

Wrestling Rams Try for 6th Title

By Kenneth Raymond
Assistant Sports Editor

The Wrestling Team of Winston-Salem State University has held the CIAA Championship title for five consecutive years. Coach Michael Edwards predicts that this year will be no different. "We're going to be first again this year. Norfolk will be second, Livingston third, Hampton fourth and Virginia State fifth," said Coach Edwards. During the years of their reign in the CIAA, the team has blended together well. "They work exceptionally well together," said Coach Edwards. This is one of the things that will contribute to Coach Edwards' prediction for his team. Other contributing factors are the return of such starters as All-CIAA champions Ronnie Locust, Robert Toran, and Dean Smith and the preparations that were made for the season by Coach Edwards.

Edwards had his team work out with the World Cup Wrestling Team of the United States Marines. "They showed us some of the techniques they use and different exercises to increase strength without the use of weights," said Edwards. They also showed us some take down drills which should be very helpful to us," he continued.

The team will have the opportunity to use these new wrestling skills against Division One teams this year. The team will be matched against Clemson University twice, and they will wrestle in a tournament which consists primarily of Division One teams. Wrestling in the tournament shall be teams from Harvard, Duke and the university of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

There is no doubt in the minds of the wrestling team as to whether or not they can compete with the Division One teams. They are looking forward to being matched

up against them. "It's great competition," said All-CIAA Ronnie Locust. "They maybe a more technical team than we might be, but that's because they have the advantage of having better training facilities, but I feel that the team can hold it's own against Division One Schools," he added. "If everyone remembers what they've learned from the Marines and applies it to their own wrestling style, they should do well against anybody and the guys will find themselves becoming better wrestlers," said Robert Toran.

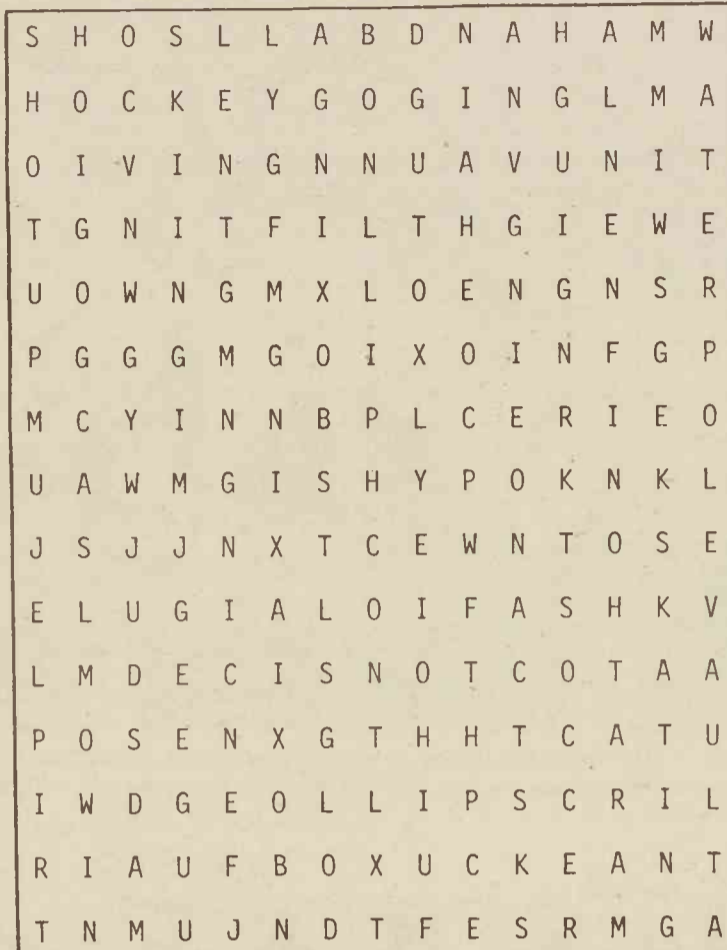
Making his debut as a collegiate wrestler in the WSSU tournament November 9th-11th will be freshmen Victor Tate. Tate does not allow the division level of his opponents to intimidate him. "It doesn't make any difference to me what division they're in. It's all wrestling," said Tate.

The team is very enthusiastic about the season and they are encouraging each other to do their best. "We have a few guys who have taken it upon themselves this season to get themselves together and that helps the attitude of team and encourages the upperclassmen," said Ronald McRae.

The team does not expect an explosive start, however they do expect to have a strong finish. "Things will move moderately as the season goes on and everyone will find out where they stand. By the end of the regular season we'll have a few CIAA champions and a few that will go to the nationals," said Dean Smith.

Taking into consideration the personnel on the wrestling team, their experience, and their training, the chances of Coach Edwards' prediction about his team coming true are very strong.

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Leonardo Horn Makes A Difference

By Lynell Winston

The talented Leonardo Horn has made the team's starting line-up.

Horn, a second year man, is a Winston-Salem native majoring in Business Administration. He chose to attend WSSU because it was right at home and he felt this was the ideal place to finish his education.

Horn credits the teams success to hard work from all the players, and the togetherness of the squad.

"This year's offensive line is superb and it has enabled me to be very successful," he commented.

According to Horn he will work very extra hard this off season in the weight room to enhance his ability for next fall. He feels that he is motivated both physically and mentally automatically because of his love for the game.

He plans to make his home in Winston-Salem if he isn't drafted by a professional football team.

C.E. Gaines

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