



FEATURE...

By Bill Knight

In spite of the extreme heat and humidity and a schedule that has kept the junior wrestlers away from home since the end of the school year, the level of competition at the National Sports Festival was a tribute to the individual participants as well as those who brought them there.

The Sports Festival wrestling program was the final step on the road to the World Elite competition held in Colorado Springs on August 4-7. The junior wrestlers began their individual drives toward the goal with the Junior Olympics in June followed by the Grand Nationals in Lincoln, NE in July.

During the four week period the demands placed upon the wrestlers included an extensive training program, travel to Europe, Asia and Australia through an extensive Cultural Exchange program and the competition they participated in.

The NSF round robin competition in greco-roman and freestyle saw three returning champions retain their Gold Medals, the East team dominated in the greco-roman events and the North and South battle to a 2-0-1 draw in freestyle.

The highlight of the four day competition was the dominance by Dave Koplovitz (Schenectady, NY) over the field of heavyweight wrestlers. The 6'4", 270 pound high school graduate displayed a high level of skill, as well as the agility of a 165 pounder, as he worked his way to the gold.

Against the best junior wrestlers in the country this feat is one thing, but the way he did it is another. In a competition that included 120 matches only 22 concluded in pinning combinations. Of those 22 three belonged to Dave in times of 51 seconds, 49 seconds and one minute four seconds in the final Gold Medal match. With these performances he won the right to represent the U.S.A. in Elite competition against the best in the world, including the Soviet's for the first time since the events origination.

Joining Koplovitz in the ranks of two time winners, as well as members of the Elite team, were 115 pounder Jeff Clark (Voorheesville, NY) and 143 pounder John Placek (Schenectady, NY). Clark worked his way to the gold medal with decisions of 11-1, 12-0 and 12-0 while Placek pinned his first two opponents before posting a decision of technical superiority in the final match.

Other outstanding performances came from a number of competitors.

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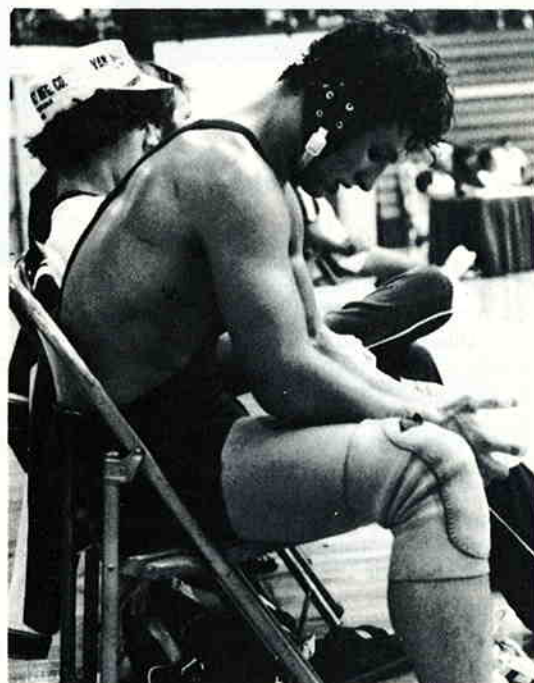
National Sports Festival



Cal & Kathy Johnson, NSF administrators.



Glenn Jarrett, Missoula, MT.



Duane Peoples, Allentown, PA



Chris Mears, Canton, OH.



Feature continued

Maybe the most impressive was the dominance of Tony Kourmoulus (Birmingham, AL) at 178 greco-roman and Mike Davies (Chardon, OH) at 192 freestyle. Kourmoulus, on the way to the gold, posted two superior decisions and a 10-6 win in his opening match. Davies opened with a 13-4 decision followed by a pin at 1:00 and a final decision of technical superiority in his gold medal match.

Todd Nicholson (Tillamook, OR) breezed through his first two matches with superior decisions of 14-1 and 17-2, but ran into a tough match against Yoshi Honda (Honolulu, HI) for the gold in the 132 pound class. Both Angelo Cuzalina (McAlester, OK) at 154 greco-roman and Fred Little (Carson City, NV) at 165 freestyle also had little problem capturing the number one spots. Cuzalina defeated his first opponent 13-3 and pinned his second and third opponents in times of 1:23 and 4:59. Little was unscored upon in his first two matches, 11-0 and 12-0, and captured the gold with a pin at 3:53 in his final match.

Interscholastic and intercollegiate wrestling, as seen by those who observe, is considerably different than the international styles of greco-roman and freestyle. In an attempt to develop a high level of competitive quality the AAU 200 Program, the four week development program prior to the Sports Festival, is attempting to expose the nation's junior wrestlers to this international competition in preparation for the '84 Olympics.

For those who participated in the Sports Festival, from a spectators standpoint as well as those from the organizational end, it should be apparent the time and effort being put into the project is paying off. If the Dave Koplovitz's, Jeff Clark's and John Placek's are examples of what is being accomplished, that road to '84 is definitely becoming much shorter.

