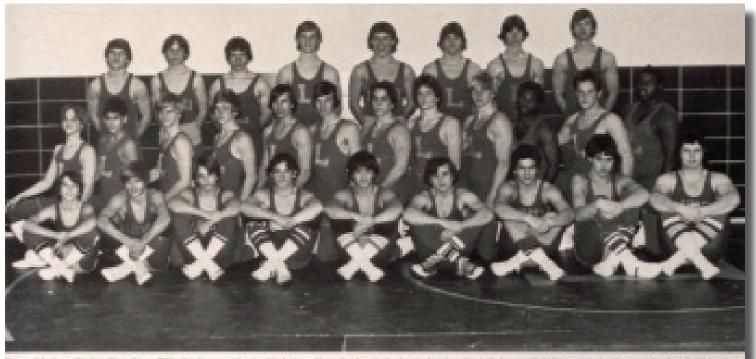


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Scroted Left to Right, First Row, Billy Sackman, Henry Micholas, Kurt Coylendall, Louis Sterks, Paul Bubrow, Phil Pitzer, Josy Crowmath, Junch Hobenhaus and Tern Kanter. Second Row: Birkard Wire, Seine Righter, Rich Wiedel, Mile Vaswer, Mile Pitzer, Stere Smith, Serve Kellog, Joe Calmone, Guldo Va Patters, Brace Stowder, Roger Plasforn, and Kett McDonald. Third Row Store Sacks, Mark Harris, Walter Jack, Tom Milligan, Russell Bullohn, Marshall Hand Jore Nurbuck, and Store Treat. Sor Pitzered: Scott Pasolil.





This year's wrestling season was another fine display of arhietic ability. The hard work in practice paid off again as the team finished the regular season undefeated. The Spartans have now gotte since 1972 without loting a dual meet. However, in the last match of the season they were tied by a tough lowic team, easing them to finish second in P.G. County.

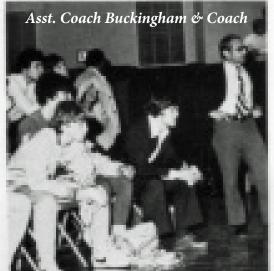
The Varsity action was dominated by Schlors with Oxide Van Dranen and Miles Pitzer finishing with perfect records. As a team Laurel won ten of thirtoen

matches by over thirty points.

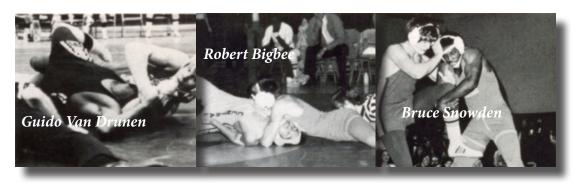
The J.V. squad had many fine wreathers, some of whom will be varilty competitors next year. Hopefully next.

season will end with Laurel going into the tournaments as the P.G. County Champions.

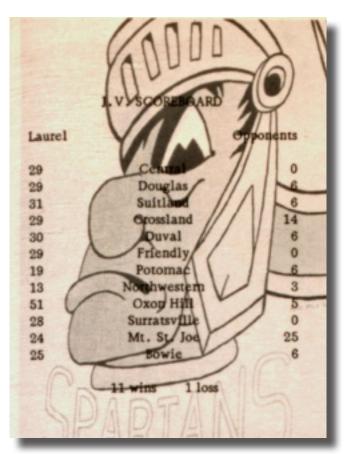


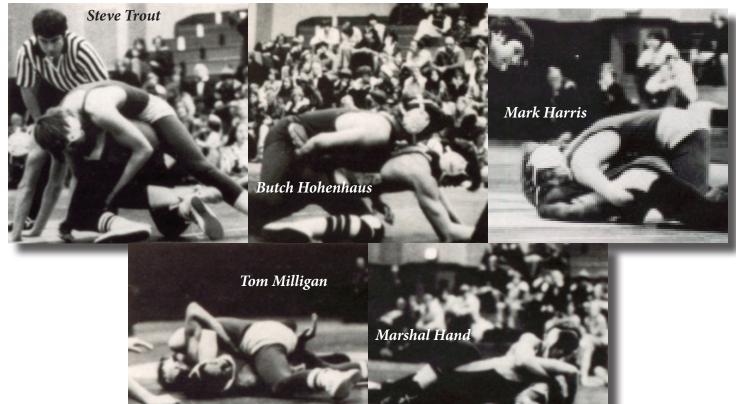












From the Laurel High School 1977 Yearbook and the Laurel Historical Society



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Gear Inventory Sheet



The Laurel Leader -- January 20,, 1977

By BILL NEWLIN

Laurel High's wrestling team won again last Saturday. Ho, hum.

