

Rochester Wrestling News

Amateur Wrestling in and around Rochester (New York Section Five)
Published each and every month of the year
Volume 2, Number 7 July 1989



Special Issue: Empire State Games Preview !!

Fusilli Preps for NCAA Title

BK and Ithaca star competes in Russia on
All Star Tour

Ithaca College's 190 pound Mike Fusilli is on a crash course with an NCAA Division III title. He came as close as you can get without winning in March. In the touney, held at John Carroll University, Fusilli reeled

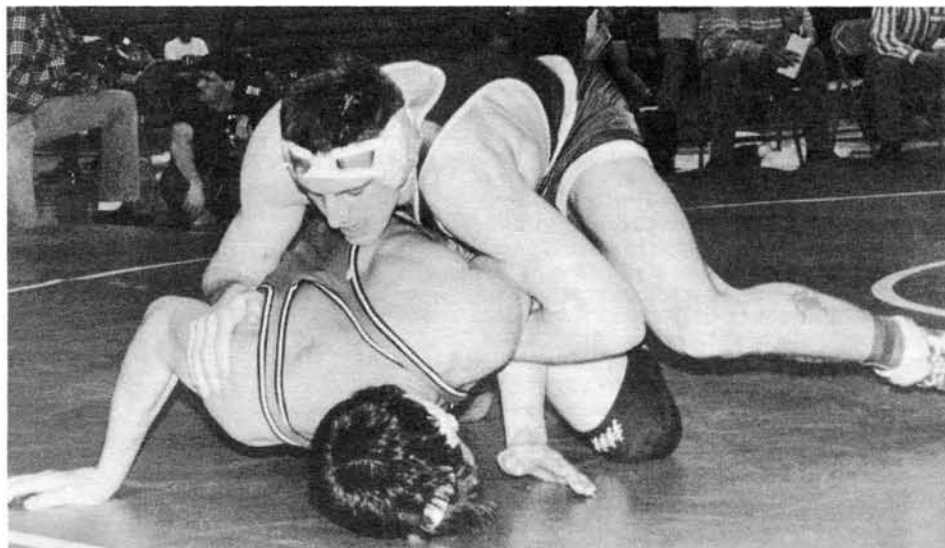
ESG Facts

The Empire State Games started in 1978 as a way to provide New York's best athletes with opportunities to compete, develop, and be seen in Olympic style competition.

Competitors number 7200 in summer finals, 1250 in winter. More than 70,000 participants compete in regional summer and winter qualifiers. Twenty seven summer sports and ten winter sports make up the Games, with men and women competing in scholastic, open, and masters divisions.

The age of nearly 3000 scholastic athletes range between 15 and 17; more than 3000 open division athletes are usually college age to early 30's; our 1200 to 1500 masters competitors vary in age from 30 to 80!. The total figure is nearly equally divided between men and women.

Special thanks to Frederick Smith, ESG Public Relations Director, for graciously supplying the information contained in this issue!!!



Mike Fusilli, two-time All American, in NCAA semifinal action. Fusilli placed second in the nationals, and will be competing for the Gold in the Empire State Games.

ESG Rankings

RWN is pleased to announce a welcome addition to our staff. In this issue, and frequently during the 89/90 season, Karnak the Great will be publishing his rankings. This month, Karnak has ranked the wrestlers who will compete in the Empire State Games.

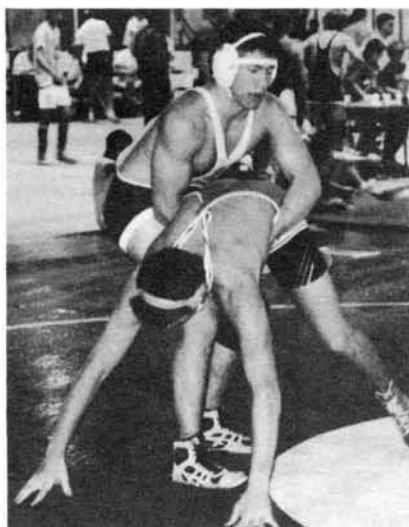
As you know, Karnak gained national fame from his periodic appearances on The Tonight Show. His predictions and vast insights will now be applied to the wrestling arena in New York.

