

**WILKES OPEN TOURNAMENT**

**50<sup>th</sup> YEAR**  
**DECEMBER 29&30**  
**1982**



#### Historical Sketch Of The Open Wrestling Tournament

This Tournament, now known as the "Wilkes Open", began in 1932 as the "Northeastern Pennsylvania Amateur Wrestling Tournament."

W. Austin Bishop had come to Wyoming Seminary in 1928 as a teacher/coach and it was he who conceived the idea of conducting an open wrestling competition to promote amateur wrestling in this area where the sport was relatively unknown. W. Austin Bishop is the "father" of the Tournament.

In the fall of 1931, Coach Bishop, needed competition for his Wyoming Seminary wrestling squad to prepare for scheduled dual meets and he also aspired to promote wrestling in this area, found an interested ally in O. B. "Doc" Anderson, Physical Director of the YMCA. "Doc" Anderson had come to Wilkes-Barre from Lincoln, Nebraska, where wrestling was well established and he was eager to involve the YMCA in wrestling competition. The first Northeastern Pennsylvania Open Wrestling Tournament was held in early January of 1932.

During the early years of the Open Tourney, the competition was largely between entries from the regional YMCA's, Wyoming Seminary, and a little later, Kingston and Forty-Fort High Schools. Austin Bishop served as Chairman of the Annual Tournament until he left the area in 1937.

During the decade following 1937, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Amateur Wrestling Tournament continued under the sponsorship of the YMCA at the old North Main Street "Y". The competition was predominantly among wrestlers from the regional "Y", Wyoming Seminary, Forty-Fort and Kingston High Schools. In 1935, a fine new YMCA facility was opened on Northampton Street and the Tourney was held there. All through this period, including the World War II years, competition was mainly between regional YMCA's, Wyoming Seminary and local high school contestants.

In the late thirties, after Austin Bishop left the community, Frank W. Walp, Supervising Principal of Forty-Fort High School, gave strong leadership to wrestling and sustained the Tournament with his capable leadership and in the late forties following the war, College entrants were attracted to the Tournament. The date for the Tournament was maintained during the holidays when wrestlers needed competition to prepare for scheduled competition. Cornell, Pitt, Penn State, Lehigh, the New York Athletic Club came to the Tournament in strength, and other collegiate wrestlers entered the competition as well. The event grew and the

YMCA facilities were not adequate to accommodate the growth in competition.

In 1950 Wilkes College opened its new gymnasium and Dean of Student Affairs, George Ralston who also served as Chairman of the YMCA Physical Committee, took over as Tournament Chairman. The Tournament grew and prospered in all ways under the Wilkes College sponsorship. With expert assistance from many interested volunteers the Tournament rapidly earned national recognition. Cromwell Thomas, a member of the Wilkes faculty and first Wilkes Wrestling Coach, served as Director of Wrestling and the efficiency of the Tourney was established nationwide.

In 1960, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED magazine dubbed the Wilkes Open as "The Rose Bowl of Wrestling." In 1967, there were 474 entries and 423 weighed in and wrestled. Thirteen states were represented and 75 Colleges and Universities entered contestants. It was truly the largest wrestling Tournament in the country and many feel it is the best Open Tournament in the land.

#### Significant Data Pertaining To The Open Tournament

##### Open Tourney Team Champions

|                          |                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bloomsburg State         | '62                                         |
| Clarion State            | '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79      |
| Cornell University       | '50                                         |
| Lehigh University        | '52                                         |
| Lock Haven State         | '65                                         |
| University of Missouri   | '80                                         |
| N.Y.A.C.                 | '59, '63, '66, '68, '70, '71, '81           |
| Penn Grapplers Club      | '67                                         |
| University of Pittsburgh | '50, '53, '55, '56, '57, '58, '60, '61, '64 |
| *Kingston High School    | '38                                         |
| *Wilkes-Barre YMCA       | '37, '40, '47                               |
| *Wyoming Seminary        | '33, '34, '35, '36                          |

\*Most points in Tourney, but no team award was made.

