

# Wrestling team wins Regionals with 77½ points; McCaskill, Velasquez, Pavlak, Gittle champions

by Tom DeNigris

No host team has ever won the Mid-Atlantic Tournament. That is, until this past weekend when the Colt wrestlers took the team championship with 77½ points and four Colts took home individual championships.

Willie McCaskill (118),

Erwin Velasquez (134), Bill Pavlak (167) and Al Gittle (190) each placed first in their respective weight classes, while Gary Rushing (177) placed third, qualifying the four grapplers for this weekend's National Championship in Worthington, Minn.

"I'm really proud of those guys, but I'm also proud of

the whole team," commented Coach John Sacchi after the win.

In the opening round Willie McCaskill, who drew a first seed in the 118 weight class, decisioned Bruce Werntz of Bergen 10-0. In the quarter final, McCaskill repeated the score decisioning Chowan's Mike Copperthite 10-0. If that

wasn't enough, McCaskill totally dominated his semi-final match against Mercer's Rich Lawrence decisioning him 11-3. Seven McCaskill's points came in the second period. All three of McCaskill's bouts were major decisions.

A major decision is when a wrestler scores 8 or more points in the bout.

McCaskill then faced second seed John Fitts of Montgomery in the final round. The match opened up with McCaskill calling for an injury timeout with what looked like something bothering his eye. It couldn't have put too much of a burden on him because he came out aggressively and took the meet 6-4 for the first place medal.

Going into the final rounds the Colts held a slim nine point

match, Pavlak knocked off Keystone's Ed Jackson, pinning him in 6:05. He kept his streak going in the semi-final round pinning Ramon Collins of Chowan in 6:55, qualifying him for the finals.

Pavlak was then pitted against Harford's Mike Atkins, the number one seed in the 167 weight class. Obviously Pavlak didn't care too much about Atkins's seed as he aggressively dominated the meet, decisioning him 15-3 for a superior decision. A superior decision is when a wrestler scores 12 or more points in his bout. It is worth ¾ team points.

"All I had to do was keep him away from my upper body," commented Pavlak after his match. "They told me that all I had to do was to keep him going until the third

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Wrestling Coach John Sacchi, shown here, being carried on the shoulders of wrestlers Gary Rushing (177), and Al Gittle (190), after the Colts were victorious in the Mid-Atlantic Zone Championships held here this past weekend.

photo by Mark Glass

## Officials puzzled by leaky roof in College Center

by Debbie Melton

Mother Nature is conspiring against the College Center in the form of water, and she's doing a good job of fooling College officials.

Just when the watermain break was repaired, water began leaking from the roof.

But this is not a new problem, according to Terry McGlincy, the Director of the College Center. "Shortly after the Center was opened in 1971," McGlincy said, "water leaks were discovered in the cafeteria. That was the only area where the leaks occurred until recently. Now it has hit the third

floor - in the Corral Restaurant, the hallways and meeting rooms."

After investigating the leaks in the cafeteria, College engineers thought there was a problem with "flashing", the metal put in between the roof and the concrete. The purpose of flashing is to allow any water build-up to either stay on the roof or run off the sides.

The original builder, who was still under warranty, was called in to put in new flashing. He was then released from the contract. Unfortunately, the leaks started again after a few months.

Blamed it on drains

It was then a process of elimination. This time, the engineers blamed it on the drainage system; that the drainholes (which act as funnels), weren't properly sealed. This caused cracks that allowed water to seep through the insulation and even the concrete.

Attempts to fix this were

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lead over defending champs Keystone Junior College (Penn.).

"That is relief off one of my shoulders," commented Sacchi after McCaskill's win. "Erwin has to win. If he wins, Keystone can't touch us."

And win he did. "Buzzsaw" Velasquez (134) thrashed Keystone's Clem Slerno 19-6 in the final round. "Buzzsaw," as he is known to his fellow wrestlers, scored 14 of his 19 points in the second period, twice on nearfalls.

"He was my toughest opponent so far this year," commented Velasquez about Slerno.

Before he got into the final round Velasquez had little trouble in his previous bouts. He drew a bye in the opening round which could have hurt the Colts total team score. Luckily it didn't. In the quarter final round Velasquez quickly pinned Atlantic's John Walsh in 1:55. The semi-final match had Velasquez going against fourth seeded Grady Berringer from Burlington. He disposed of Berringer in 6:00 with a cradle pin.