This time the victim was an Oxon Hill squad wrestling at half strength because of injuries. The final score was 49-6, and considering their weakened condition, the Clippers were lucky to get off that easy.

In other top matches last week, Central topped Douglass, 24-15; 24-15, then beat Suitland, 31-16; Gwynn Park lost to DuVal, 36-18, and was smashed by Potomac, 51-13, and Bowie walloped Potomac, 39-13, and Parkdale, 39-11.

In other Saturday action, DuVal edged Douglass, 31-28; Northwestern crushed Fairmont Heights, 45-19; Largo topped Surrattsville, 30-21, and High Point walked all over winless Bladensburg, 56-3.

In other Wednesday matches, High Point downed Surrattsville, 52-10; Oxon Hill trounced Bladensburg, 45-6; Largo squeezed past Friendly, 24-23; Suitland disposed of Fairmont Heights, 49-12, and Crossland downed Roosevelt, 58-9.

At the beginning of the season Lau-

rel coach Beryle Cohen was expressing mild disappointment with his team's progress.

"NO, WE'RE not that good," he insisted. "Oxon Hill was missing a lot of their boys, and had they been at full strength I'm sure it would have been a close match. They might have been the best squad we've wrestled this season. I thought they had a very well-coached team."

Oxon Hill coach Steve Gilligan has had the misfortune of meeting the only two unbeaten teams in the county (High Point is the other) within the same week, and losing badly to both.

Since the two powers will not wrestle each other during the regular season this year, The Journal asked Gilligan who he would pick in a hypothetical match.

"I don't have that much of a basis of comparison because so many of my kids have been out," Gilligan said, "but I'd have to say Laurel is the stronger team. All of Beryle's kids can wrestle with anybody. They just keep coming at you."

THAT IS a familiar phrase. It was

used by Friendly coach Larry Parlee when he was asked for his description of this year's Laurel team.

"Usually you can find a weak spot somewhere in any team, but Laurel," Parlee sighed, "they just keep coming at you one after another after another."

Cohen says it isn't any particular coaching secret of his that enables the Spartans to keep winning. Laurel has not lost a dual match since 1972.

"We just have good kids," he said.
"We're lucky enough to have an
excellent junior high program. The
junior high school coaches, Richard
Markovich (Eisenhower) and Pete
Nichols (Laurel), are two of the men
most responsible for our success,"

COHEN'S "GOOD kids" acted like thugs toward Oxon Hill. After Richard Wynn (98) won a 10-5 decision over Bruce Cherry, Oxon Hill's Rusty Sanchez (105) best Kirk Wiedel 6-2. It was the last ray of hope the Clippers would have for some time.

Defending regional champion Bob Bigbee decisioned Daryl Sanchez at 112 pounds, 9-3, and Mike Vawter fol-

lowed suit with a 4-1 decision over Chris Davis (119).

Another Laurel regional champion, Mike Pitzer (126), pinned Steve Mase at 3: 48. Steve Smith (132) took a little longer with sophomore Mike Thomas, but he got his fall at 4:37.

David Scheid (138) gave Oxon Hill its last three points with a 10-4 decision over Steve Kellogg, and from there on it was all Laurel.

GUIDO VAN Drunen (155), Roger Raskon (185) and heavyweight Kent McDonald apparently were in a hurry to get out of the gym; each pinned his opponent in the first period.

Joe Culmone (3:07) dawdled a bit before pinning David Peterson (wrestling up from his normal weight) at 3:07, and Bruce Snowden kept everyone waiting with his 12-2 decision over Pat Kirby at 167 pounds.

The only team with a real chance to snap Laurel's victory string is Bowie. The two meet at Laurel Saturday, Jan. 29.

CENTRAL'S defeats of Douglass and Suitland boosted its record to 5-3. Coach Bernie Smolen says his loftiest hope this year was for a winning season, and the Falcons appear well on their way. Bill Lyle (98), Glen Futch (112) and Anthony Williams (119) scored two victories apiece over last week's opponents to pace Central.

