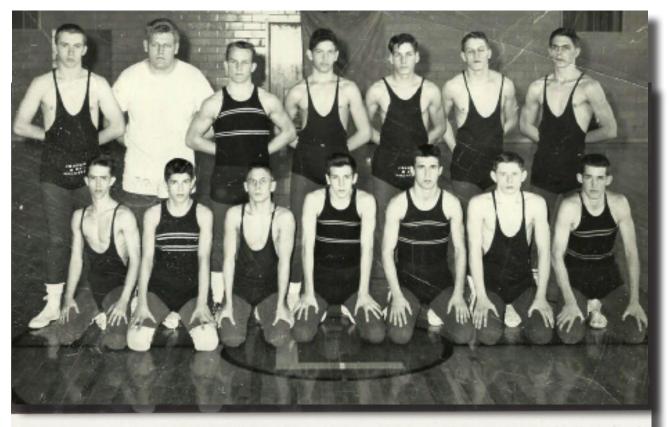


(4 Wins -- 2 Losses)



(neeling: T. Claggett, T. Flowers, D. Chamberlain, M. Barker, R. Flowers, G. Buckingham, J. Starliper. Standing Dripps, J. Ness, A. Holton, Captain; A. Puckett, J. Creitz, J. Meares, J. Welsh.

1961 LHS Wrestling Team Wearing U of MD Freshman Team Uniforms



Andy Holtan, Captain



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Laurel Matmen Beat High Point By 24-20

Beltsville, Md., Jan. 13 [Special].

A decision in the heavyweight class here today clinched a 24-to20 wrestling victory for Laurel over the host High Point grapplers.

105-Pound Class—Klem, High Point, pinned Claggett. 3.10.

114-Pound Class—Fink, High Point, pinned Barker, 3.50.

122-Pound Class—Fink, High Point, pinned Barker, 3.50.

122-Pound Class—Crites, Laurel, decisioned Hybarger, 8—6.

135-Pound Class—Crites, Laurel, decisioned Myers, 2.23.

140-Pound Class—Holtan, Laurel, decisioned Kirby, 5—3.

147-Pound Class—Holtan, Laurel, decisioned Hennings, 9—0.

167-Pound Class—Mears, Laurel, decisioned Hennings, 9—0.

167-Pound Class—Higgins, High Point, decisioned Puckett, 5—2.

177-Pound Class—Boyle, High Point, pinned Dripps, 5.48.

Unlimited Class—Ness, Laurel, decisioned Solomon, 3—0.

The Baltimore Sun January 14, 1961



Laurel Matmen Top Severna Park, 22-21

Laurel, Md., Feb. 6 [Special]—With Laurel's grapplers trailing Severna Park, 21-to-19, John Ness won the day's final match in the heavyweight class to give his mates a 22-to-21 victory here to-day.

It was Severna Park's first loss of the season. Laurel raised its mark to 3-1.

95-Pound Class—Lilly. Severna, pinned Clagget. Time—4.13.

105-Pound Class—Chamberlin, Laurel won by forfeit.

112-Pound Class—Brown, Severna pinned Barker. 5.10.

120-Pound Class—Buckingham, Laurel decisioned Levdic, 6—4.

127-Pound Class—Tassey, Severna decisioned Krietz 7—2,

133-Pound Class—Flowers, Laurel, decisioned Crane, 1—1.

138-Pound Class—Holtan, Laurel, decisioned Eisler, 1—1.

145-Pound Class—Schilling, Severna, decisioned Welsh, 9—3.

154-Pound Class—Meares, Laurel, decisioned Dickson, 3—2.

165-Pound Class—Venelelios, Severna, decisioned Dripps, 7—0.

177-Pound Class—Venelelios, Laurel, decisioned Dripps, 7—0.

177-Pound Class—Puckett, Laurel, drew with Arnold, 2—2.

Heavyweight Class—Ness, Laurel, decisioned Atwell, 4—2.

The Baltimore Sun February 7, 1961



Brooklyn Park Bows To Laurel Matmen

Scoring four falls and a like number of decisions, Laurel's wrestling squad scored a 32-to-18 victory yesterday over host Brooklyn Park.

lyn Park.

98-Pound Class—Claggett, Laurel.
decisioned Supko 5—0.

106-Pound Class — Chamberlain.
Laurel. decisioned McGee. 2—0.

115-Pound Class— Kotick. Brooklyn
Park. pinned Barker. 3.10.

123-Pound Class—Crietz. Laurel.
pinned Hall. 1.45.

136-Pound Class—Flowers. Laurel.
decisioned Stickles. 6—5.

141-Pound Class—Holtan. Laurel.
pinned Langellotto. 5.05.

148-Pound Class—Wilder. Brooklyn
Park. pinned Welsh, 1.08.

157-Pound Class—Brown. Brooklyn
Park. pinned Puckett. 1.50.

168-Pound Class—Dripps, Laurel.
pinned Bond. 2.45

180-Pound Class—Schuler. Brooklyn
Park. decisioned Starliper. 11—2.
Unlimited Class—Ness, Laurel.

The Baltimore Sun February 15, 1961

Reflections on Coach Beryle Cohen, Wrestling Coach, Laurel High School By Andrew (Andy) Holtan, Class of 1961, July, 2018

Who would have thought back in 1959, Mr. Cohen would become Coach Cohen who would build a series of top notch wrestling teams over 30 years at Laurel High School. As one of a group of students who attended the first meeting of the "wrestling team." I for one did not have the foggiest idea what real wrestling was. I doubt that any of us had never even seen a collegiate wrestling match. I knew "professional wrestling" with Haystacks Calhoun, the Masked Avenger, the Russian Cozack, but as it turns out, collegiate wrestling is nothing like "professional wrestling."

And then there was the coach, not much older than we were and yet he was in charge from the get-go. I can't imagine what it took to establish a wrestling team. There had never been a wrestling team at Laurel High. Coach Cohen had to secure a commitment from the school, finagle wrestling equipment; mats, uniforms, head gear, etc. As I remember our first wrestling uniforms, were last years' uniforms from the University of Maryland's wrestling team. They were made of some kind of wool, scratchy and hot. Full length, black and gold, silky robes completed our ensemble. Coach Cohen also had to secure funding, find space to practice, line up other teams to wrestle, set up a schedule, arrange transportation, etc. Not to mention that he had to train us to wrestle!

When we first started we were like a bunch of puppies rolling around but Coach Cohen quickly establish order and began showing us the finer points of wrestling. Since none of us had ever wrestled, Coach Cohen had to demonstrate every move. Who knew anyone could move that fast! Coach Cohen taught us to anticipate your opponent's next move, to engage forcefully, drop and sweep, lift your opponent's elbow and dunk under to get behind him and with your feet planted behind his heels and take him down. Lead hard with your leg when you sit out, hook an elbow, trap an arm, use your body for leverage, turn your opponents reverse into a reverse of your own.

Coach Cohen had the ability to make you challenge yourself. Coach Cohen is on the side shouting encouragements, giving advice, but ultimately win, lose or draw, Coach Cohen is there patting you on the back, complimenting you for your efforts. You are part of his team, the LHS wrestling team. Congratulations Coach Cohen for your dedication and commitment to education, physical fitness, and helping to mold young men at a time when we most needed it.

Thank You Coach Cohen.



Andy was the Captain of the first 2 seasons of LHS wrestling (1960 and 1961).