A few famous intercollegiate wrestlers who have appeared in the Open Tournament and won the championship in their weight:

|                   |                            |        |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Hugh Peery        | University of Pittsburgh   | 2 yrs. |
| Ed Peery          | University of Pittsburgh   | 2 yrs. |
| Frank Bettucci    | Cornell University         | 4 yrs. |
| Joe Krufka        | Penn State                 | 3 yrs. |
| Jim LaRock        | Ithaca                     | 2 yrs. |
| Jim Howard        | Ithaca                     | 3 yrs. |
| Bill Kerslake     | Case                       | 3 yrs. |
| Larry Fornicola   | Penn State                 | 3 yrs. |
| Carmen Molino     | Cornell                    | 3 yrs. |
| Dave Auble        | Cornell                    | 2 yrs. |
| Bill Farrell      | NYAC                       | 4 yrs. |
| Grey Ruth         | Oklahoma, Lehigh, NYAC     | 4 yrs. |
| Wayne Hicks       | Navy                       | 2 yrs. |
| Bill Blacksmith   | Lock Haven                 | 2 yrs. |
| Dave Unik         | Ohio University            | 2 yrs. |
| Rich Sofman       | University of Pennsylvania | 4 yrs. |
| Stan Dziedzic     | Slippery Rock              | 2 yrs. |
| Harry Houska      | Ohio University            | 3 yrs. |
| Gray Simons       | Lock Haven                 | 3 yrs. |
| Doug Blubaugh     | Oklahoma, NYAC             | 3 yrs. |
| Geoff Baum        | Oklahoma                   | 1 yr.  |
| Bill Stuart       | Lehigh                     | 1 yr.  |
| Andy Fitch        | Yale                       | 2 yrs. |
| Ed Rooney         | Syracuse                   | 3 yrs. |
| Henry Whittenberg | NYAC                       | 3 yrs. |
| Charley Ridnauer  | Penn State                 | 2 yrs. |

Nine members of American Olympic Wrestling teams have appeared at the Wilkes Open Tournament.

In 1966 three national NCAA champions competed in the Open Tournament.

Famous names among wrestling coaches who participated for many years in this Tourney:

Billy Sheridan  
Cliff Keen  
Rex Peery  
Jimmy Miller  
Casey Fredricks



# Tournament Outstanding Wrestler Trophy Winners

|      |                                          |
|------|------------------------------------------|
| 1931 | No Award                                 |
| 1932 | Holdoon, Wyoming Seminary                |
| 1933 | No Record                                |
| 1934 | Jeff Jones, Wyoming Seminary             |
| 1935 | Myron Kopiec, Wyoming Seminary           |
| 1936 | Sam LaTorre, Temple                      |
| 1937 | Jim Longan, Wyoming Seminary             |
| 1938 | No Record                                |
| 1939 | Billy Lee, Wilkes-Barre YMCA             |
| 1940 | No Record                                |
| 1941 | Corp. Max Marks, Pottsville YMCA         |
| 1942 | Bob Armstrong, Kingston High School      |
| 1943 | Merrill Garrison, Forty-Fort High School |
| 1944 | John Reese, Kingston High School         |
| 1945 | No Record                                |
| 1946 | Charles Armstrong (Unattached)           |
| 1947 | William Fillistine, Meyers High School   |
| 1948 | Donald Kemp, Kingston High School        |
| 1949 | Hugh Perry, University of Pittsburgh     |
| 1950 | Jim LaRock, Ithaca                       |
| 1951 | Frank Bettucci, Cornell                  |
| 1952 | Ed Rooney, Syracuse                      |
| 1953 | Louis Guidi, University of West Virginia |
| 1954 | Larry Fornicola, Penn State              |
| 1955 | Jim Ellis, University of Indiana         |
| 1956 | Dave Johnson, University of Pittsburgh   |
| 1957 | Doug Blubaugh, Oklahoma                  |
| 1958 | Doug Blubaugh, NYAC                      |
| 1959 | Carmen Molina, NYAC                      |
| 1960 | Charles Bush, Ithaca Grapplers Club      |
| 1961 | Morgan Peters, Allentown YMCA            |
| 1962 | Greg Ruth, NYAC                          |
| 1963 | Wayne Hicks, Naval Academy               |
| 1964 | Wayne Hicks, Naval Academy               |
| 1965 | Robert Fehrs, University of Michigan     |
| 1966 | Jerry Bell, NYAC                         |
| 1967 | Larry Rippey, Lock Haven State           |
| 1968 | No Tourney (Snowbound)                   |
| 1969 | Terry Habecker, (Unattached)             |
| 1970 | Stan Dziedzic, Slippery Rock State       |
| 1971 | Don Rohn, Bloomsburg State               |
| 1972 | Wade Schalles, Clarion State             |
| 1973 | Roy Baker, Delaware                      |
| 1974 | Wade Schalles, (Unattached)              |
| 1975 | Tom Turnbull, Clarion State              |
| 1976 | Wade Schalles, Clarion A.C.              |
| 1977 | Gene Mills, Syracuse                     |
| 1978 | Bryan Billig, Wilkes                     |
| 1979 | Ray Wagner, Kent State                   |
| 1980 | Dan Morrison, Rider                      |

