

1943

8th Annual Lehigh Tournament

By WILLIAM SHERIDAN

Wrestling Coach, Lehigh University

Despite the tendency to curtail or eliminate championship contests, Lehigh University staged their annual Prep School Championships on March 5 and 6 at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the excellent entry list fully justified their attitude. Eight schools entered a total of fifty-seven contests.

Mercersburg Academy had an unusually well-balanced team and they ran up 33 points to take the team title. Valley Forge Military Academy placed second with 19 points. The wrestling was superior to that of any previous meet.

Franklin and Marshall Academy, a former consistent leader, and 1942 winner, was third with 15 points. Poly Prep of Brooklyn, New York, always a factor in this tournament, was fourth with 10 points. Wyoming Seminary and Blair Academy tied for fifth with 9 points. St. Albans and Hill School, newcomers to the tournament, showed some excellent wrestling but fell before more experienced boys.

Lehigh will again conduct this tournament this season, February 25 and 26, 1944.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

121 lb. class.....*Tom Massey, Mercersburg
 128 lb. class.....E. G. North, Poly Prep
 136 lb. class.....J. H. Greene, Mercersburg
 145 lb. class.....A. Fodera, Blair
 155 lb. class.....W. Jaeger, Valley Forge
 165 lb. class.....G. Yates, Valley Forge
 175 lb. class.....*G. Gebhardt, Wyoming Seminary
 Heavyweight class.....J. U. Gardner, Mercersburg

* Retained title.

Tenth New Jersey Tournament

By E. M. LOESER

Another successful although somewhat curtailed New Jersey scholastic season was terminated by the tenth annual wrestling tournament sponsored by the State Interscholastic Athletic Association and conducted by the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association.

Lack of adequate transportation facilities caused some schools to shorten their schedules and others to carry on only on an intramural basis. Because of this the rating system (incorporating season records with the tournament results to determine the team championship) was not used.

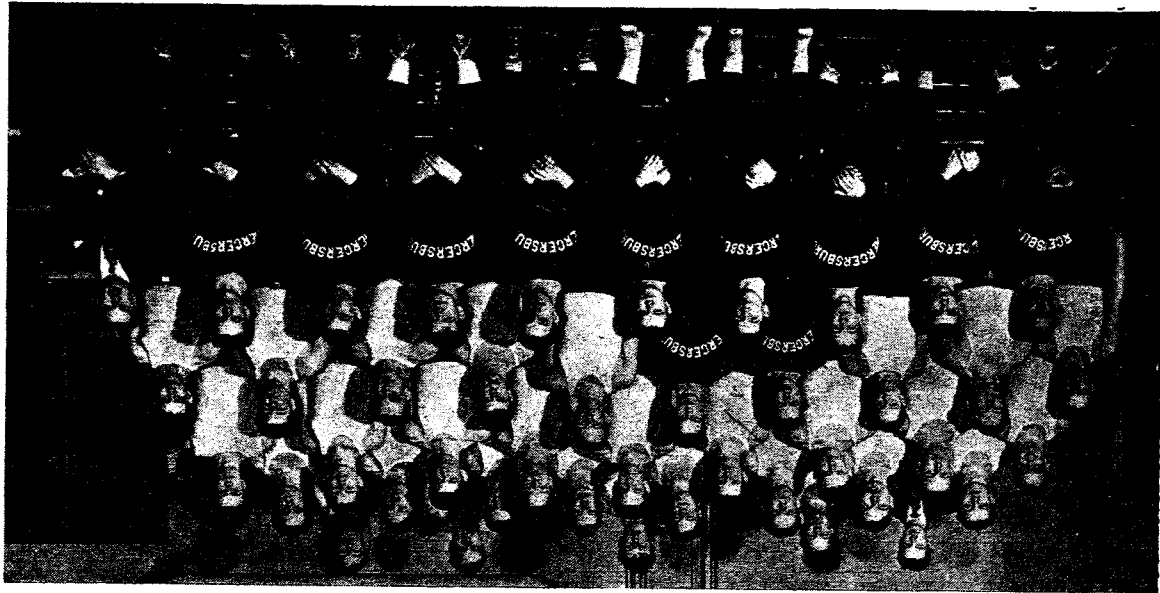
Newton H. S. team tallied thirty-four points and won its fifth New Jersey state championship. In the Association's ten years Newton has never finished worse than fifth, placing second twice, fourth twice and fifth once. Coach Henry Biresch has produced thirty-three individual champions out of a total of one hundred and three and has had at least one champion in each weight class.