Bill Pavlak (167), perhaps the most impressive of the Colt grapplers, over the weekend, like Velasquez had little trouble getting into the finals.

Seeded second, Pavlak started off Saturday by pinning Brad Filson of Mercer in 1:45. In the quarter final

period because he was out of shape and I would win."

It was now time for Al Gittle (190) to join in the winning jubilee. In the opening round Gittle decisioned Camden's Chic Evans 9-2, and then pinned Ed Deputy of Atlantic in 1:55. The final round saw "Git" matched against the number two seed in the 190 division, Keystone's Mark Novotka.

The match started off as a tough aggressive match with Gittle taking a 5-3 lead at the end of the first period. Novotka scored two escapes in the third period but it wasn't enough as Gittle held on to win 9-5 for his second consecutive Mid-Atlantic Zone Championship.

The win also put the icing on the cake for Sacchi's team.

In other final round action, Morris' third seed George Lewis destroyed Bernie Dowd of Brookdale, decisioning him 12-0 in the 126 pound weight class final. Dowd upset Keystone's Ron Stout the number one seed 9-6 in the opening round.

In the 142 divisional final Chowan's Mike Ferrarra, the second seed, decisioned John Salerno of Keystone 7-2 in overtime. Salerno, like Dowd, upset first seed Steve Girona of Brookdale 7-6 in the opening round.

Chowan's Roger Randal captured the 150 weight class

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## Dental Hygiene expands clinic hours

by Kathy Burke

Three lab hours will be added to the Dental Hygiene program to bring the required total of clinic hours to 12.

According to dean of health technologies, Dr. Rose Channing, the change is in

response to a recommendation made by the American Dental Association when they examined the curriculum for re-accreditation this year.

The additional lab hours and some internal curriculum changes were presented to the College Assembly by the curriculum task force and forwarded to Acting President Paul Hilf for his expected approval.

The ADA said the suggested changes were to make the course more compatible with the clinical work students will be doing after graduation.

## Correction

It was erroneously reported in last week's edition of Quo Vadis that the filing date for financial aid was March 15, 1978. It should have read March 15, 1979.

## ARC reports waiting for study by Editorial Comm.

by John Bird

A spring report by the Academic Role of the College (ARC), a committee set up by former president Dr. Robert Harris to see if the needs of the community are being met, will be presented after the Editorial Committee analyzes the report of the sub-committees within the task force.

According to Dr. Robert Fishco, chairman of ARC, the Editorial Committee will analyze and investigate for common problems and elements within the reports. These reports will show if the needs of the community are being met and if not, are there any

resources for the deficiencies. The reports will come from four sub-committees; Transfer, Career, Community Service, and Continuing Education.

The Editorial Committee consists of Dr. Fishco; John Frary, administration assistant to the dean of the humanities and social science division; Kenneth Maugle, transfer counselor; Nursing Department chairwomen Sylvia Edge and English department faculty member Virve Ettinger.

Dr. Fishco also said that copies of the analysis, reports and a section of the common problems will be circulated to all divisions, the College Center and

Quo Vadis. "The reason for this is so not only faculty and administration will have access to the reports, but it will encourage student participation," he said.

Precise planning has become a major priority of ARC. Keeping ahead of the times is a must, stated Fishco. He continued by noting that the College has been successful in meeting the needs of the community. "The growth of the college and number of students reflects this proficiency," he commented.

ARC was formed a year ago and consists of 20 members including faculty, administration and students.



# EDITORIAL

## The fans make the difference

THERE can be little doubt that fan appreciation and participation is abundant when a team is performing on a championship level. This was evident in the turnout of fans at this weekend's Mid-Atlantic Zone wrestling championships.

They came from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey to wrestle. The matmen were shadowed by faithful followers who displayed an undying devotion for their heroes. And heroes they were.

These championship wrestlers illustrated their craft in a way that not only thrilled their families and friends, but also the fans from other schools that had no personal relationship with them.

THIS SAYS a great deal, not only for the spectators of other schools, but for the people who came out to watch the 11th ranked Colts. The crowd at the gym for this event was a refreshing change of pace for a school that has set no records in terms of capacity turnouts.

The soccer and basketball teams struggled through seasons of few victories and fewer fans. The women's field hockey and basketball teams evidently didn't catch on and, while no one can dispute the vulnerability of some of our teams, no one can argue that the lack of fan participation is also due in part to fan indifference.