## Tourney Champions

(By Year And Weight Class)

For early years of the Tourney records are not complete. For several years the records are not retrievable.

|                |               |                |                 |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>1934</b>    |               | <b>1938</b>    |                 |
| 110 Love       | Kingston H.S. | 95 Carey       | Kingston H.S.   |
| 120 Stegmaier  | Wyo. Sem.     | 105 Stevick    | Kingston H.S.   |
| 130 Nancy      | Wyo. Sem.     | 118 Krichunas  | Kingston H.S.   |
| 140 Brenman    | Wyo. Sem.     | 126 Laggan     | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 150 Richards   | Wyo. Sem.     | 135 LaTorre    | Temple          |
| 160 Bishop     | Wyo. Sem.     | 145 Hopkins    | W-B. YMCA       |
| 170 Muldoon    | Wyo. Sem.     | 155 Victor     | Kingston H.S.   |
| 180 Dorzin     | Wyo. Sem.     | 165 Tucker     | W-B. YMCA       |
| Unl. Hummler   | Wyo. Sem.     | 175 Grechi     | Pittston YMCA   |
|                |               |                |                 |
| <b>1935</b>    |               | <b>1940</b>    |                 |
| 110 Love       | Kingston H.S. | 110 Henaken    | Georgetown      |
| 118 Kopec      | Wyo Sem.      | 112 Williams   | W-B. YMCA       |
| 126 Nancy      | W-B. YMCA     | 123 Clark      | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 135 Jones      | Wyo. Sem.     | 135 Lee        | W-B. YMCA       |
| 145 Junta      | Pittston YMCA | 145 Kocher     | W-B. YMCA       |
| 155 Skrownosky | W-B. YMCA     | 155 Langdon    | W-B. YMCA       |
| 165 Miller     | Hazleton YMCA | 174 Victor     | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 175 Fedden     | Pittston YMCA | Unl. Landis    | W-B. YMCA       |
|                |               |                |                 |
| <b>1936</b>    |               | <b>1942</b>    |                 |
| 95 Felton      | Nicholson     | 112 Bach       | Forty-Fort H.S. |
| 105 Hinkle     | Nicholson     | 121 Hartnett   | Pottsville YMCA |
| 118 Kopec      | Wyo. Sem.     | 128 Lee        | W-B. YMCA       |
| 126 Lee        | Wyo. Sem.     | 135 Marks      | Pottsville YMCA |
| 135 LaTorre    | Pittston YMCA | 145 Niewenhaus | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 145 Junta      | Pittston YMCA | 155 Tischler   | U. Of Pa.       |
| 155 DeGillio   | Pittston YMCA | 165 Farley     | Bucknell        |
| 165 Natras     | W-B YMCA      | 175 Bernhard   | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 175 Grechi     | Pittston YMCA | Unl. Carol     | W-B. YMCA       |
| Unl. Carve     | W-B YMCA      |                |                 |
|                |               |                |                 |
| <b>1937</b>    |               | <b>1947</b>    |                 |
| 75 Ferris      | W-B. YMCA     | 115 Davis      | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 105 Campi      | W-B. YMCA     | 120 Reese      | Millersville    |
| 118 Stine      | W-B. YMCA     | 128 McGroarty  | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 126 Laggan     | Wyo. Sem.     | 136 Barnes     | W-B. Sem.       |
| 135 LaTorre    | Temple        | 145 Moys       | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 145 Hopkins    | W-B. YMCA     | 155 Victor     | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 155 Langdon    | Wyo. Sem.     | 165 Ciccoli    | W-B. Sem.       |
| 165 Natras     | W-B. YMCA     | 175 Tischler   | Wyo. Sem.       |
| 175 Pashenich  | Wyo. Sem.     | Unl. Tucker    | W-B. YMCA       |
| Unl. Carol     | W-B. YMCA     |                |                 |

