

PROFILE

of a Champion

STAN DZIEDZIC

By Don Krone

Stan Dziedzic has accepted many challenges during his athletic career. Rising from a mediocre high school wrestler, he became a three-time College Division champion, an NCAA titlist, an Olympic medal winner and the pinnacle of mat success, a World Champion. Now, he is faced with perhaps his most formidable task as the National Wrestling Coach.

Since August of 1978 Dziedzic (Dessick is the Americanized pronunciation of his Polish name), has been working out of the Lincoln Office of the Wrestling Division of the AAU. His position, one of coordinating the instruction and coaching of all American teams for international competition, was made possible by a grant from Sun Company of Radnor, Pennsylvania.

In accepting this prestigious position,



Dziedzic embarked into unknown territory. It certainly would have been easier for him to take one of the collegiate head coaching jobs that were offered, but Dziedzic has never accepted the easy route in his endeavors. When things get tough or when the obstacles appear insurmountable, that's when the Allentown, PA, native surges with determina-


tion, tackling head on the issue at hand. And, generally, as happened when he was an active competitor, he wins.

"No one's crazy who goes out after something he wants," Stan once told a reporter. "People are at their strongest who have control over what they want."

His schedule has been hectic. During his first year on the job, he was away from his home 48 of 52 weekends. It might be a clinic in Colorado Springs for the Colorado Coaches Association or a one-week jaunt to Budapest for a meeting of the FILA (International Amateur Wrestling Federation) Coaches Commission. In recent months he's been to Japan for the TV Asahi Super Champion competition and the Soviet Union for a two-week tour that included the Tbilisi Tournament and three dual matches. That's plenty time away from an understanding, young family, his wife Arlene and daughter.

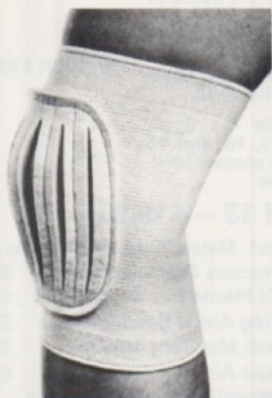
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