It was difficult to envision the bleachers being as full as they were regardless of the importance of the tournament. One might think that large crowds would be reserved for the more popular sports like baseball, football, basketball and soccer.

However, this tournament not only decided the best wrestlers from the best schools, it reflected the enthusiasm for wrestling in general. It would appear that interest in this sport is growing at least at a college level.

SO CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the winners and the losers. They are also in order for the fans who came to contribute, in their own way to the success of the participants.

Anyone who didn't get involved may want to talk to the wrestlers to get a birdseye view of what it meant to have someone supporting them. Then maybe the losers on the other teams will experience the same sense of loyalty through larger crowds that seems to be lacking here for sports events.

The fans play an all important role in the success or failure of a team.

### MARCH STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- 1 Movie: "Taxi Driver" - 8 p.m. - THEATRE - FREE  
The controversial story of a taxi driver whose alienation explodes into shocking violence. Robert DeNiro, Cybill Shepherd.
- 6-10 Gallery: Comic Book Exhibit  
Local comic book enthusiasts display rare and favorite editions. Come in and see your favorite heroes and villains.
- 8 Lecture: Stan Lee Theatre, College Center, Free  
The creator of Marvel Comics discusses Spiderman and other popular comic book characters at noon
- 9 Movie: "Grand Illusion" - 8 p.m. - Theatre - Free  
Jean Renoir's anti-war classic about the conflicts between the Germans and their French prisoners during WWI
- 11 Trip: Museum of Natural History  
For further information contact the Office of Student Activities, CC. Sign up March 3 (9 a.m. - Day students 5 p.m. evening students - \$1)
- 10-12 Winter Camping Trip  
Mystery location! \$11 each for MCC student and one guest. Includes 4 meals, x-country skiing, indoor sleeping, entertainment. Sign up at Information Desk, College Center. Limited number.
- 13-24 Gallery Exhibit: Cartoon History of U.S. Foreign Policy. Editorial cartoons portray the political history of the country in this unusual and entertaining exhibit.
- 15 Movie: "Day of the Locust" 8 p.m., Theatre, College Center, FREE. An apocalyptic tale of moral decline in 1930's Hollywood  
Karen Black, Donald Sutherland, Burgess Meredith



This was the scene on Saturday during the preliminaries of the Mid-Atlantic Zone Wrestling Championships. The near capacity crowd was the college's biggest crowd for any athletic event in the last few years.

photo by Joe Cavone

## College Center roof leaks

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interrupted by last winter's weather conditions. The extreme cold temperatures caused the ground to shift, which resulted in more cracks.

There were other explanations offered by Joe Lalli, College Engineer. "After eliminating the flashing and drainholes, we thought it might have been due to the deterioration of the insulation above the concrete. This insulation consists of five layers of felt paper and tar. The deterioration may have resulted from spillage onto the roof from machinery we had up there."

Another possibility, according to Lalli, had to deal

with expansion joints. "Every building has expansion joints," claimed Lalli, "that allow for the expected shifting and settling. In our case, water might have come through the expansion joints. We covered both them and the drainholes. In the spring, it reoccurred and we had to do it all over again."

While engineers tried to eliminate different reasons, the leaks were damaging the wood floors in the cafeteria. "That," according to McGlincy, "was one of the reasons we decided to replace them. The new surface is also easier to take care of."

Replacing the cafeteria floors might be an easier task compared to what's going on

the third floor of the building. A countless number of ceiling blocks were damaged and had to be removed. "But perhaps the major damage," according to McGlincy, "is to the rugs. Water alone wouldn't make those white stains. It seems that the water picked up a chemical compound in the cement, which caused a reaction on the rug."

The problem now is that none of the interior damages can be fixed until the source of the leaks can be determined. And that might be a while, according to Lalli, who claims that "outside contractors will just not come out in the winter."

## Weekend set for May 5, 6, 7

by Bonnie Allen

With the new semester well underway, so are plans for All College Weekend. The three days of festivities this year will take place on May 5, 6, and 7.

At the first meeting of the All College Weekend Committee on February 9, Assistant Director of Student Activities Julia Wilson detailed Friday night's Dinner Dance. "The semi-formal affair will be held at the Battleground Country Club in Freehold. Bids are approximately \$15.00 for a couple and includes a prime rib dinner and entertainment. Bids will go on sale in early April." Last year's gala affair was an overwhelming success with over three-hundred fifty attending.

