

Matmen Edge Cortland; Recapture State Title

After having a season filled with disappointments and few bright spots, the Laker varsity wrestlers climaxed the year with a tremendous victory in the State University of New York Athletic Conference wrestling tournament at Potsdam on Saturday. This tournament decided the Conference championship.

It was no easy victory for the Lakers as the outcome depended on the two final bouts in the 191 pound and heavyweight classes. As it turned out, the Lakers edged runnerup Cortland 78-73. Brockport was a distant third.

The win was a story of a lot of desire and fine team effort backed up by fine coaching.

Oswego has four SUNYAC champs now, along with two runnerups, a third, and one fourth place to its credit.

Nick Nanos at 115 pounds won a hard fought title for the Lakers. After receiving a bye in the first round Nanos decided Sampson of Oneonta 5-0 to reach the finals.

In the finals he and Doug Prato of Oneonta wrestled to a 1-1 draw in the regulation time and sent the match into overtime of three extra one-minute periods.

The score after the overtime was still 1-1 forcing a referee's decision which went to Nanos, giving the State championship.

Dick McGee, regularly a 115 pounder, wrestled above his weight at 123 and earned a third place for Oswego. After losing to Doug Clarke in the semi-finals, McGee decided Plattsburgh's Pete Purdy in the final consolation round to gain the third spot.

At 130 pounds, Lonnie Warner wrestled his best matches of the year and walked off with the second spot in his class for the Lakers. He advanced to the finals on a bye and a 4-2 decision over Oneonta's Bill Schemp. In the finals he lost a 6-4 heart-breaker to last year's champ Pete Rose of Cortland.

Tom DiOrio wrestled like a champion and was properly rewarded for his efforts as he took the title at 137 pounds.

The scrappy Laker scored two consecutive pins to earn his spot in the finals. He touched Brockport's Mike Herrman and William Parment of New Paltz for the pins.

In the final round he pinned the reigning champ Ed Gomez of Plattsburgh in 3:00. His pins definitely helped the Laker cause by giving the team much needed pin points which proved to be the story in the final score for the team total.

Superior conditioning and drive won the 145 championship for Lloyd Jerauld. In the first round, he decided Al Audas of Plattsburgh 6-2. Then he met Cortland's Dave Sherman whom he had tied during the year. Again a draw forced an overtime. Here he overpowered Sherman 6-2 and advanced to meet Plattsburgh's Funk in the final round.

Jerauld ran last year's conference winner into the mat with a 9-4 decision.

After leading in his match, Oswego's 152 pounder Carl Koenig was pinned at 7:28 by runnerup Paul Kealey of Potsdam. He then lost a decision to Oneonta's Bob Anderson to be eliminated. However it must be noted that Koenig usually wrestles at 137 and was wrestling above his weight.

Dave VanGordon at 160 earned more pin points for the Lakers as he reached the finals with two pins. He flattened Jerry Filiabault of Potsdam in 4:47 in the first round and in the quarter finals, he recorded the fastest pin of the tournament by downing Allen Reuthersthan of New Paltz in a quick 15 seconds.

In the finals he lost a tough match to Oneonta's Brian Lambe by a 3-0 score.

At 167 Les VonLosberg lost

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two decisions, one to Brockport's champ Bruce Turner and on to Cortland's third place winner Mike Tully, to be eliminated.

Oneonta's 177 pound champion Gary Lehr beat Oswego's Rick Smith 4-2 to put him into the consolation bracket. Here he beat George Fradenburg of Plattsburgh 3-2 and lost to John Camello of Cortland by a decision for fourth place.

Steve Kowalewski, Oswego's 191 pounder, lost a 3-2 decision to Oneonta's Don Jacovozzi to be eliminated. However, this weight class was critical in Oswego's victory. At this point in the finals, Oswego led Cortland 75-73. If the Cortland contender, Jeff Wachtel, had taken the first place, Cortland would have gone ahead 76-75 and put all the weight of the tournament on the heavy weight match.

Brockport's Chuck Bolesh cinched the title for Oswego by beating Wachtel in a tremendous by a pin in the last few seconds.

Bruce Gowdy at heavyweight wrestled his three best matches of the year to give Oswego the heavyweight crown and increase the team margin of victory to 78-73.