Karnak wants your support. To submit info for rankings, please write to Karnak at our address.

Editor's note: The views expressed by Karnak the Great in his rankings are for entertainment purposes only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of RWN.

Thanks!!!

- Mike



Nick Brucato, Rochester Lilacs, attempting a body throw against Scot Queens, RWC, in ESG Western Regional qualifier action.

off four straight wins (10-4, 3-0 OT, 7-3, and 1-1 criteria decision) to make it to the finals. His semifinal victory was over a foe who had beaten him earlier in the year.

In the finals, he faced Wartburg's Dean Gavin, seeded second to Fusilli's first going into the competition. Fusilli owned a one-point win over Gavin from last year's tournament. This year, however, Gavin pulled out a tight 3-2 win. Says Fusilli, "We both hesitated a lot, and there wasn't much scoring. Our team had the title locked up before my match. Maybe I would have done better if we didn't. I'm not making excuses, though. It was disappointing, yet I was enthused about our team title."

For their efforts, each Ithaca wrestler received a gold NCAA Championship ring. Next March, the tournament will coincidentally be held at Ithaca. And with the whole team back (as well as redshirt national champ Mike Cronmiller), things look good for them to repeat.

Since the season, Mike has been active in wrestling. He won titles in Watkins Glen, Baldwinsville, and Brighton. And last month

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RWN is a Monthly magazine. It is published each and every month of the year. Issues put out during the wrestling season (November to March) contain even more news than normal.

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Fusilli, continued

he qualified for the Empire State Games finals by winning the Greco Roman 220 pound title and placing second in freestyle.

He'll give his freestyle qualifying position to third place finisher Bill Condon (Canandaigua and Ithaca) to concentrate on Greco.

Fusilli has tons of Empire State Games experience. He won the Greco title in 1985 and took second in freestyle. In 1987, he added a bronze in Greco, and last year he placed fourth and fifth in Greco and freestyle. He's in strong position to win this year.

In the spring, Mike was part of the NCAA Division III All Star Team's Russian tour. The team was made of top Division III athletes, and made stops in Montreal, Amsterdam, and Warsaw before arriving in Leningrad. In Russia, they worked out with Soviet athletes and competed in several dual meets.

Fusilli won his first match by fall, then lost by fall in his next. In his third match, he faced the 1988 European champ, losing only 7-6. To finish on a winning note, he won the last bout 13-4. He was voted Best American Wrestler by his Soviet counterparts, and received a valuable vase as his prize.

Mike, who just turned 21, is majoring in Physical Education at Ithaca. He will graduate in 1990, and hopes to teach and coach in the Rochester area. He will also continue competing, which is definitely not good news for local 220 pounders.

Motivation for wrestling came from Mike's father, Leo. Now a teacher at Edison Tech,

Leo was a three-time City champ for East High back in the early 1960's. In 1964, he was a Sectional champ.

Mike started in ninth grade at Bishop Kearney. He tried other sports, but really became serious about wrestling when he was cut from the JV baseball team. Shortly afterwards, Coach Mike Cronmiller introduced Mike to freestyle and Greco.

When Coach Brian Chadwick left two years later for a position at Monroe, Leo stepped in as coach. Says Mike, "It was great having him as my coach. He's had a lot of experience. I don't think he would have taken the job if it wasn't for me, though."

Fusilli was 35-3 his senior year. He won the State Qualifier and competed in the states. Although he did not place, he did place in the NYS Collegiate States the following year - his first at Ithaca. "That was a milestone for me, and it was largely due to our tremendous coaching staff, John Murray and Dave Auble," says Mike.

Murray says this of Fusilli, "Mike is a super individual who has been a key contributor to our national success the past few seasons. He should be a top contender for an NCAA title next year."