On Saturday, May 6, a free

### Gerald Stern, poet, will read and discuss works March 10

Gerald Stern, New Jersey poet and author of *Lucky Life* will be giving a poetry reading here on Friday, March 10, at 11 A.M. in West Hall, Room 102.

*Lucky Life*, published last year, was recently nominated for the National Book Critics poetry award. In a laudatory review in *The New York Times Book Review*, Leonard Michaels spoke of Stern's poetry as "weirdly paradoxical

yet simple" and called him "a very brilliant moving poet." After the reading, which is open to the public, Stern will informally discuss writing poetry with students and others who are interested. Anyone who wishes to submit a brief manuscript for Stern to look at during this discussion or who wants more information on the reading should contact Bob Roth in North I, Room 118, ext. 424.

outdoor afternoon concert is in the planning stages. Concert Committee chairperson, Tom Ayers reported the entertainment for the day still has a lot of possibilities, but a well-known group with versatility will have to be decided on. Groups under consideration are Trigger, Cowtown and Grover Marcet & Za Zu Zas.

Sunday's picnic will be highlighted by the "Battle of the Divisions." Liberal Arts Division, last year's champs, are looking forward to meeting this year's challengers. Other plans for the day include a beer truck, free food, two bands, an antique car show, softball competitions, a children's amusement area, a College faculty dunking booth, car smashing,

## Quo Vadis

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# Five grapplers advance to nationals in Minn.

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blinking Stuart Idelson of Morris 9-0 while teammate Dan Kraft, the number one seed in the 158 weight class, decisioned Catonsville's Neil Mengel, the third seed, 7-0.

Mercer's Fred Chandler lived up to his first seeding by not only winning the 177 pound division but also being voted the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. During the two day tourney Chandler recorded three pins, including the pin of Camden's Dick Perry in 3:55 in the final round.

In the heavyweight bout, Rich DeRosa of Bergen was given the title despite ending up with a hyperextended arm. John Riveria from Harford was disqualified for using an illegal hold early in the first period. DeRosa never returned.

Gary Rushing (177) was the fifth Colt to qualify for the National Tournament to be held in Minnesota this coming weekend. Rushing, who could be known as the Masked Marvel, because of the goalie mask he wears placed third in the tournament by decisioning Bergen's Clint Ogden 9-2 in the consolation finals.

Rushign had a good day Saturday, recording two pins. In the opening round he pinned Anne Arrundel's Rich Robinson in 4:26. He then pinned Bergen's Clint Ogden

in 4:54 in the quarter finals with an outside cradle pin, before losing to second seed Dick Perry of Camden 13-3 in the Semi-finals.

"I'm just happy that I qualified for the Nationals," Rushing commented after his win in the consolation final.

Mark Early also got as far as the consolation finals, but was beaten by an aggressive Steve Girona from Brookdale in an overtime decision. At the end of the regulation the score was tied 2-2. The score remained tied at the end of the overtime but the decision went to Girona because he had 16 seconds riding time. Despite the loss, early will still be going with McCaskill, Velasquez, Pavlak, Gittle and Rushing to

Minnesota for the Nationals. Chowan's Girona and Ferrerra will be staying home because their school isn't sending them.

Unseeded Tony Pompillio (150) surprised most people when he upset Brookdale's second seed Joe Mahon 3-1 in the quarter finals. That was as far as he was to go. He lost to Stuart Idelson of Morris 10-4 in the semi-finals, then lost to Keystone's Bryan McCoy in the consolation round 6-0.

Perhaps the most disappointed of all the Colts Grapplers was Bob Watson (167), who drew a second seed for his weight class. In the opening round Watson decisioned Joe Walsh of Brookdale 3-0. He won again in the quarter finals decisioning

Morris' Mark Entrot 1-0 in overtime.

"I don't know man. I'm just not wrestling like I should," he said after his overtime win. He then came up against a tough Neil Mengel of Catonsville in the semi-finals. After a scoreless tie in the first period, Mengel took a slim 2-1 lead going into the final period.

Mengel came out aggressively and scored seven points while Watson could only manage an escape point. The final score was 9-2. In his consolation meet, Watson lost to Keystone's Fred Piekenbrock 6-3.

"Bobby (Watson) was fighting the flu all this week," stated Sacchi after the match.

"He came to practice two days before the tournament."

Colt heavyweight Keith Griffiths lost in the opening round to Montgomery's Luis McDonald, getting pinned in 45 seconds.