1950

121 Perry Pitt  
 130 Miller Pitt  
 137 Vangilder Cornell  
 147 Bettucci Cornell  
 157 Conklin Pitt  
 167 Platt Lehigh  
 177 Krufka Quonset Flyers  
 191 Weber West Chester  
 Unl. Clark Cornell

1951

115 Perry Pitt  
 123 Perry Pitt  
 130 Miller Pitt  
 137 Feuerbach Lehigh  
 147 Harry Pitt  
 157 LaRock Ithaca  
 167 Mahoney Lehigh  
 177 Baron NYAC  
 191 Weber West Chester  
 Unl. Comly Lehigh

1952

115 Wilson Rochester Tech  
 123 Oliver Rutgers  
 130 Howard Ithaca  
 137 Faust Lehigh  
 147 Witman West Chester  
 157 Bettucci Cornell  
 167 Arhold Cornell  
 177 Krufka Navy  
 191 Weber West Chester  
 Unl. Seel Lehigh

1953

115 Wilson Unattached  
 123 Perry Pitt  
 130 Howard Ithaca  
 137 Simmons Temple  
 147 Faust Lehigh  
 157 Bettucci Unattached  
 167 Rooney Syracuse  
 177 Krufka Unattached  
 191 Dean Unattached  
 Unl. Kerslass Case

1954

115 Clark Syracuse  
 123 Hullings Pitt  
 130 Galdi W. Virginia  
 137 Fornicola Unattached  
 147 Haney Michigan  
 157 Bettucci Unattached  
 167 DeWitt Pitt  
 177 Solomon Pitt  
 191 MacKleer Princeton  
 Unl. Seel Lehigh

1955

115 Bock Lock Haven  
 123 Peppe Pitt  
 130 Malino Cornell  
 137 Fornicola Unattached  
 147 Hammaker Lock Haven  
 157 Rodriguez Michigan  
 167 McMahon Michigan  
 177 Manchello Michigan  
 191 Schirr Pitt  
 Unl. Cohen Chattanooga

1956

115 Powell Pitt  
 123 Mediano Unattached  
 130 Billet York  
 137 Defelice Pitt  
 147 Fornicola Bellefonte  
 157 Richardson Pitt  
 167 Ellis Pitt  
 177 Marchello Michigan  
 191 Schirr Pitt  
 Unl. Oberly Unattached

1957

115 Wilson Toledo  
 123 Auble Cornell  
 130 Malino Cornell  
 137 Defelice Pitt  
 147 Fornicola Second Army  
 157 Vincent Cornell  
 167 Johnson Pitt  
 177 Kelly Baltimore YMCA  
 191 Dunlap Cornell  
 Unl. Riesing Unattached

1958

115 Wilson Toledo  
 123 Fitch Yale  
 130 Lauchle Pitt  
 137 Kelvington Pitt  
 147 Bubbs Pitt  
 157 Skirpan NYAC  
 167 Blubaugh NYAC  
 177 DeWitt Sixth Army  
 191 Stanbro Ithaca  
 Unl. Farmer Oswego State