It was a tough week for Gwynn Park, losing like that to DuVal and Potomac. There is a catch, though. Against Potomac, more than half the Gwynn Park team was snowed in.

"NOBODY BELIEVES that the southern portion of the county gets this way," explained coach Mike Solomon, "but we had to forfeit seven weight classes against Potomac because of the snow.

"Of my five kids who wrestled, three (Ernie Kalinowsky, Steve Zilliox and Harold Bass) won. If our whole team had been there it might have been a close match."

Bowie readied itself for the toughest portion of its schedule with easy wins over Potomac and Parkdale.

John Ong (98) pinned his Potomac opponent in 3:22, and Andy Stone (112), Eddie Mayhew (145), Tom Devlin (155) and Steve Osvatics (167) pinned their Parkdale foes. County champion Ron Sinclair (119) and state champ Pete Ong (105) pinned their opponents in both matches. Ong pinned both his foes in the first period.

Rusty Groves (98) and Marty Drain (119) paced Northwestern's rout of Fairmont by pinning their opponents in the third period.

Wrestling Standings

Laurel						١	y						Ŋ	ŀ	9-0
High Point						Ġ									9-0
Bowie						à									8-1
Largo							ò			ő					7-2
Owen TER				ì		Ť	6								6-2
			ź		ú	ċ	٥				h	ā	۵	ă	00.00
Crossland		-16	ŀ	Ŧ,		٨	8		7					ä	6-2
Central							Ö			ï					5-3
DuVal								Ŋ					3		5-4
Northwestern															5-4
Potomac														9	4-4
Friendly															4-5
Suitland							h			ñ					3-5
Surrattsville	ñ	77					•	ď			ń	ī	þ	Ą	2-6
		űb.										•			
Gwynn Park				ĸ.		k			Э					H	2-7
Roosevelt												÷			1-6
Fairmont Heigh	its	1								7	ı				1-7
Douglass	S										9	Ų		j	1-7
Parkdale															1-7
Bladensburg						ď								i	0-9
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Roger Plaskon, Behind by 15 points going into the final bout, Bowie conceded the heavyweight class to Laurel.

After beating Bowie the Spartans were assured of the dual-meet title if they could win the remaining contests. The schedule ahead presented little challenge as Laurel destroyed Parkdale Surrattsville. Bladensburg, Friendly, Duval, Fairmont and Potomac by a combined score of 304 to 72

The wins of mid-January were fairly routine, but the overall performances of the team showed improvement with each match. The lower weight classes continued to pulverize all challengers. The middle classes wrestled with marked consistency, with stars Mike Pitzer and Smallwood crushing everyone in sight. The upper weight classes, which suffered some problems early in the season, won when they had to.

Emerging as determined wrestlers during this period were seniors Vic Holland and Roger Plaskon. Both did junior varsity duty during the season, but put on some sparkling performances in varsity competition. Plaskon recorded the only pin over Bowie by beating Mark Wiant in 2:28, and Holland devastated Parkdale and Bladensburg and Duval opponents, winning three superior decisions by a combined score of 44-3.

Also in the final meets of the season, there was evidence of the Spartans' determination to win and their commitment to bringing a championship to Laurel. Andy Verrone injured his arm in a match earlier in the season and was unable to finish his bout with Parkdale's Bill Goulart. Verrone bounced back quickly from the injury by winning 11-6 decision against DuVal and a 4:54 pin against Friendly.

Much of the Spartan's hopes were placed on the devastating grapple of senior John Smallwood. He began the season with four straight pins and built up a 10-0 secord. He was ill when



Laurel traveled to Friendly, but wrestled anyway, and won a 17-4 decision. The next day his doctor diagnosed his illness as pneumonia and will not allow him to wrestle in tournament competition. Not only did it dim the Spartans' chances for a state title, but it ended early the career of a fine high school wrestler.

Outstanding Wrestlers

After each dual-meet, the opposing coach picks who he feels was the outstanding Laurel wrestler of the meet. A tribute to the team balance of the Spartans is the variety of wrestlers picked for this honor throughout the season.