Even while the final team scores were being tabulated on could tell by the expression on coach John Sacchi's face that MCC was the winner. Right after Velasquez's win in the finals it was quite apparent that Keystone could not win.

"I thought we had a shot at winning the tournament," exclaimed a jubilant Sacchi after his team was declared the winner. "I'm very proud of these guys. We deserved to win because our guys wrestled their hearts out."

**EXTRA NOTES...**The most exciting of the matches over the weekend was the quarter final match between MCC's Mark Early and Burlington's John Bianonti. The most viewed match was the semi-final match between Keystone's huge Steve "Smokey" Smocharski and John Rivera of Harford. Rivera pinned "Smokey" in overtime. The match looked like a battle between Godzilla and Moby Dick.



The championship team poses for a picture after Sunday night's results.

photo by Mark Glass

anything can happen. It depends on what breaks you get. You can make a bad move and get pinned," he said.

Andrew, whose record over this past year wasn't as impressive as some of the other grapplers competing here, also feels that just participating in wrestling for the fun is more important than being a big winner, his grandfather related. "He always gives 100 percent," he said.

Mr. Young's thoughts on Union's chances weren't as optimistic however. "They don't have a full team. I don't think they have much of a chance."

Last year's tournament winner, Keystone Jr. College of Penn. seemed to have the most vocale rooting section among the colleges, including Middlesex. One fan in this loud section, from Levittown Pa., was quite aware of the quality of the host team. "Middlesex should be pretty tough," he said.

His son wrestled on Keystone's winning team last year. He related his feelings on their coach, Larry Fornicola. "I think he's a pretty good coach. He doesn't try to change their certain style, just improve it."

Of course the Colts weren't without their fans either, as the top seeded team tried to break the jinx where no host team has ever won this competition in its 11-year history. One of these fans was a graduate here last spring. Now he attends Montclair St. College, but tries to keep up with Middlesex sports activities.

"I think they have a real good shot at it, especially if they wrestle up to their potential," the unknown fan said. "Velasquez, Watson, and Gittle all have

a good chance for the nationals," he stated. "McCaskill has a good shot too."

This student thought one of the biggest reasons for the Colt's year-after-year successful wrestling campaigns is coach John Sacchi. "Sacchi is an excellent coach. He recruits high school players well. He's very knowledgeable, and his coaching philosophy is good. He knows what he's doing."

A former high school wrestler himself, he commented from experience on the sport. "It's one of the most demanding sports. To be a good wrestler you have to be dedicated and you have to stay in shape. You have to have a proper diet and get proper sleep. It's a year round thing."

Another one of the "Fans" watching the action on Saturday was 158-pound division wrestler Bob Watson's father, who takes action pictures during Colt matches. Although very thankful for his son's opening match win, he praised the team and coaching staff as a whole instead.

"They all conduct themselves as gentlemen. And I can't compliment the coaching staff enough. I'd like to see the team win for the coaches. They (the coaches) build men."

Mr. Watson also knows the sacrifices a wrestler must go through to compete to his best ability. "You have to be dedicated," he said. "It's very demanding. You have to pace yourself. It's not a one season thing. You have to train year round. An athlete lives within himself."

## Wrestling tourney brings hopeful fans

by Steve Smith

They came from such places as Levittown, Pa., Parsippany and Elizabeth, N.J., and Ocean and Morris Counties of the Garden State. To a wrestler, they're an important part of their psychological buildup for a match. These people, the wrestling fans, were very numerous here on Saturday during the preliminaries of the Mid-Atlantic Zone wrestling championships.

This annual tournament, which is held at a different site every year, was represented by 18 colleges from four states. The matmen wrestled before a very vocale, near capacity crowd. Of course, with so many colleges represented, personal opinion on the tournament as a whole was quite varied among the fans who assembled here to root their individual teams on.

A middle-aged man drove from his Parsippany home to watch his son in this highly competitive event. His son, Dan Kraft, represented Chowan College in North Carolina, the only two-year

college in the state. Kraft's father was very optimistic of his son's chances in the competition since he was seeded first in his 158 pound weight class, and was Regional champ in the 150 event last year.

"I think my son will go all the way", he said, during the preliminary rounds. Among Dan Kraft's other accomplishments were wrestling in Europe last year, working out with Olympic wrestlers, and compiling a strong 15-1 record this season.

