

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FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

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Peery Blue; Ruth Sees Red As Brown and White Dominate

By JOHN MORRIS

Assistant Sports Editor

Pitt wrestling coach Rex Peery walked dejectedly around the back edges of the crowd Saturday night. He looked tired, but he also looked relaxed for the first time in two days.

The veteran coach had brought his Panthers to Rec Hall as co-favorites for the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association team championship, but by the end of the semi-final round Peery knew that his team would never catch Lehigh.

"We will have to win everything and have them lose all their matches to catch them now," Peery said before the final round.

IT SEEMED UNLIKELY that Lehigh would lose all its matches Saturday night, but it appeared just as dubious that the Engineers could possibly win them all either.

However, that is exactly what they did, taking six individual championships, scoring a new team record of 96 points and completely dominating what was supposed to be a 16-team tourney.

Total attendance for the four sessions was 12,900. Most of the fans were, or at least sounded like, Lehigh partisans who had come to cheer their Engineers to victory. They weren't disappointed.

The 96 points topped the old record of 88, set by Lehigh in last year's competition.

The Engineers' six champions are the most for any team since Penn State had six in 1918 when there were only seven weight classes. The Lions had five champions in 1937.

LEHIGH MOVES ahead of Penn State in the number of all-time individual champions with 81. The Lions have had 78.

Army assistant coach Greg Ruth a former Lehigh grappler himself had an explanation for the Engineers' success Saturday night.

"This thing started building up when Bill Merriam beat Martin

(Pitt defending 123-pound champion Dick Martin). That was the end of the tournament and I don't mean that this thing was psychological either. All the officials could see was brown and white." Brown and white are Lehigh's colors, in case you hadn't guessed.

The Merriam-Martin match, one of the closest battles in the tournament, ended in a 7-6 decision for the cocky Merriam.

Martin was only one of four former champions to taste defeat in the championship round.

STATE'S RON PIFER lost at 147, Pitt's John Zolikoff was defeated at 137 and Al Rushatz of Army was defeated at 167.

The Rushatz-Dave Angell match ended in a 1-1 deadlock after regulation time and was still tied 1-1 at the end of the overtime. The referee's decision was given to the Lehigh grappler.

The decision stirred a lot of controversy among the coaches. Joe Scandura of Syracuse was one of several coaches to question the officiating of the bout.

Most of the controversy raged over an attempted takedown by Rushatz. Referee Raymond B. Oliver raised two fingers as the signal for a takedown. But then, as the wrestlers rolled off the mat, his other hand came up to signal a neutral position.

Scandura approached Lion coach Charlie Speidel about a coaches' investigation and review of the match. Speidel agreed to look into the matter, but didn't want any part of an attempt to change the decision.

FOR ALL THE controversy about the officiating in the tourney, there was no debate about the outstanding wrestler.

Kirk Pendleton, Lehigh's 157-

pound champion, was voted the award by the 16 member coaches. The cat-quick junior pinned three of his four opponents and accumulated 8:09 riding time on Army's Mike Natvig in the finals.

Martin received the Fletcher Memorial Award as the wrestler who has contributed the most to his team in EIWA tournaments.

All the matches in the consolation bracket were limited to six minutes since consolation winners faced the prospect of wrestling three matches in one day.

As Brown's Willie Wood said after wrestling Army's Dale Kuhns, Temple's Bill Lites and State's Ed Pohland to finish third in the heavyweight division: "Whew."



LEHIGH'S JIM DETRIXHE tries to roll Pitt's Ken Barr during their 177-pound battle in Rec Hall Saturday night. Detrixhe beat Barr, 4-0.

to win his second consecutive EIWA championship as Lehigh ran away from the rest of the field in team scoring with 96 points.

LAST ISSUE

Today's issue of The Daily Collegian is the last of the term. Regular publication will resume Thursday, March 23.