Outstandiong wrestlers
this season were John Smallwood, Central; Mike Pitzer,
Largo and Gwynn Park; Don
Cumberland, Northwestern;
Kirk Wiedel, High Point;
Bob Bigbee, Bowie; Smallwood, Surrattsville; Steve
Smith, Parkdale; Vic Holland, Bladensburg; Gerald
Wilson, Friendly;
Cumberland, Fairmont; and
M. Pitzer, Potomäc.

Winning Slogan

Most teams develop a slogan at the beginning of the season that proclaims their aspirations for the campaign. Most slogans prove to be unrealistic when the season

ends, many even ludicrous in their false optimism.

Beryle Cohen's slogan for 75.76 was simple, but it accurately stated not only his team's performance this season but the entire tradition of what he has brought to Laurel:

"When you think of wrestling, you think of Laurel. When you think of Laurel, you think of wrestling. When



Bowie Upsets Laurel With 5 Champs In County Wrestling Tournament

Laurel High led through two rounds of the Prince George's County Wrestling Tournament ast week, but suffered a disastrous final round and lost he team championship to rival Bowie by the narrowest of margins.

With five wrestlers winning individual championships, Bowie surged from behind to record a 124½ to 124 team victory over the Spartans. Laurel had no individual champions for the first time in the history of the tournament.

The three day competition provided several shocks for Laurel fans, from the first round when Steve Smith was upset by Northwestern's Scott Milbourn to the finals when previously undefeated Mike Pitzer and Guido Van Drunen were decisioned.

Despite the disappointments of the county tournament, Laurel's quest for the state championship is not lost. They will be advancing nine men to the Regionals this week, the most of any team. High Point, the third place team with 121 points, will advance eight and Bowle seven. Five of Bowie's wrestlers will be top seeded.

Laurel wrestlers placing fourth or better last week and getting another chance at the Regionals are second place finishers Bob Bigbee (105), Mike Vawter (119), Pitzer (126), Joe Culmone (145), and Kent McDonald (heavyweight); and third place Kirk Wiedel (112), Steve Smith (132) and Roger Plaskon (185).

Richard Winn (98) and Bruce Snowden (167) were defeated in the first round and eliminated from further competition.

The Regional tournament will feature wrestlers from Prince George's, Howard and Carroll Counties. Winner of the Howard County tournament was Oakland Mills, and Francis Scott Key won in Carroll

The full Laurel results from last week's competition are as follows:



The Bowie Blade February 17, 1977

Season Highlights

- 2nd in Dual Meet and 3rd in the State
- Bob Bigbee (105) 2nd in State
- Mike Pitzer (126) State Champion
- Kent McDonald (HWT) 4th in the State

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Winning the final matches for the Spartans were Mike Pitzer (119), Chris Orsborne (145) and Vic Holland (155). Four other Laurel wrestlers made it to the finals but were defeated.

In team points, Laurel was the runaway winner. The Spartans collected 150 points, followed by second place Surrattsville with 79. Duval totalled 71, Potomac 68 2, Parkdale 61, Central 46, Bladensburg 25, Gwynn Park 20 and Fairmont Heights 16.

There were a few surprises in the championship rounds. 'as Laurel lost four of seven matches. Robert Bigbee. (98) was upset by Curt Hosler of Potomac, 5-4. Just a week ago in the last dual meet of the season, Bigbee had defeated Hosler, 7-3.

Also upset was Steve Smith (126), losing to former state champion Mike Walsh of Parkdale, 9-2. In regular season competition, Smith

bent Walsh, 6-4.

Don Cumberland (105) lost his first match of the season against Duval's Bill Wensel, 3-0. Roger Plaskon (185) was pinned by Duval's John Meyer in 5:17.

Mike Pitzer had the first finals victory for the Spartans by decisioning Parkdale's Paul Robey, 12-4. Orsborne downed Don Hreskio ch Parkdale, 11-4. and Holland defeated Chris Anorose of Potomac, 8-2.

Winners of the other finals were Anthony Williams (112), Central, over Robert King, Surrattsville, 5-1; Percy Dixon (132), Fairmont Heights, over Ralph Carnahan, Potomac, 5-1; Devin Catizzi (138), Duval, over John Jenkins, Surrattsville, 13-2; Dominic Antonioli (167). Surrattsville, over Robert Dunn, Central, 13-0; and heavyweight Curtis Skinner, Bladensburg, over Tony Smith, Duval, 4-2.