"He's done it all on his own," the senior Kraft commented. But despite his son's numerous accomplishments, Mr. Kraft related his son's admirable philosophy toward the sport. "My son's philosophy is not to be a winner but just to participate in the competition for the sport itself."

Union County College had its rooters also. Among them was a Mr. Young, whose grandson, Andrew, wrestles in the 167-pound class. He too was hopeful.

"I feel his chances are good, but

Alan Gittle (190) receives congratulations from Keystone's runner up Mark Novatka and MCC's Assistant Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Jerome Shindelman.

"Novatka was very tough in the finals, but once I broke him down, I knew it was a matter of time," Gittle said.

"We were both exhausted in the last minute of the match. I just tried to keep him from scoring a takdown."

photo by Mark Glass



### The results

Team Scores - Middlesex - 77½, Keystone - 59½, Chowan - 44, Brookdale - 41½, Morris - 28½, Bergen - 26½, Burlington - 25½, Camden - 24½, Harford - 23½, Mercer - 20½, Montgomery - 18, Catonsville - 13½, Essex (Md.) - 6½, Tie Atlantic, Gloucester - 6, Union 4½, Anne Arundel - 3½, Ocean - 3.

118-Willie McCaskill (Middlesex), 126-George Lewis (Morris), 134-Erwin Velasquez (Middlesex), 142-Mike Ferrara (Chowan), 150-Roger Randall (Chowan), 158-Dan Kraft (Chowan), 167-Bill Pavlak (Middlesex), 177-Fred Chandler (Mercer), 190-Al Gittle (Middlesex), Hwt.-Rich DeRosa (Bergen).

### MCC 77 1/2

1181-Bill McCaskill d. Bruce Werntz (bergen), 10-0; d. Mike Copperthite (Chowan), 10-0; d. Rich Lawrence (Mercer), 11-3; d. John Fitts (Montgomery), 6-4  
126-no wrestler  
134-Erwin Velasquez bye; p. John Walsh (Atlantic), 1:55; p. Grady Berringer (Burlington), 6:00; d. Clem

Salerno (Keystone), 19-6  
142-Mark Early d. Pat Corbosiero (Morris), 10-2; d. John Biamonti (Burlington) 2-0 ot; 1.d. John Salerno (Keystone), 7-3; d. Ted Bosse (Catonsville), 5-0 ot; 1. ref decision Steve Girona (Brookdale), 16 seconds riding time.

150-Tony Pompillio bye; d. Willie Monahan (Montgomery), 3-1; 1.d. Stuart Idelson (Morris), 10-4; d. Strain 6-5

158-Bob Watson d. Joe Walsh (Brookdale), 3-0; 1.d. Mark Entrot (Morris), 1-0; d.1. Fred Piekenbrock (Keystone), 6-3.

167-Bill Pavlak p. Brad Filson (Mercer), 1:45; p. Ed Jackson, 6:05; p. Ramon Collins, 12-9; d. Mike Atkins (Harford), 15-3

177-Gary Rusing p. Rich Robison (Anne Arundel), 4:26; p. Clint Ogden (Bergen), 4:54; 1.d. Dick Perry (Camden), 13-3; d. John Wambold (K), 5-0; d. Ogden, 9-2

190-Al Gittle d. Chic Evans (Camden), 10-2; p. Jim McCormick (Ocean), 1:38; d. Ed Deputy, (Atlantic), 12-3; d. Mark Novotak, 7-0

HWT-Keith Griffiths 1.p. Luis McDonald, 0:45





Erwin Velasquez shown here being congratulated by Vice President for academic and Student Affairs for capturing the 134 pound weight class. Clem Salerno, second place finisher, and Grady Berringer of Burlington look on.

photo by Mark Glass

Coach John Sacchi yelling instructions to Willie McCaskill(118) during Sunday's Final Rounds of the Mid-Atlantic Zone Championships. McCaskill defeated second seeded John Fitts of Montgomery 6-4.

photo by Kathy Dunn



## View from the stands

by Joe Cavone

# John Jasczak: The forgotten warrior

**THE SEASON OFFICIALLY** ended at 9:14 Saturday morning for John Jasczak.

That was when 167-pounder Bill Pavlak stepped on the scale during weigh-ins at the Mid-Atlantic Wrestling Championships. Pavlak made weight.

Jasczak and Pavlak were both in contention for the 167-pound class at the start of the season. But Pavlak, who started the season, finished with a 14-3 dual meet record and first-place in the tourney. If Pavlak didn't make weight Jasczak would have replaced him. So much for dreams.