In 1987, Fusilli took a sixth place in the NCAA's. This year he jumped to second. He finished the season at 30-8 (79-30-1-career). He placed in several tournaments - 1st in NCAA East Regionals; 2nd in the Cornell and Ithaca Opens; 3rd at RIT; and 5th in the NY States.

Next season will be his last. After the national tournament in March, it's a good bet that Mike Fusilli will either be lugging home a first place medal or wearing another team championship ring. □

Three Cronmiller Brothers Qualify

Brothers Mike, Bill, & Steve make ESG Team

There have been a few brother wrestling trios in this area, and one of the top sibling threesome of the 1980's would be the Cronmiller brothers - Mike, Bill, and Steve. All three recently qualified for the Empire State Games finals by placing in the Western Region Trials. The trials were held in Olean on June 17 and 18. The finals are slated for the first week in August in Ithaca.

Mike and Bill are Edison Tech graduates, while Steve has one more year with the Inventors. Returning to action after a year of redshirting, Mike, a 1988 Division III NCAA champ, won six straight matches in the Greco Roman 163 pound class. It was his first competition in a year. Mike has one year of mat eligibility left at Ithaca where he is pursuing a Physics Engineering degree with teaching certification.

Bill was runner-up at 220 pounds in Greco Roman. He won three matches and lost only to Mike Fusilli of Bishop Kearney and Ithaca. Bill, a former MCC student, plans to attend Cortland State this fall and major in Mathematics.

The youngest brother, Steve, competed in the scholastic division at the qualifier. He won the freestyle division at 192 pounds, and was runner-up in Greco at 215 pounds. Steve is a three-sport athlete at Edison - football, wrestling, and tennis. He studies aeronautics and is working on getting his small aircraft pilot's license. □



From left, Mike, Bill, and Steve Cronmiller. All three brothers will be competing in the upcoming Empire State Games in Ithaca from August 2 - 6. Mike, the most successful so far, is a defending national champ.

Scott Justice, Pastor

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Empire State Games Rankings as of 7/25/89 *

Scholastic Freestyle

	first	second	third	fourth	fifth	sixth
41kg	T Secoolish, C	T Rutecki, C	L Allen, LI	J Bowman, W	D Gallo, NY	D D'uva, HV
44	R Sherman, HV	M Voci, W	M Klucina, A	L Fries, LI	R Doobay, NYC	J Roe, C
48	J Wartinger, W	J Gronki, A	N Kolodny, NYC	C Johnson, HV	G Vitagliano, LI	B Stetter, LI
52	K Strychalski, LI	D Stoddard, C	M Aguilar, HV	R Johnson, LI	M Burnstein, W	R Bashaw, A
55	J Toner, C	C Conway, LI	F Tianga, NYC	I Rivera, HV	D Isselbacher, LI	J Raines, W
59	JC Garcia, HV	K Maslin, C	D Conway, LI	S Bauer, W	K Johnson, LI	C Shellon, C
64	B Macnaught, C	C Terry, A	D Betts, LI	T Godoy, LI	B Knauss, W	D Smith, A
70	T Shifflet, W	M Sorochinsky, C	K Johnson, W	B Salas, LI	L Van Slyke, A	J Kraft, LI
75	M Marcinlak, C	R Johnson, A	B Gray, W	J Szerlip, HV	J Malchuski, LI	W Alexander, C
80	T Lucero, W	T Webb, C	C Foster, A	M Licato, W	M Thompson, C	C Foster, A
86	B Thomas, C	S Thompson, LI	S Cronmiller, W	M Cruz, LI	R Bontemps, NYC	B Jesmain, A
99	K Brinkworth, W	S McLaughlin, LI	D Geurin, A	J White, C	T Schaffer, C	B Neuss, LI
over 99	O Davison, W	T White, LI	D Rolloch, LI	M Tisdale, A	D Evans, W	G Henry, NYC