Laurel will advance all 12 of its wrestlers to the District tournament this Friday and Saturday at Largo High School. The top four finishers of the Parkdale sectional will compete against the top four from the Bowie sectional to determine a county tournament champions.

Besides Bigbee. Cumberland, Mike Pitzer. Smith, Orsborne, Holland. and Plaskon, Laurel will also be represented at the District



Cohen and Roger Plaskon confer at mat-si break in the action. Plaskon finished secon-Meyer of Duval in the finals. Photo By Mike

First Round

In the opening round of competition at Parkdale on Thursday night, Laurel won 11 of 12 matches. Recording pins were Bigbee, Cumberland, Mike Pitzer and McDonald. Winning on decisions were Wilson, Smith, Hand, Orsborne, Holland and Plaskon. Vandrunen advanced to the semi-finals with a bye and only Kurt Pitzer was defeated.

Semi-Finals

The competition began to stiffen on Friday, but the Spartans held firm despite a few losses. Bigbee and Cumberland won again, but Wilson was decisioned by Williams of Central, Also dropping semifinals matches were Hand to Dixon of Fairmont. 8-4; Vandrunen to enkins of Surrattsville; and cDonald to Smith of Duval.

Advancing to the championship rounds with semifinal wins were Mike Pitzer over Mills of Bladensburg, Smith over Stram of Potomac, Orborne over DiMitchele of Surrattsville, Holland over Mueller of Gwynn Park and Plaskon over Moore of Surrattsville.

Consolations

Alll of the Spartans who lost were beaten by wrestlers who eventually competed in the finals, s o they were given an opportunity to win third or fourth place in the consolation rounds. By this means, the entire team made it through the tournament.

In the consolations, Wilson decisioned Eschove of Potomac, 7-3; Hand won by forfeit over Prince of Central; Vandrunen decisioned Jefferson of Potomac, 5-0; Mc-Donald pinned Williams of Parkdale; and Kurt Pitzer pinned Dunnam of Bladen-

Bowie Sectional

The sectional tournament at Parkdale was just one of two held in the county last weekend. Half the teams competed at Parkdale, the other half at Bowie.

Bowie won its sectional with four individual champions and 1171s team points. Crossland placed second with three champions and 91% points. High Point





High Point led a Prince George's County sweep through the state wrestling tournament last weekend and finished as team champion for the first time in the tournament's eight year history.

Prince George's had three of the top four teams. Following High Point's 59 points was Overlea (Baltimore County) with 58, Laurel with 54½ and Bowie with 54. The county had nine wrestlers in the finals, and four winners, including Laurel's Mike Pitzer in the 125 pound class.

High Point won the team title by virtue of two individual champions. Mike Burke won the 185 pound class and Paul Hill won the unlimited. Bowie had one champion in Dave Pottorff (132).

The tournament was a race

George's teams and Overlea from the beginning. Overlea led Laurel by five-and-a-half points after the quarterfinals, but slipped to third after the semi-finals as High Point jumped on top by one. The Spartans moved down to third and Overlea moved into first again after the consolation round, but High Point's two heavyweight victors made the difference at the end.

Bowie, predicted by many to be the top choice to win the tournament, held fourth place from the beginning.

Another surprise to Prince George's County fans was that neither Bowie's Pete Ong or Laurel's Bob Bigbee emerged as the 105 pound champion. Ong, last year's 98 pound champ, was defeated in the quarterfinals by Scott Craven of Bel Air, 10-4. Craven, who finished third in the 98 division of the 105 class by shutting out Bigbee in the final, 6-0.

Also of interest to Laurel area fans, Atholton's Tim-Lewis won the 112 pound title by defeating Bill Wenzel of DuVal, 7-2. Lewis finished second last year.

Westminister's Ray Finch, call "the class of the tournament" by Laurel head coach Beryle Cohen, regained his state championship by defeating Steve Dodge of Seneca Valley. Finch won the title in 1974, placed second last year, but came back to win the 155 division crown.