Last year, Jasczak finished with a 7-11 mark. This year he was 0-0-0. Although he has been obsolete from the mat this season, he has not been forgotten by his teammates or coaches.

Jasczak, 5-foot-10 with dark hair combed over from the right side, lost in the opening and consolation rounds of last year's tourney at Rockville, Md.

Although he didn't do well last year or wrestle at all this year, Jasczak is a rare breed of athlete. While most professional athletes are too concerned with contracts and most college athletes would get discouraged and quit, Jasczak did not. The reason- he is dedicated.

"When we needed a wrestler, he was there," said Coach John Sacchi. "When we needed a scorekeeper, he was there. He was everything I could ask for. He was 'Mr. Dependable' for us."

Jasczak is that type of person. He would do anything for the team. All he wanted was a chance to wrestle.

"I love the sport," John said. "Why should I quit when the team needs me? You never know what will happen if someone gets hurt. If that happens, we'll have to forfeit that weight class."

"If someone is better than you are, how can you get mad at them for starting over you?" he questioned. "I slipped a disc early at the start of the season which messed me up."

Prior to his injury, Jasczak started getting into shape and bringing his weight down.

"I was jogging about two to three miles every three days to build up wind," he stated. "I also did some lifting for quickness and muscle tone. And of course, wrestle whenever possible in pre-season tournaments and summer camp."

But all the practice in the world doesn't help when a person doesn't start.

"At the beginning of the season, I got disappointed and hurt. But the guys help you out," he commented. "We (the team) get along excellent. We swap moves and go out together," he said. "We help each other make weight and when things get rough, we help each other out."

**WHEN PAVLAK** stepped on the scale, Jasczak knew it marked the end of the season. But despite the disappointments, he still congratulated the four placemen and the others on the team. He always offered his moral support.

**NOTES ON THE TOURNEY...**Jasczak served as run-around during the tourney. He kept scores and helped set up the mats and roped off the area...Talk about dedication, two

Gloucester CC grapplers were the lone representative from the Roadrunners. John Branco had to jump up to 126 because he was over by two pounds, while Brad Hartman wrestled 142. "We lost six guys because they were ineligible. It's kind of hard practicing with only two guys on the team. We usually wrestled high school kids which doesn't make too good a competition," said Branco.

Upsets were evident as Keystone's Doug Stout (126) and heavyweight Steve Smocharski, Brookdale's Steve Girona (142) and Middlesex's Bob Watson (158) all lost in early round action. All were first seeds with Stout and Watson defending champs and Smocharski a second place finisher last year...Colt's Al Gittle (190) and Chowan's Dan Kraft (158) join the elite group of two-time winners. Kraft won it last year at 158...All three Chowan victors, Mike Ferrara (142), Roger Randall (150), and Kraft, are from New Jersey...Kraft almost came to MCC last year as a transfer but complications ended the possibility...

One reason why Watson lost, he missed four days of practice due to the flu. He practiced only two days prior to the tourney. "I just wasn't in it," he said dejectedly...Gittle was somewhat disappointing because his matches were boring. Only one pin in tourney...Sacchi and others still ticked off that Pavlak didn't win the Outstanding Wrestler award. The Iselin resident had three pins and a superior decision/ 17 3/4 points...Chandler of Mercer got OW with three pins for 16 points...Velasquez (134) of the Colts was also a candidate with two pins and a superior for 14 3/4 points. "Buzzsaw," as he is affectionally labeled by his teammates, received a bye in the first round. Buzzsaw and Pav took points away from each other which resulted in Chandler winning the accolade...

In the final round, the Colts had four champs for 41 1/2. Keystone didn't pick up any and Chowan, the third place finisher, picked up 30 1/2...Reason the score jumps so quickly is because 10 points are given to the winner, seven for second, four to third and two to fourth. Two points are awarded for a pin, 3/4 for a superior decision and 1/2 for a major. Prior to the finals, a point is given for a regular decision...Sacchi and Athletic Director Bob Zifchak, co-chairmen of the tourney, deserve a round of applause for the dedication and time that was put in...Also the fans were fantastic. In the last two years, the gym has never been that filled up. Over 1,500 attended...Gym at Montgomery was only half full last year...



"I love the sport. Why should I quit when the team needs me...If someone is better than you are, how can you get mad at them." — John Jasczak

photo by Ed Giunta