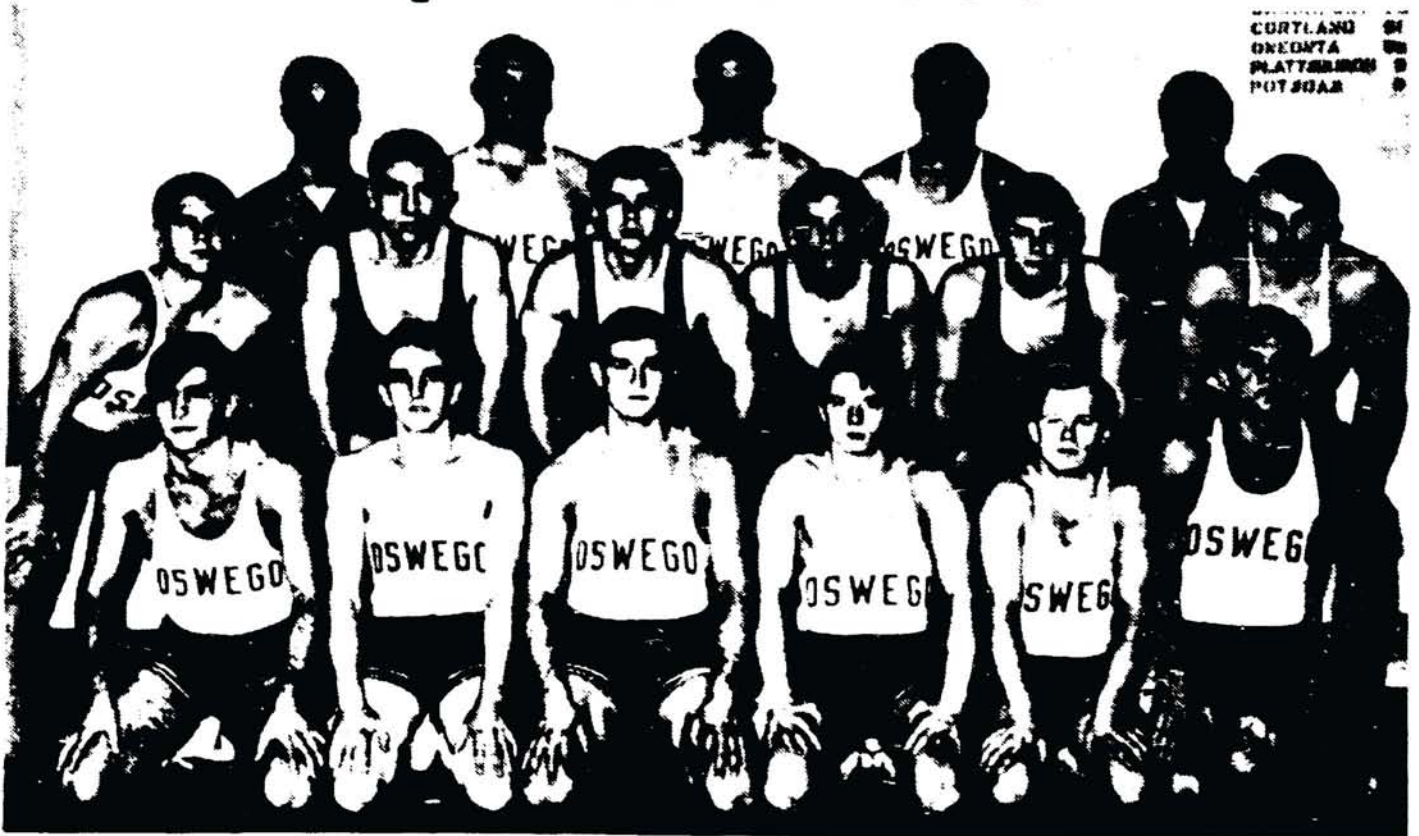
He beat top-seeded Ken Brickell of Brockport and Plattsburgh's George Noylan to get into the finals where he beat New Paltz's second-seeded Kevin Covas in a 4-3 thriller.

Coach Jim Howard was the most pleased that he has been in a long time with an Oswego victory. The win took away much of the pain of the losses to Cortland and Oneonta suffered earlier this year. He attested to the fact that it was a fine team effort all the way.

The new champions are free this week but will travel to Buffalo this Saturday to meet the University of Buffalo for a 3:30 match to complete their season. They are hoping for a good show from the Laker fans even though the final game is on the road.

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CHAMPIONS AGAIN—Oswego's wrestling team regained its throne a SUNYAC champions again for their third championship in four years. Last year the Laker matmen were upset by Cortland. On this year's winning squad are (front row from left) Tom DiOrio, Robert Ramsey, Lloyd Jerauld, Nick Nanos, Dick McGee,

and Carl Koenig. Second row: Ken Gentzke, Les VonLosberg, Alan Dietrick, Jim Goodall, Lonnie Warner, and Dave VanGorden. Back row: Steve Herz, Steve Kowalewski, Richard Smith, Jim Hoi-gren and Coach Jim Howard. Missing from the picture is Bruce Gowdy, one of Howard's state champs.