1959

115 Simmons Lock Haven  
 123 Martin Pitt  
 130 Glover VPI  
 137 Bevilacqua NYAC  
 147 Huffman RIT  
 152 Ruth NYAC  
 167 Blubaugh NYAC  
 177 Rushatz Army  
 191 Sherill Yale  
 Unl. Wedeimer Winona State

1960

115 Bush Cornell  
 123 Simons Lock Haven  
 130 Molino NYAC  
 137 Kelvington Pitt  
 147 Pack Lycoming  
 157 Corriere Michigan  
 167 Fitzgerald Michigan  
 177 Russhatz Army  
 191 Fink Michigan  
 Unl. Weber Northwestern

1961

115 Bush Ithaca  
 123 Martin Pitt  
 130 Molino NYAC  
 137 Huff Iowa State  
 147 Zalikoff Pitt  
 157 Ruth NYAC  
 167 Corriere Michigan  
 191 Jefferies Pitt  
 Unl. Weber Northwestern

1962

115 Bush Cornell  
 123 McCreary Wisconsin  
 130 Powell Lock Haven  
 137 Clery Pitt  
 147 Deitrick Michigan  
 157 Pifer Unattached  
 167 Harrison Pitt  
 177 Peters Allentown Y  
 191 Houska Ohio Univer.  
 Unl. Solowin Toledo

1963

115 Bush Cornell  
 123 Melitski Bloomsburg  
 130 Robb Bloomsburg  
 137 Auble NYAC  
 147 Deitrick Michigan  
 157 Jacovelli Ithaca  
 167 Ruth NYAC  
 177 Peters NYAC  
 191 Houska Ohio  
 Unl. Farrell NYAC

1964

115 Taylor Bloomsburg  
 123 Guzzo E. Stroudsburg  
 130 Milone Temple  
 137 Stuart Lehigh  
 147 Hicks Navy  
 157 Haltenhoff Yale  
 167 Rushatz Lehigh  
 177 Swope Lock Haven  
 191 Miller E. Stroudsburg  
 Unl. Sciachetanno NYAC

1965

115 Unik Ohio  
 123 Guzzo E. Stroudsburg  
 130 Young Ohio  
 137 Milone Temple  
 145 Hicks Navy  
 152 Blacksmith Lock Haven  
 160 Muir Lehigh  
 167 Carr Wilkes  
 177 Swope Lock Haven  
 191 Sullivan P. McCulloch AC  
 Unl. McDermott Lock Haven

1966

115 Unik Ohio University  
 123 Fehrs Un. of Michigan  
 130 Dutt E. Stroudsburg  
 137 Bushong E. Stroudsburg  
 145 Stuart NYAC  
 152 Bell NYAC  
 160 Baveto NYAC  
 167 Reinbolt Ohio State  
 177 Smith Lock Haven St.  
 191 Stephens NYAC  
 Unl. Shippes NYAC

1967

115 Unik Ohio University  
 123 Crow Unattached  
 130 Sofman Penn Grapplers  
 137 Pruzanski Temple  
 145 Hakamura NYAC  
 152 Bell NYAC  
 160 Eagleston U. of Oklahoma  
 167 Hicks N. Carolina St.  
 177 Logan Penn Grapplers  
 191 Baum Oklahoma St.  
 Unl. Schumacher E. Stroudsburg

1968

115 Matviak Wilkes  
 123 Heim Bloomsburg St.  
 130 Sofman NYAC  
 137 Rippey Lock Haven St.  
 145 Greenhaigh NYAC  
 152 Kline Maryland  
 160 Thompson Bloomsburg St.  
 167 Wicndl Wilkes  
 177 Logan Penn Grapplers  
 191 Baum Oklahoma St.  
 Unl. Kane Navy

1970

118 Fiore Temple  
 126 Mazzante King's  
 134 Sofman NYAC  
 142 Habecker Unattached  
 150 Keaser Navy  
 158 Dziedzic Slippery Rock  
 167 Gallagher NYAC  
 177 Kigerl NYAC  
 190 Michaels U. of Virginia  
 Unl. McCue Bloomsburg St.

