

Matmen Capture Third Straight Tourney Title

Led by captain Denny Dodson, the St. Andrews wrestling team became the first ever to win a Dixie Conference tournament three consecutive years. An upset win by Methodist in the 1968 tourney prevented five straight DIAC wrestling titles for SA. The Knights accumulated 48 points easily outdistancing Lynchburg 27, Methodist 18, and NC Wesleyan 0. Wesleyan sent only two men, both of whom were pinned in the preliminaries.

Still hampered by a knee that he injured against Lynchburg on January 28, Dodson a senior, pinned Lynchburg's Hal Gilham with 1:35 left in the second period for the 158 lb. championship. Denny was named Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. This match finished out a fine 9-1 season. It included a 7-3 point decision over Brian Dewey of Lynchburg in the 150 lb. conference title. Incidentally, Dewey lost only one match. Dodson was conference runner-up twice, champion twice, and MVP twice, in his four SA grappling years. His loss will be greatly felt.

Three Knights-Carter McKeithan (118-lb.), Jim Gaskins (126-lb.), and Wesley Campbell (134-lb.) competed in the semifinals. Carter lost to Lynchburg's Fred Pifer who ultimately won the 118 crown. McKeithan, a sophomore, compiled a 3-8 record in his first wrestling season. Both Gaskins and Campbell advanced to the finals as Jim blitzed Allen White of NC Wesleyan 18-4 and Wes-

ley pinned Hornet Neil Smith in the second period.

These two plus six others who were top seeded gave St. Andrews eight men in the finals while Lynchburg had six and Methodist four. Seven points for a pin, five for a decision, and three for a loss, constituted the scoring in the finals.

Showing no effects of a month lay-off while in Mexico, freshman Jim Gaskins demolished Grubbs of Lynchburg with a pin in only 62 seconds to capture the 126 lb. title. Gaskins compiled a 4-1 record this year.

Wesley Campbell, another frosh, lost a tough 8-2 decision to Methodist's Dave Patrick for the 134 lb. crown. He wrestled the last six weeks of the season and finished with a 4-3 record. In an upset win over Lynchburg, Wesley pinned his opponent at 1:67 while weighing only 145 lb.

Sophomore Buddy Creech won his second conference title in a row, this time at 142, by pinning Bill Breeden of Lynchburg with 1:34 left in the second period. In 1970, Buddy was the DIAC's top 126 pounder. Creech has a fine 7-3-1 season. Freshman Marty McIntyre was defeated in the 167 title match by Ken Valentine of Methodist. Marty had a respectable 4-6 season considering he wrestled at 150, 158, and 167 lbs. Those weight classes are far from easy.

In the grand finale, 270 lb. sophomore Ed Bartlett disposed of Lynchburg's Robert Brown in a mere 70 seconds to retain his conference crown in the

unlimited category. This victory and a pin vs. Wilmington gave big Ed a 2-0 season.

Next year everyone will return except Dodson. If Compy Groff, 150 lb. conference champion 1969, comes out and Richard Bridgfort, conference and District 29 champ in 1969 returns from the Far East, the SA matmen will be heavily favored to make it four in a row.



Senior grappler DENNY DODSON appears to have "hardly a leg to stand on" against Lynchburg's Hal Gilham in the 158 lb. championship match.

DIAC Tournament Starts Tonight ; Knights Meet UNC-Greensboro At Rocky Mount

After finishing the season with three consecutive victories, the Knights collide tonight with UNC-Greensboro in Rocky Mount at 7:00 in the quarter-finals of the DIAC tournament. SA should be psyched up to blow UNC-G off the court. They beat us twice in regular season competition, once incredibly overcoming a 23 point lead.

Coach Spencer Boyd feels the Knights can win the tourney with teamwork. An average of 25 turnovers per game in our last three outings must decrease to perform well at Rocky Mount. Except for VA. Wesleyan, any of the teams in this year's DIAC, which Boyd described as the most balanced he has even seen, are capable of capturing the tourney.

Three seniors will be playing their last games. They are Gary Gredlein, Tony Fernandez, and Craig Hannas. Gary has averaged 15.3 points per game in the conference this year and is perhaps the DIAC's fin-

est defensive guard. Tony enjoyed his best season at SA, averaging 14.7 points and 12.9 rebounds per game and led the conference in field accuracy with 51%. "The Leaper" averaged 19.6 points per game (Among the top five in DIAC), led the conference in rebounding with 15.4 per game,



GARY LINN

and finished among the top ten in free throw accuracy with 75%.

A win over UNC-G would advance us to the semi-finals against top-seeded Lynchburg on Friday at 9:00. A consolation game and the championship tilt are scheduled for 7:00 and 9:00 respectively Saturday night. Tickets are now on sale in the PE office for \$1.

Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Lynchburg bye		
St. Andrews 7:00	9:00	
UNC-G		9:00
Greensboro 3:00		
Va. Wesleyan	7:00	
NC Wesleyan 9:00		
Methodist		

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