Scholastic Greco Roman

41	L Allen, LI	E Vegerano, NYC	D Hardwick, HV	Justin Matteson, A	Jason Matteson, A	J New, C
44	T Rutecki, C	J Southworth, C	T Bianco, LI	R Kelley, A	J Tufano, HV	J Schultz, LI
48	C Matteoli, HV	C Conant, C	R Frey, W	T Strychalski, LI	J Goldberg, A	J Royce, A
52	K Strychalski, LI	J Mohr, W	M Jamison, C	M Pickett, LI	M Kramer	S Cowles, A
55	T Bouzakis, C	J Duque, HV	R Matteson, C	J Raines, W	D Isselbacher, LI	M Bendett, A
59	D Brainard, W	C Sheldon, C	K Johnson, LI	E Katz, A	C Groreki, A	C Lynch, C
64	D Betts, LI	A Conte, W	D Colgan, C	J Barabato, W	J Prendergast, A	R Van Slyke, A
70	T Shifflet, W	J Kraft, LI	J Pellenz, C	T Carpenter, A	B Guernsey, C	J Harvey, A
75	B Miller, W	W Alexander, C	I Medina, LI	B Gray, W	E Biel, A	R Clinton, HV
80	T Webb, C	B Salas, LI	M Whitten, HV	S Hosbach, W	J Venturo, LI	G Mango, A
86	B Barnes, LI	B Valentin, HV	B Thomas, C	B Recesso, A	J Porrazzo, NY	K Sykes, C
99	M Bucci, HV	K Brinkworth, W	S Cronmiller, W	S McLaughlin, LI	W Tooley, A	M Brandt, HV
over 99	J White, C	D Geurin, A	H Uyar, W	M Polikowski, A	J Schaffer, C	C Molletti, HV

Open Freestyle

48	B Cook, C	C Kumrow, W	I Ramaswamy, LI	A Borushik, LI	A Diaz, HV	G Clark, A
52	T Olang, HV	D Goldstein, LI	C Jimenez, HV	J Raines, W	B Barklund, W	A Zulfakar, NY
57	W Starke, LI	JP Epifanio, A	T Sinacore, NY	S Grubsmith, C	V Montalvo, C	J Canty, HV
62	D Barr, C	P Hart, C	M Cooper, NY	R Parete, HV	J Lamson	R Godoy, LI
68	A Nieves, HV	L Palacio, LI	D Gugel, W	M Cooper, NY	B Mirabella	K Copella, W
74	S Fontana, LI	N Garone, LI	M Nichols, W	M Wyckoff, C	D Markou, NY	E Simpson, W
82	F Meyer, C	P Duthie, C	S Costello, W	J Bena, A	J Rocker, A	C Knazik, HV
90	N Bruno, LI	M Polakoff, C	H Yorks, HV	D Harmon, W	T Kryzak, A	B Maisel, LI
100	M Porcelli, LI	J Hall, C	D Sanchez, HV	M Decapua, HV	R Leggett, W	W Condon, W
unl	P Connors, C	B Jones, A	J Muscarella, W	M Benis, NYC	R Cooke, LI	K Butryn, HV

Open Greco Roman

48	C Kumrow, W	I Ramaswamy, LI	A Marlow, LI	J McGuire, HV	J Harrison, HV	B Goldblatt, NYC
52	F Fronhofer, A	D Goldstein, LI	T Olang, HV	C Jimenez, HV	J Raines, W	B Barklund, W
57	B Starke, LI	F Zagorski, W	V Montalvo, C	T Kryzak, A	S Fava, LI	J Bross, LI
62	T Wilder, NY	B Hart, C	R LaChase, W	J Inzirillo, LI	C Mahoney, LI	P St Germaine, A
68	Marcel Cooper, NYC	D Macnaughton, A	Shawn Costello, W	O Reid, LI	B Cunningham, LI	Mel Cooper, NYC
74	J Sabol, LI	C Zogby, C	M Cronmiller, W	JJ Stanbro, C	D Zariczny, W	R Mordente, LI
82	Dale Oliver, A	T Habecker, W	B Stangro, C	E Bosch, W	L Balducci, HV	J McHugh, A
90	J Chetti, LI	T Knazik, NY	M Polakoff, C	C Balducci, HV	W Serfager, HV	M Guercio, LI
100	M Porcelli, LI	M Fusilli, W	G Geisenhof, C	B Cronmiller, W	J Biel, C	C Davis, LI
unl	C Tironi, A	P Versage, NY	M Benis, NY	R White, HV	T Arman, C	J Muscarella, W

* Rankings were done by Karnak the Great, based on past ESG and State competitions. The purpose of these rankings is for entertainment and speculation only. Please address any questions to him at our address. If you would like to submit individuals for future rankings, please send them to Karnak...