Roselle Park H. S. was the runner-up with twenty-seven points. Washington H. S. was third. Union, the 1942 champion, could fare no better than sixth because its coachless team had no dual meets.

The final tournament was held at Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth on March 6.

Robert McKeely of Newton, 121 lb. champion, was voted the competitor outstanding in wrestling ability and sportsmanship during the tournament.

CRACK MERCERSBURG TEAM: Winners of Lehigh University tournament. Left to right, first row: Spragg, Nesbit, Cummins, Vail, Day, Chapman, Greene, Langst, Behm, Vinton, Gardner and Coach F. R. Kuhn; second row: Spragg, Nesbit, Cummins, Schaff, Henry, Koples, Davis, Morris, Broder, Jacks; third row: Burt, Knapp, Hickman, Eshelman, Scahill, Nye, Leppard, Baldwin, Morris; fourth row: Sisterson, McLaughlin, Flomagnon, Cowden, Jones, Cook, Lomade, Rhodes; fifth row: Sukhart man-ager), Eldridge, Clay, Cavanaugh, Smith.



Long Island Wrestling

By WINSTON TUTTILL

Director of Athletics, Mepham High School, Belmore, L. I.

Reduced coaching staffs and restricted travel have failed to keep wrestling from booming on Long Island. There is no question but what flight training has given the public as well as the school authorities new interest in the sport.

Mepham High School continues the outstanding team on the Island, remaining undefeated for its seventh consecutive year and running its string to 88 straight victories.

The Mepham Invitational, which is the Long Island championship tournament, had 13 schools entered and 100 individual entries. Mepham was the winner.

The winning streak of the Mepham High School team was made during the coaching regimes of Lt. Frank D. Gardner, U.S.N., mentor for five years, Donald Larye, now at Westfield, N. Y., and at the present time, Herman Sweetman.

Baldwin, coached by Ed. Rehnisch, held a noteworthy intramural tournament with over half the boys' enrollment entered. It took a week to run off and the finals, with medals for the winners, were held before a packed gym.

Sturtevant wrestling continues to be dominated by Lonnie Kittle and his Antiochville team.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 104 lb. class | William Davey, Valley Stream |
| 113 lb. class | Robert Gerbino, Valley Stream |
| 121 lb. class | Peter Delisser, Baldwin |
| 128 lb. class | Carl Henry, Freeport |
| 136 lb. class | Ed Branu, Mepham |
| 144 lb. class | Joseph Goligo, Mepham |
| 152 lb. class | Harold Earl Valley, Mepham |
| 160 lb. class | Pascal Perri, Mepham |
| 168 lb. class | Henry Goody, Antiochville |
| Heavyweight | Harry Blanden, Mepham |

National Prep School Championships

By WILLIAM SHERIDAN

Wrestling Coach, Lehigh University

The ninth annual Prep School Wrestling Championships, sponsored annually by Lehigh University, were held at Grace Hall, Lehigh's new recreation building, Saturday, March 4th. Mercersburg Academy won the team championship with 29 points, but close on its heels was a well balanced outfit representing Brooklyn Poly Prep with 23 points.

Gilman School from Baltimore had only three entries, but it landed two individual titles and finished with 19 points. Point score of the other competitors was Shady Side Academy, 9; Valley Forge, 8; Blair Academy, 7 and Wyoming Seminary, 1.

The battle for first place was a hectic one between Mercersburg and Brooklyn. The ultimate winner was not determined until all the place bouts were over. An unusually strong and well balanced Mercersburg team finally emerged the winner.

NATIONAL PREP SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lehigh will again conduct this championship on the first Saturday in March, '46. Many boys who have participated in this tournament have gone on to win sectional and national honors.