1971

118 Spates Newport OC  
 126 Morley NYAC  
 134 Trovei Wilkes  
 142 Pruzansky NYAC  
 150 McDonald Newport OC  
 158 Dziedzic Slippery Rock  
 167 Ferraro Unattached  
 177 Sweet Indiana St.  
 190 Hitchcock NYAC  
 Unl. Paolano NYAC

1972

118 Spates Slippery Rock  
 126 Monroe E. Carolina St.  
 134 McCloe E. Carolina St.  
 142 Rohn Unattached  
 150 Muthler Navy  
 158 Keaser Unattached  
 167 Carr Erie YMCA  
 177 Sweet Indiana St.  
 190 Sheehan Bloomsburg  
 Unl. Britcher Clarion

1973

118 Turnbull Clarion  
 126 Sofman NYAC  
 134 Belknap Wm. & Mary  
 142 Rohn Clarion St.  
 150 Wallace Slippery Rock  
 158 Duncan NYAC  
 167 Schalles Clarion  
 177 Simpson Clarion  
 190 Baker Delaware  
 Unl. Karpoff Yale

1974

118 Morelli Clarion  
 126 Turnbull Clarion  
 134 Belknap Wm. & Mary  
 142 Kassab Wilkes  
 150 Rohn Clarion  
 158 Wilson Syracuse  
 167 Burkholder Bloomsburg  
 177 Janvier Delaware  
 190 Baker Delaware  
 Unl. Grote NYAC

1975

118 Daniels Ohio University  
 126 Goldberg Indiana State  
 134 Pucino Rhode Island  
 142 Rohn Clarion  
 150 Schmidt NYAC  
 158 Althaus Navy  
 167 Schalles Unattached  
 177 Muthler Unattached  
 190 Raver Unattached  
 Unl. Dambman Ath. In Action

1976

118 DePaoli Cal. State  
 126 Turnbull Clarion  
 134 Osmand E. Carolina  
 142 Bauer Navy  
 150 Foxen NYAC  
 158 Standridge Clarion  
 167 Rodriguez N. Carolina St.  
 177 Raver Unattached  
 190 White Penn St.  
 Unl. Bailey Pittsburgh

1977

118 Daniels Ohio  
 126 Mock N. Carolina  
 134 Scotton Bucknell  
 142 Merriam Clarion  
 150 Grubman Princeton  
 158 Smith Morgan St.  
 167 Schalles Clemson AC  
 177 Revils E. Carolina  
 190 Hitchcock NYAC  
 Unl. McCorkel Lehigh AC

1978

118 Dursee NYAC  
 126 Mills Syracuse  
 134 Miller Clarion  
 142 Eon Rhode Island  
 150 Disabato Ohio  
 158 Smith Morgan  
 167 Digioacchino Bloomsburg  
 177 Heller Clarion  
 190 Baker NYAC  
 Unl. Jackson Oklahoma

1979

118 Zenz N. Carolina St.  
 126 Jastrabek Clarion  
 134 Billig Wilkes  
 142 Pucino NYAC  
 150 Caravalle Bloomsburg  
 158 Foxen NYAC  
 167 Becker Penn State  
 177 Revils E. Carolina  
 190 Diserafino Rider  
 Unl. Joyner E. Carolina

1980

118 Spinazzola Missouri  
 126 Jacoutot Trenton St.  
 134 Whelan Missouri  
 142 Nelson Wilkes  
 150 Hogan Hofstra  
 158 Roper Missouri  
 167 Morrison Rider  
 190 Revils Missouri  
 Unl. Wagner Kent St.

1981

121 Weaver Lehigh  
 129 Throckmorton Pittsburgh  
 137 Pigeon Hofstra  
 145 Nighman NYAC  
 153 Popple Wilkes  
 161 Sauerland NYAC  
 170 Morrison Rider  
 180 Digioacchino NYAC  
 193 Elinsky Cal. Poly  
 Unl. DeSerafino NYAC