Cadet Nationals

June 29-July 2
NYS Cadet Team Competes

Three NYS wrestlers placed in the Cadet Nationals held in Warrensburg, Missouri recently. Clarence Hunt, Niagara Falls, took first place at 88 pounds, Greco Roman, and will compete as the US representative at the World Cadet Championships in August. Kevin Brinkworth, Amherst, took third, and Daryl Lyons of Dolgeville took fourth.

Local wrestlers who competed were Justin Raines, Spencerport (1-2), Mark Voci, Penfield (1-2), Matt Logan, Fairport (1-2), and Jon Porscheti, Clifton Springs (2-2) □

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ESG Alumni

Since its inception in 1978, the Empire State Games has included some of the top athletes in the nation. Some of them are heavyweight champ Mike Tyson, NBA All Stars Mark Jackson and Chris Mullin, Olympic Gold Medalists Jeff Blatnick and Diane Dixon, four-time All American gymnast Lisa Zeis, All Star baseball player Andy VanSlyke, Olympic alpine skiers Diann Roffe and AJ Kitt, ski jumper Mike Holland, Olympic figure skater Scott Gregory, lugers Cammy Myler and Bonny Warner, in addition to two dozen members of the summer US Olympic team, and three dozen winter Olympic team members.

The Empire State Games is a program of the New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and has enjoyed the enthusiastic support of two governors...

"The Empire State Games is the best thing New York has going for it."

- Governor Mario M. Cuomo (8/15/84)

"My most pleasant memory", was starting the Empire State Games...which has become the biggest sports festival in the nation.

- Governor Hugh L. Carey, as reported in the New York Daily News, 3/82

Great Lakes Wrestling School Successful

The Great Lakes Wrestling School, directed by Bill Jacoutot and held at Roberts Wesleyan College, attracted over 150 wrestlers this year. It ran from July 9 - 14. In its second year, the camp featured some top clinicians, including Ike Anderson, Olympic and National Greco Champ, Gus D'Augustino, former NCAA Champ and Olympian, Fred Powell, NCAA Champ, Woody Vandenburg, Div III NCAA Champ, Graig Cody, NJCAA All American, and Jack Cuvo, two-time NCAA Champ.

Cuvo, of East Stroudsburg State, won his titles at 118 pounds. As a senior, he went 45-0 and ranks third on the all-time win list for Division I wrestlers. Last year he was an alternate to Ken Chertow, Penn State, for the US Olympic team at 114.5 pounds. Since then, he's beaten Chertow twice. Since graduation, he has been active in freestyle competition, including two wins over top Russian wrestlers.

Cuvo alone was worth the price of the camp. Without a doubt, he was the most popular clinician. His humorous style, non-stop banter, and perfect technique made for an amusing and educational time.

Several local wrestlers participated, including Steve Taylor, Jason Bovenzi, Anthony Conte, Mike Licatta, Joel and Justin Raines, Rob Giannavola, Kevin Summers, and Todd Baumgartner.

36,000 Eggs!!

To illustrate the magnitude of the Empire State Games, consider this... In 1988 the ESG athletes alone consumed 36,000 eggs, 32,000 glasses of fruit juice, 132,000 pieces of pizza, and 500,000 cups of soda over the five day period. With 7,200 athletes, plus family, friends, friends, media, and spectators, you can see why this event is the sporting event of the year in New York State.



Two-time NCAA champ Jack Cuvo demonstrating lifting technique to wrestlers at the recent Great Lakes Wrestling School. The camp was directed by Spencerport coach Bill Jacoutot, had over 150 participants.

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