

# Grapplers dump Chiefs: 2 days, 2 wins



Wayne Packer (top) is well on his way to the first of two big wins this weekend

Photo by Tom Peters

By JACK PATON  
Collegian Sports Writer  
Penn State's wrestlers went into Saturday afternoon's meet against Springfield with a big match just behind them (Michigan) and an even bigger one just ahead (Clarion State on Saturday). As Springfield heavyweight Jeff Blatnick said, "You would have thought they would have been a little relaxed."

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, the first time the Lions relaxed all weekend was after Blatnick had salvaged his team's only points in the last bout of a 37-6 PSU rout. It was only the third win for the opposition in the 20 bouts over the weekend.

If it's any consolation to losing coach Doug Parker, Lion coach Bill Koll thought his team would have beaten anybody on that particular day. "If we had wrestled Michigan today," Koll said, "we really would have walloped them." (The Lions had settled for a 28-5 win over the Wolverines the night before.)

The Lions garnered a pin, three major decisions, and a superior decision in coasting to their third dual meet win in a row. Their combined team score from the three meets is now an incredible 106-11.

Wayne Packer, as he has in every match thus far, put the Lions on the scoreboard first and ran his seasonal record to 6-0. The senior from State College pinned his man at 1:18, LeRoy Witherspoon, after building a 14-0 lead. The fall, Packer's second of the year, came mercifully at 3:45.

The majors were picked up by Jimmy Earl at 1:26, Bill Vollrath at 1:50, and Bill Bertrand at 1:50, and were the first five-pointers gained by the Lions this season.

The rejuvenated Earl, 0-for-11 last year but now 4-2 for this season, overwhelmed Jim Boyd from the start of their match. The sophomore came close to pinning his man while racking up over five minutes of riding time, then settled for a 17-4 victory.

Earl attributes his new-found success to the Lord, and his coach adds that much of the credit must go to the wrestler himself. "Jimmy puts out a lot of effort," Koll noted, "and if you work as hard as he does, you'll get better."

Vollrath (4-2) also dominated his match, although he led by only 2-0 after the first period. The bout ended at 18-5, with Vollrath riding Ed Gibbons for the biggest part of the match. Bertrand got his major easily, thrashing senior Bill Fiore, 22-1, in the year's most lopsided decision. The freshman is now 6-0.

Sandwiched between the wins by Earl and Vollrath were a 9-6 decision by Rich Kepler at 1:34 and a 13-4 superior for Denny Sciabica at 1:42. Kepler went into the final period leading Larry Termbly by just 6-5, but an escape and near fall in the last three minutes gave Kepler his third win in six bouts. Sciabica used his legs to keep Bob Walsh wrapped up and nearly pinned him. The



victory was his fifth against one loss.

After Vollrath's win at 1:50, Dave Becker used an escape and a riding point to ease past All-American Rich Munroe, 2-0, and put his mark at 5-1. At this point, the Lion lead was 28-0, and the meet's star attraction, the Jerry Villecco-Nick Porillo rematch at 1:67, had lost some of its appeal to the sparse Rec Hall crowd of 566.

Villecco had beaten Porillo in 1973, but lost to the Chiefs' All-American last year while recovering from mononucleosis. Yesterday's "rubber match" between the two was taken easily by the Lion captain, who got two takedowns, an escape, and riding time to win, 8-0. Villecco is unbeaten through six bouts.

Jerry White whipped substitute Sean Bilodeau, 8-3, at 1:77 to snap a two-bout losing streak and raise his record to 4-2, and Bertrand followed with his major to end Penn State's scoring. Denny St. Clair succumbed to heavyweight Blatnick's pin at 4:54 to finish the meet. St. Clair is 1-1.

Koll was naturally pleased with the results of the weekend, and wanted it understood that Springfield was no patsy. "Springfield is pretty potent, and they're always among the top Division II teams," he pointed out. "They're the best in New England, so they're not totally incompetent."

"They just ran into a great team that had more talent and was in better condition. We beat Michigan by going out and hitting them, but today was just a matter of us having all the guns."

## Lions corral Wolves 28-5

By JACK PATON  
Collegian Sports Writer

When coach Bill Koll sent his Penn State wrestlers out to face unbeaten Michigan at Rec Hall on Friday night, he had the feeling that someone was about to get whipped, and that he would not have to wait long to find out which team it would be.

"I thought beforehand that the match could go either way," Koll said after the Lions had coasted to a 28-5 victory. "We figured we'd either kick the devil out of them or they

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## 'Fisticuffs' make Lions' Bertrand winner

By KEVIN BACKSTROM  
Collegian Sports Writer  
It was Friday night at Rec Hall and the 190-pound wrestling match was ending. Michigan's Harold King was handing Penn State freshman Bill Bertrand his first loss in intercollegiate action.

The wrestlers were separating, when without warning there was a flurry of punches. Then, after a slight delay, Bertrand was once again undefeated.

In the final seconds of the match, with King leading Bertrand 3-2, the Penn State frosh landed an uppercut to the Michigan wrestler's jaw. The buzzer sounded and King retaliated, hitting Bertrand in the side of the head. Bertrand then connected with a second punch.

Michigan Coach Bill Johanssen and Penn State coach Bill Koll darted on to the mat to contain their

wrestlers. Johanssen then asked Referee Tom Bailey if he saw Bertrand's first punch. Bailey said he didn't and then disqualified King, and awarded Bertrand his fifth win of the season.

Bertrand, walking around the locker room holding an ice bag against his ear, gave his explanation for the display of fisticuffs.

"It was rough all over out there. He was bumping me in the head with his head, and I was muscling back. That's about all.

"It was more of a fist fight than a wrestling match," the freshman continued. "I don't deserve to win 'cause he beat me by points. But I should've had more points.

"I never hit a guy before," said Bertrand. "First time for everything," they say."

Standing next to the locker room scale eating an orange King gave his

explanation for the interplay. "It was building up because a couple of times he threw me off the mat, and it was uncalled for, I think," said King. "But right then when he hit me I lost all my cool," continued the Michigan junior. "I don't do things like that normally.

"I'm not a hot dog wrestler out there. And I don't do things like that unless somebody causes me to. He hit me in the face first.

"There's not any reason you can make for hitting a guy after you beat him."

King said he would have hit Bertrand again. "You know how a person gets mad and does things they don't really mean. That's the way it happened. And I would have done it again too in the same situation."

Johanssen was despondent over both the wrestlers' behavior. "It's just unfortunate that anything like

that had to happen in athletics. "Athletics are supposed to teach poise and control under stressful situations," said Johanssen. "And it's just a disgrace."

"I think it puts a tarnish on Bill's win," continued the Michigan wrestling coach. "His team looked very good and they wrestled well."

"I'm embarrassed," said Koll. "There's no place for this type of thing in wrestling."

"Bertrand has a reputation for doing crazy things like that, (losing his composure)" concluded Johanssen. "And I hope that Bill changes them because he needs it."

"Bertrand says the other guy hit him and their kid says that Bertrand hit him first," continued the Penn State wrestling coach.

"Regardless, it's a blot on a really fine wrestling meet and I won't tolerate this kind of action by any wrestler."

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