The writer feels that we owe it to the boys who show enough back-bone to take part in this truly great sport to make it possible for them to best their ability in an open tournament where all are equal and the best man wins. That's the American way. May it ever be thus.

The results:

| 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 121 lbs. Daniel (BP) | Kerry (M) | Weinert (B) |
| 128 lbs. Gallagher (M) | Hazelhart (S) | Gunnther (BP) |
| 136 lbs. Chapman (M) | Meiz (B) | Wiewel (S) |
| 145 lbs. Burdick (BP) | Evans (G) | Wolfe (W) |
| 155 lbs. Greene (M) | Jackson (S) | Rossmann (B) |
| 165 lbs. Schmeisser (G) | Story (M) | Pell (BP) |
| 175 lbs. Baker (G) | Conroy (BP) | Maddies (M) |
| Heavyweight. Wilson (VF) | Gordon (BP) | Brandfass (M) |

Pennsylvania School Tourney

By JIM COOGAN

Director, Sports Publicity, Penn State College

Farrell and Kington shared first honors in the 1944 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Wrestling Championships by annexing two titles each in the seventh renewal of this annual schoolboy competition.

The only repeater in the field was Matt Gusic, Waynesburg, who added the 138-lb. title to the 127-lb. crown he had won the year before by besting Roger Johnson of State College in the finals.

Farrell's two champions were George Lewis, 95 lbs., and Hawdy Pritzant, 112 lbs., Kingston's winners were Bob Armstrong, 133 lbs., and Vince Pihan, 164 lbs. Jim Kiss, DuBois, who won the 154-lb. crown in 1943, failed in his attempt to win the 165-lb. title when John Mullins of Chartiers won a close decision.

Farrell's double victory marked its first success in championship competition, while Dormont, Tyrone and Chartiers also annexed titles for the first time. Clearfield and Waynesburg, traditional contenders, each captured one title.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 95 lb. class | George Lewis, Farrell |
| 103 lb. class | Bernie Bhaerman, Forty Fort |
| 112 lb. class | Hawdy Pritzant, Farrell |
| 120 lb. class | Bob Scheil, Dormont |
| 127 lb. class | Bob Shaffer, Clearfield |
| 133 lb. class | Bob Armstrong, Kingston |
| 138 lb. class | Matt Gusic, Waynesburg |
| 145 lb. class | Vince Pihan, Kingston |
| 154 lb. class | John Dickson, Tyrone |
| 165 lb. class | John Mullins, Chartiers |
| | Bob Flath, Greensburg |

1944

The South Shore Individual champions were:

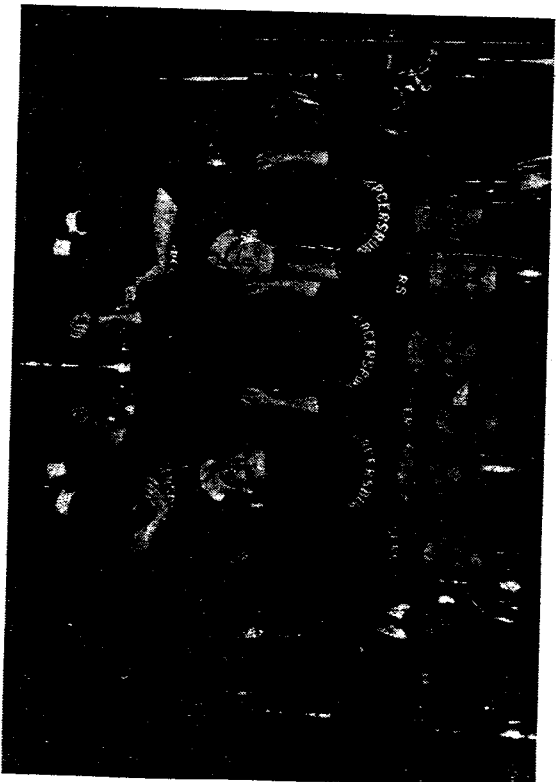
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|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 104 lb. class..... | Kenneth Morton, Mepham |
| 113 lb. class..... | William Davey, Valley Stream |
| 128 lb. class..... | Robert Gerbino, Valley Stream |
| 134 lb. class..... | Joseph Settemi, Mepham |
| 139 lb. class..... | Harold Cook, Mepham |
| 149 lb. class..... | Eric Erikson, Mepham |
| 150 lb. class..... | Reggie Jones, Baldwin |
| 154 lb. class..... | Aldo Caperna, Mepham |
| 166 lb. class..... | Pascal Perri, Mepham |
| Heavy weight..... | Donald Berndt, Baldwin |

