

Penn State and Pitt Share Mat Crown

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—At the start of the one-hundred forty-third and final bout of the Eastern intercollegiate wrestling championships tonight, there was only one way for Penn State to tie Pittsburgh for the team title. Johnston Oberly, State's 250-pound heavyweight, had to pin Brown's Bill Wood.

Oberly did it with dispatch. At 3:36 of the bout he forced Wood's shoulder to the mat with a figure four and head scissors. The standing-room-only crowd at Princeton's Dillon Gymnasium applauded Oberly with a standing ovation. His team-mates hoisted him to their shoulders. Penn State had tied Pittsburgh, 66—66.

This was the first time since 1941, when Princeton and Yale

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PENN STATE, PITT TIE IN WRESTLING

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had deadlocked, that there was a tie for the team title. Lehigh, the defending champion, finished in third place with 43 points. Cornell was fourth with 36 and Syracuse fifth with 31.

Pitt Early Leader

At the end of the afternoon semi-final round, Pitt was the popular choice to capture its fourth Eastern title.

The Panthers had 58 points and had placed five men, including one defending champion, in the final. Penn State had 57 points and had qualified four for tonight's bouts.

Penn State put three men into the consolation round and two won. Pitt's lone entrant in the consolation also triumphed. The Nittany Lions then had a 62-60 lead over Pittsburgh, whose lone consolation entry also scored.

After the first three final bouts, Pittsburgh was in deep trouble. Richard Martin lost in the 123-pound class. Larry Lauchle, the defending champion, was upset 15-14, by Mike Leta, a Rutgers sophomore. Then Daryl Kelvington was beaten by Lester Austin, a Syracuse senior.

Two Men Left

Pitt had lost three opportunities to take the lead. The Panthers had only two more finalists. None of Penn State's four contenders had competed.

Pittsburgh's John Zollikoff had to beat Penn State's Sam Minor in the 147-pound bout, the fourth match on the program. Zollikoff did, 6-5, and Pitt took command, 63-62.

Penn State then had a chance to move ahead in the 167-pound class, but Jerry Seckler dropped a 2-0 decision to Lehigh's Thad Turner.

Then in the 191-pound match, Penn State and Pitt were face to face again. Once more the Panthers came through under pressure as Tom Hall scored a 6-4 victory over Phil Meyer and increased Pitt's lead to 66-62.

Up to Oberly

Then it was up to Oberly, but he had to do more than win. If he beat Wood, State would get 3 points. If he pinned the Brown muscleman, the Nittany Lions would get 4 points and the tie.

In the first three minutes of the scheduled nine-minute bout, Oberly was cautious. Wood weighs 225 pounds. He has 16-inch biceps and is a crafty fellow on the mats. There was no score in the first period.

Oberly started in the offensive position in the second period. Then the massive State wres-

tier rushed Wood and nailed him for the tie.

Oberly, however, did not walk off with the greatest individual honors. These went to the smallest man in the competition—Cornell's Dave Auble.

Auble won his third straight 123-pound Eastern title. He was named the outstanding wrestler of the tournament and received the John A. Fletcher Memorial Trophy for scoring the most career-points in E.I.W.A. competition.

As for the team trophy it will spend six months in the care of Penn State's coach, Charlie Speidel, and the next half year under the watchful eyes of Pitt's Red Peery.

Lehigh Has Backing

Lehigh wrestling fans invaded the Princeton campus in force today. This was the first championship tournament held here since 1950, and more than half the crowd was from out of town. About 500 vociferous Lehigh rooters were on hand for yesterday's preliminary and quarter-final round matches.

The advance guard was fortified this afternoon by another five or six hundred Engineer supporters. Cornell, Penn State and Rutgers sent between fifty and eighty fans each.

Pittsburgh's Larry Lauchle, the 130-pound defender, defeated Douglas Ballie of Lehigh, 6-1, but expressed disappointment over his performance after the match.

"He knew I was going to use the head spin and he was ready for it," Lauchle said. "I should have used a single leg pick-up or a snap-down."

With that, Lauchle showered, dressed and left the gymnasium to "watch TV and get something to eat."

Will he try to get some sleep before tonight's big bout?

"No," he said. "That slows my body down."