**National Sports Festival IV
Indianapolis IN, 1982**

Freestyle

- 106-1. (N) Steve Brown (Troy, MI); 2. (E) Corey Baze (Oklahoma City, OK); 3. (W) Bill Ramos (Danville, CA); 4. (S) Pat Ingold (Green Bay, WI)
- 115-1. (E) Scott Hinkel (Fairfield, OH); 2. (W) Glenn Jarrett (Missoula, MT); 3. (N) Pat Joseph (Mercer Island, WA); 4. Brad Rhodes (Gresham, OR)
- 123-1. (S) Jim Picolo (Springfield, OH); 2. (W) Tim Balzeski (Comstock Park, MI); 3. (E) Tracey Yeates (Orangeville, CA); 4. (N) Mike Wittenburg (Rockville, MD)
- 132-1. (N) Joe Ghezzi (Worthington, OH); 2. (E) Sean Schaufele (S. Laurel, MD); 3. Cody Bryant (Missoula, MT); 4. (S) Darin Craig (S. Pasadena, CA)
- 143-1. (E) Tony Cook (Perry, OK); 2. (N) Chris Mears (N. Canton, OH); 3. (W) Pat Tongue (Auburn, WA); 4. (S) Mark Stovall (Amarillo, TX)

- 154-1. (E) Duane Peoples (Allentown, PA); 2. (S) Jon Cardi (Ballston Spa, NY) 3. (N) Wayne Sharp (Anchorage, AK) 4. (W) Mike Olmsted (Sumner, WA)
 - 165-1. (S) Fred Little (Carson City, NV); 2. (E) Art Castillo (Mesa, AZ); 3. (N) Garth Conner (Arcata, CA); 4. (W) Jim Gressley (Chandler, AZ)
 - 178-1. (W) John Stafford (Somerdale, NJ); 2. (E) Eric Boyd (Rock Hill, SC); 3. (N) Craig Spivey (St. Albanx, NY); 4. (S) Dave Dennis (Hamilton, OH)
 - 192-1. (E) Mike Davies (Chardon, OH); 2. (S) Matt Ryan (Albany, NY); 3. (N) Steve Richards (Lansing, MI); 4. (W) Steve Johnson (Idaho Falls, ID)
- | Team Standings: | W | L | T |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| North | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| South | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| West | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| East | 0 | 3 | 0 |

Greco-Roman

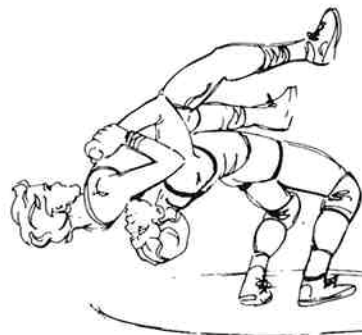
- 106-1. (N) Shawn Sheldon (E. Greenbush, NY); 2. (W) Eric Woodland (Columbus, OH); 3. (S) Jeff Anderson (Kalispell, MT); 4. (E) Todd Horne (Troy, MI)
- 115-1. (W) Jeff Clark (Voorheesville, NY); 2. (E) Pat Fitzgerald (Moorow, OH); 3. (S) Jeff Dravis (Staples, MN); 4. (N) Bob Winchip (Glen Falls, NY)
- 123-1. (E) Dick Howell (Newark, DE); 2. (S) Torey McCulley (Elma, WA) 3. (N) Jeff Hammond (Columbus, OH); 4. (W) Nates Hoines (Havre, MT)
- 132-1. (S) Todd Nicholson (Tillamook, OR); 2. (W) Yoshi Honda (Honolulu, HI); 3. (E) Kevin Kaltenbach (Fairbanks, AK); 4. (N) Brady Bratcher (Phoenix, AZ)

- 143-1. (N) John Placek (Schenectady, NY); 2. (W) Ray Trujillo (Concord, CA); 3. (S) Joe Rodriguez (Honolulu, HI); 4. (E) Kats Kashiwai (Scottsdale, AZ)
 - 154-1. (W) Angelo Cuzalina (McAlester, OK); 2. (S) John Guglielmo (Glens Falls, NY); 3. (N) Robby Bazant (Great Falls MT); 4. (E) Tom Spaulding (Scottsdale, AZ)
 - 165-1. (N) Alan Marwill (Slingsland, NY); 2. (E) Scott Weber (Forsyth, MT); 3. (S) Kevin Davis (Fulton, NY) 4. (W) Daemon Knight (Pistol River, OR)
 - 178-1. (S) Tony Kourmoulus (Birmingham, AL); 2. (N) Fred Aldorasi (Chandler, AZ); 3. (W) Bob Graham (Kent, WA); 4. (E) Mike Narewski (Fulton, NY)
 - 192-1. (N) Brad Steward (W Anchorage, AK); 2. (W) Tim Bowersox (Liverpool, PA) 3. (S) Carl Brantley (Wilksboro, NC) 4. (E) Eric Sowell (Columbus, OH)
 - UNL-1. (S) Dave Koplovitz (Schenectady, NY); 2. (W) Joe Smiley (Everett, WA); 3. (E) Buddy Blankenship (Scott City, MO); 4. (N) Ken Finch (N Salt Lake, UT)
- | Team Standings | W | L | T |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| East | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| North | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| South | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| West | 0 | 3 | 0 |



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