National Prep School Championships

By WILLIAM SHERIDAN

Wrestling Coach, Lehigh University

For the third successive year Mercersburg's matmen captured the crown at the Preparatory School Wrestling Intercollegiasts held by Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., on Saturday, March 3rd, by a high score of 30 points. Out of eight bouts Mercersburg took three first and three second places, with one third place. Providing the closest competition was Gilman Prep of Baltimore, Md.,



CHAMPS FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR: Mercersburg's fine team, left to right, first row—Leer, Spragg; second row—Tavares, Capt. Nesbit, Browning, Coach Kuhn; third row—Burger, Lemmerman, Anderson.

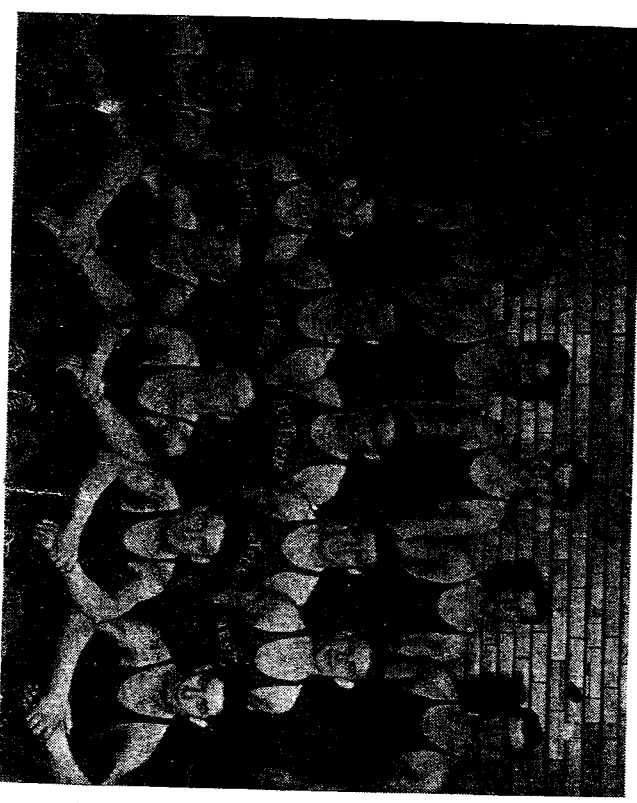
1945

with a score of 25 points. Brooklyn Poly followed with 15, Blair 8, Shadyside 7, and Wyoming Seminary with 4. The tourney, in general, was very close and exciting, and the Mercersburg team showed themselves deserving of the team honors they worked so hard to get.

Spragg, 121 pound winner, took the highest number of points of any wrestler participating with a total of 7 points, 5 for first place and 1 for each of his two falls. From the seven Mercersburg wrestlers who placed, only two had had any experience previous to this season. The two veterans were Add Spragg and Joe Nesbit.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 121 lb. class..... | Addison Spragg, Mercersburg |
| 126 lb. class..... | Daniel Ray, Brooklyn Poly |
| 136 lb. class..... | Al Tavares, Mercersburg |
| 145 lb. class..... | Joseph Nesbit, Mercersburg |
| 155 lb. class..... | Heberton Evans, Gilman |
| 165 lb. class..... | James Jackson, Shadyside |
| 173 lb. class..... | David Baker, Gilman |
| Heavy weight..... | John Kunowski, Gilman |



OHIO'S HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS: West Technical High School, left to right, first row—Petro, Kuhn, Dubin, Wyllison, Gentle; second row—Soza, Jakupca, Stirling, Eiternan, McNamara; third row—Coach Griffith, Mslach, Steele, Prehtik, Co-capt. Bassett, Farnsic.