Other winners included Rusty Fiste (98) of Northwood, who knocked Bowie's John Ong out of contention in the semifinals; John Dolch (119) of Northeast; Patapsco's Paul Blakenship (138), Andy Maker (145) of Andover, and Overlea's Dion Fennel

First Round

Laurel took eight wrestlers into the tournament, and five survived the first round Friday evening. Bigbee pinned Steve Barstow of Great Mills in 3:35, Pitzer decisioned Gaithersburg's Doug Watson, 9-2, Steve Smith (132) decisioned Mike Ritmiller of Thomas Johnson, 9-4, Roger Plaskon (185) defeated Sherwood's Drew Wilson, 13-3, and McDonald pinned Kevin Riley of Peary in 2:22.

Laurel's Mike Vawter (119), Joe Culmone (145) and Guido Van Drunen (155) were defeated in the first round.

Quarterfinals

The Spartans attack was cut to three men after the quarterfinal round Friday night. Bigbee, Pitzer and McDonald made it through, but Smith was defeated by Hereford's Steve Wilson, 6-2, and Plaskon was decisioned by Dundalk's Dan Fouts, 11-6. Wilson finished in third place and Fouts second.

In other quarterfinal action, Bigbee decisioned Marvin Jones of Galthersburg, 8-2; Pitzer downed Tim Frankenfield of Kenwood, 7-4; and McDonald needed only 30 seconds to pin Edgewood's Rick McCulloh.

Semi-Finals

Laurel was still very much

in contention going into Saturday's action. Bigbee started off by recording an 8-2 decision over Ed Machovec of Overlea, and Pitzer scored an early takedown to edge Dave Epstein of Milford Mill, 2-1. McDonald fought a tough contest with High Point's Paul Hill, but was pinned in 5:21, eliminating him from the finals.

Finals and Consolations

Laurel's only entry in the consolations was McDonald in a rematch with Steve Eisenbarth of Friendly. McDonald pinned Eisenbarth last week for third place in the Region, but the Friendly wrestler had beaten McDonald during the regular season.

Eisenbarth took an early lead on points and captured pin over the Laurel heavyweight.

Bigbee had Laurel's first chance in the championship competition. His opponent Scott Craven had defeated Pete Ong Friday, and he was prepared for the Spartans wrestler. Craven scored points in each period and finished as state champ with a 6-0 decision.

Pitzer was a study in determination as he met Pat Donovan in the 126 pound final. Donovan was the only wrestler to defeat Pitzer this season, and both losses were in overtime.

Pitzer took an early lead on a takedown, and extended his advantage to 4-0 before Donovan closed to within two. Donovan managed an escape in the third period, but Pitzer held on to record the 4-3 decision for the championship.

The Laurel Leader March 3, 1977



1977 1 st High Point - 59.5		2 nd Overlea - 58	3 rd Laurel - 5	4.5	4 ^{sh} Bowie - 54							
	WT	CHAMPION	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE	FOURTH PLACE							
	98	Bruce Malinowski-KEN 2-0		John Ong-80W 8-1.	Ken Kertesz–FRI							
	105	Scott Craver-BAR 6-0	Robert Bigbee-LAU	Ed Machovec-OVE :	16-6Yank Strube—FRE							
	112	Tim Lewis-ATH 7-2		Bab Caradelli-OVE (OT: RDJoe Saylor—REP							
	119	19 John Dolch - NEA 12-3										
	126 Mike Pitzer-LAU 4-3											
(1) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	132	Dave Potterff-BOW 9-5		tSteve Wilson-HER 3	-2Steve Scarzini-OVE							
E. B. KITT TO SEE	135	Paul Blankenship-PAT 5-2	Mark Thilodeau—ABI	EScott Parker-ANN 5	-2Mike 0/Donnell-MTB							
The second secon	145	45 Andy Maker-AND 8-4Frtiz Racine-SPBStave Boszermenyi-SEV 4-2Mark Reepp-KEN										
	155	Ray Finch-WES 17-0	Steve Dodge-SEV	Jack Koster-ABE 7-6	Alan Pries-PBR							
	167	Dion Fennell-0VE 7-1	Don Kellner-DUN	Dave Easter-ABE 10	1-7Jim Keady-REP							
	185	Mike Burke-HPT OT: Ref. De	eDan Fouts-DUN	Tam Reese-NCL 4-0	Lercy Barton-GAI							
	Hwt.	Paul HIII-HPT 5-2	Pat Brady-CRO'	Steve Eisenbarth-Fl	RI 4:37Kent McDonald-LAU							

From: The MPSSAA Wrestling Yearbook 1970 - 2018