

# Wrestlers Win Genesee Valley Christmas Trophy

On Saturday, Dec. 15, history was made by the Keshequa wrestling team. The first team trophy ever earned was awarded to Coach Lenowicz and the wrestling team after their outstanding performance in the Genesee Valley Christmas tournament. As a result of a total team effort the Indians defeated the other seven teams in the tournament and took home the first place team trophy.

The tournament, which started at 11 o'clock Saturday morning and lasted until approximately 11 at night, was a new experience for many of the K.C.S. wrestlers. Despite the long hours and the tough competition, the Indian wrestlers came through like veterans. All of the boys took a place in the tournament and earned the team valuable points which led to the team championship. The competition was close the entire day. The teams from Lyndonville and Dundee, who placed second and third respectively, were the Indians closest competitors. The K.C.S. wrestlers made their biggest gains when they defeated wrestlers from those schools on their way to the championship.

The following boys through dedication and hard work helped to take the team title. Taking sixth place were Dan Willett, 132 lbs., Bob Cox, 138 lbs. and Wes Marsh 145 lbs. These boys wrestled well and can be proud of the job which they have done. Mike Bogardus, 105 lbs. and Steve Rynkowski, 126 lbs., earned themselves third place and a trophy. With more hard work and experience these five boys can all improve their wrestling careers.

Seven out of the possible 12 first place trophies were taken home by the outstanding Keshequa wrestlers.

At 98 lbs. Don Cobin surprised many people. Little "Coly" showed his strength, quickness and fine wrestling ability by turning in first period pins in both the semi finals and the finals. Don's performance made him a strong contender for the Outstanding Wrestler Award. His victory at 98 lbs. started the ball rolling for the remainder of his team mates and it didn't stop until the tournament was over.

John Halpenny, the team captain who wrestles at 112 lbs., was picked by most to win the first place trophy. John did not let any of his followers down. He came through with two pins and an unquestioned decision in the finals. Through his knowledge of wrestling and his ability as a team leader, John helped the team to achieve their final goal.

When Co-Captain Kerry Backes, 119 lbs., went into the tournament he was little known by many of the wrestlers, fans and coaches. However, as a result of the two first period pins and a decision in the finals, over highly rated Andy Lipson of Genesee, Kerry became known to all. The coaches showed their appreciation for Kerry's talents by voting him the outstanding wrestler in the tournament. Kerry has something to be very proud of as he was voted to this position over 103 other wrestlers.

Don Coon, at 155 lbs., displayed many fine talents in the sport of wrestling. Throughout the tourney Don simply out maneuvered his opponents. He showed the crowd, through his skills in riding and take downs, that finesse can be more important than muscle.

Ron Strain, the 167 pounder for Keshequa showed what a combination of wrestling knowledge and a tremendous amount of strength can do for a wrestler. Coach Paul Lenowicz is very happy with the way in which Ron has progressed in the past few weeks and he is happy to say that he is still progressing at a tremendous rate.

Doug Bailey impressed many people with his performance at 177 lbs. It was the first time this year for him to wrestle at 177 and he showed that this is his weight class. Doug turned in three

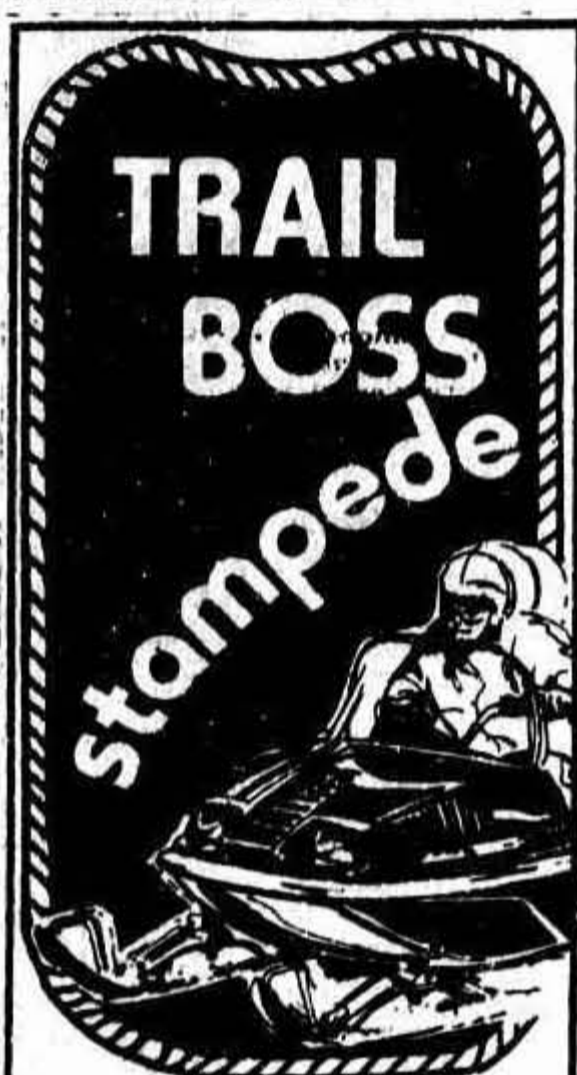
pins on his way to victory. It was his victory which clinched the team title for Keshequa.

Last but not least is Bill Bennett in the unlimited weight class. Bill won his division by pinning his opponent in the finals. This victory was a climax to the great day experienced by the entire team, coaches and faithful fans who followed the team through the tournament.

Many people were surprised by the skills, team togetherness and all around performance of the team.

However, one person who was not surprised was Coach Lenowicz. He was confident in his boys and he was pleased with the way his wrestlers conducted themselves throughout the entire tournament.

The team would like to thank all of their followers for their support and would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the next home wrestling match against Genesee, which will be held in the Keshequa gymnasium Jan. 3, 1974.



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