

Wrestlers Capture First Dixie Tournament

By ALAN HANCOCK

St. Andrews grapplers captured the first Dixie Conference wrestling tournament.

When the Knights traveled to Rocky Mount on Friday, February 11th, the first round pairings had been drawn. In an impartial drawing for eighteen matches, the results were unbelievable. Not one Carolina Wesleyan wrestler would have to face a Knight in the opening round.

SA faced six matches with Lynchburg, two with Methodist and had one bye. Yet the Knights still

won six of nine individual matches and brought home the tourney trophy.

Unexpectedly, Lynchburg sent down a full team to compete. The "dark horse" of the tournament, the Hornets sent some wrestlers to the finals. The finals found 7 Carolina Wesleyan, 7 St. Andrews, 3 Lynchburg and one Methodist wrestler competing.

In the first match, Dean Leake (SA) decisioned Ray Martin (CW). Leake became the first D. I. A. C. champion at 123 by using a take-

down and a reversal to outpoint Martin.

The second match pitted SA's captain, Warren Maxon, against Herble Smith at the 130 pound class. Maxon gained the finals by pinning McLeod of Methodist. He did the same against Smith of Wesleyan in 57 seconds of the second period.

Buzzy Rogers proved to be a welcome surprise to the Knights. He pinned his man from Lynchburg in the afternoon match. In a nip and tuck struggle in the finals, Rogers pinned the only Methodist man to reach the Championships.

At 147, the Knights sent Jan Bartlett against Bob Strope of Lynchburg. Bartlett recorded the fastest pin of the tourney in his first match - 34 seconds of the opening round. He settled for a 6-0 decision over Strope in the finals.

At 152, Warr of the Lynchburg squad met Joe Dickinson of Wesleyan. Dickinson pinned Warr after building up a 7-0 margin. Warr had pinned Jim Bouck of SA.

Rick Reynolds, wrestling at 160, advanced to the finals by decisioning Bob Swink of Methodist, 14-2. Jim Gilbert of Carolina Wesleyan was Reynold's victim in the finals.

Jack LaPointe grappled at 167 for the Knights. Receiving a bye

in the afternoon match, LaPointe faced Nat Railey of Wesleyan in the Championships. The match went back and forth but Railey managed to pin LaPointe in the third round.

At 177, Whit Blackstone of Wesleyan was pitted against Jim Nepote of Lynchburg. Nepote was pinned with :32 seconds left in the second period.

Going into the heavyweight match the score was SA - 32 and Wesleyan - 30 Frank Grier of SA faced Anderson of Wesleyan. This match determined the champions of the Dixie Conference.

When the regulation match was over it seemed that Grier was defeated, the score being 4-3 in favor of Wesleyan. But the veteran SA wrestler had gained two points for 4 minutes of riding time and thus won his match and the tournament for Sta. Andrews.

Dixie Champs are:

- 123 - Dean Leake - St. Andrews.
- 130 - Warren Maxon - St. Andrews.
- 137 - Buzzy Rogers - St. Andrews.
- 145 - Jan Bartlett - St. Andrews.
- 152 - Joe Dickinson - Wesleyan.
- 160 - Rick Reynolds - SA
- 167 - Nat Railey - Wesleyan.
- 177 - Whit Blackstone - Wesleyan.
- Hwt - Frank Grier - SA



Jan Bartlett (standing) and Dean Leake captured individual titles in tourney. Bartlett was undefeated this season in conference competition. Leake, a first-year man, had a great season, winning most of his matches.



Frank Grier, Rick Reynolds, Warren Maxon, Buzzy Rogers all won individual crowns.

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First Dixie Wrestling Champs - left to right - Dean Leake, Buzzy Rogers, Jan Bartlett, Jim Bouck, Rick Reynolds, Jack LaPointe, Gary Ball. Kneeling - Captain Warren Maxon, Coach Johnson and Frank Grier.

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