

Oswego 4th in SUNY mat final ★

by Mark Huffsmith

Wrestling in tournament style, much like that to be encountered this weekend here at Oswego, the Lakers took a solid fourth behind Brockport, Potsdam, and Cortland, this past weekend, at SUNY Geneseo, in the State University meet.

This past year, the Lakers had lost to both Brockport and Potsdam, but were able to beat Cortland. However when the final tally was taken, the teams stood as follows: Brockport 94 (six first places), Potsdam 66 (one first), Cortland 58 (one first), Oswego 49-1/2 (one first), Oneonta 30, Geneseo 21 (one first), Albany 14-1/2, Buffalo State 5-1/2, Plattsburgh 4.

The fourth place finish was the lowest placing of our squad in many years, in a tourney that Oswego has won the last six out of seven years. However in this, a building year for Coach Jim Howard, there were many bright moments. The home squad had six wrestlers in contention for the top four spots, and only two were seniors.

In finishing fourth, the team took a first, two seconds, two thirds, and a fourth place. In the 118 lb. class, Tom Ball lost 5-3 to the eventual winner, before winning 10-8 in the consolation bracket. He then lost 2-1 to the fan's favorite Geneseo's Al Solomon.

At 126, Bob Albrecht pinned his first opponent, only to lose to the winner in that class, 7-5. In the consolation wrestle-back, Bob pinned his next foe in three and a half minutes and decisioned the Potsdam entry 5-3 to take third place.

Even though Carl Carrozza was last year's 134



Co-Captain Ernie Williams (L) and Tom Ball
Coach Jim Howard



lb. champ, he has wrestled very little this year. But never - the - less, Carl was able to take a third. Due to the fact that he decisioned his first opposition 5-2, Carl then met the tournament's outstanding wrestler, Bob Cohen. He lost 10-3, then came back in the consolations to win 11-0 and 4-2.

In a surprise start at 142, Jeff Lok fought his way back from an unseeded position, due to his previous 1-3 record, only to finish second by a matter of seconds. He beat the third place finisher, 12-10. Then went on to beat the number one seed, 3-2. However, Jeff lost a heartbreaker to Gerace of Geneseo (the first Geneseo winner ever), by a score of 5-4. The hometown boy had 1:05 riding time. Gerace was awarded a point, to break the 4-4 deadlock on the strength of more than one minute's worth of riding

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time.

Tim Law lost 3-2 to the number one seed at 150 lbs., and did not place.

Ernie Williams captured the only first for the Lakers, as he pinned his first opponent, beat his second foe 11-9, and won the 158 class, 7-3.

The only other Laker finish was at heavyweight, as John Simmonds got to the finals by beating his first man with a pin, winning his second match 3-1, before losing to last year's champ, to take the runner-up spot, for the second year in a row.

Those to watch in the upcoming NCAA tourney, will include Brockport's Bruce Biondi (118 lbs.), Bob Cohen (134 lbs.) and Doug Parante (190 lbs.). Potsdam has an undefeated freshman at 177 lbs, in Molbury and a strong contender at 158 in Rich Galea. The other 158 lb. contender is Oswego's very own Ernie Williams.