

# Ramblers Win Independent Cage Crown Weddle Nets 35 As Team Romps

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Wrestling Needs Change For More Crowd Appeal

By GEORGE PAYNICH  
Sports Staff Writer

The most successful wrestling team in Nebraska's history bows out in the season's finale at Norman this weekend, but by the amount of following given the sport, one might never know a wrestling team ever existed.

It is a sad fact that college wrestling, as is true with other individual performance sports tagged as "minor" have not enjoyed greater support. This is especially true at NU.

It is surprising however, that in a few universities, notably Oklahoma and Cornell College, Ia., the sport has drawn almost fanatical followers. The necessary formula—consistently winning clubs.

If we go by the old adage that a winning team draws, what then, is the apparent lack of interest in wrestling at NU, especially after this year's fine season showing.

The biggest complaint against the college mat game is the noticeable lack of drive and excitement seen in the major sports, football and basketball. It seems that with a few rule changes to speed up the action, and permit more elbow room for the wrestlers, this situation could be remedied. We're not advocates of the pro grung and groin version, but a little more action would add much to the sport. Until college wrestling gets more aggressive and therein develops more outstanding individual wrestlers, we believe fan reaction will remain unchanged.

Coach Al Partin of the Cornhuskers believes his squads are getting more aggressive right along. He states that wrestling at Nebraska is on a definite upgrade and predicts greater things from his future squads. He is especially optimistic about the heavier weight divisions.

As the Huskers get ready for their final competition of the year at the Big Seven final at Norman, we thought it might prove interesting to look into the archives of NU wrestling and find out how NU teams have fared in the sport.

So, with the aid of Coach Partin and a few statistics, we found out that since the sport was made a regular part of the intercollegiate athletic program in 1927, the Huskers have won 44 meets, lost 111 and had tied six times—not much to shout about.

The really disastrous period for wrestling here followed the trend experienced by other sports at NU. During the pre-war and immediate post-war periods, the Huskers won only five while dropping 38. The Huskers were absent from the mats from 1941-45.

Wrestling at Nebraska took an upturn in 1947 under Buell "Pat" Patterson, climaxed by Nebraska's first and only conference championship in 1949.

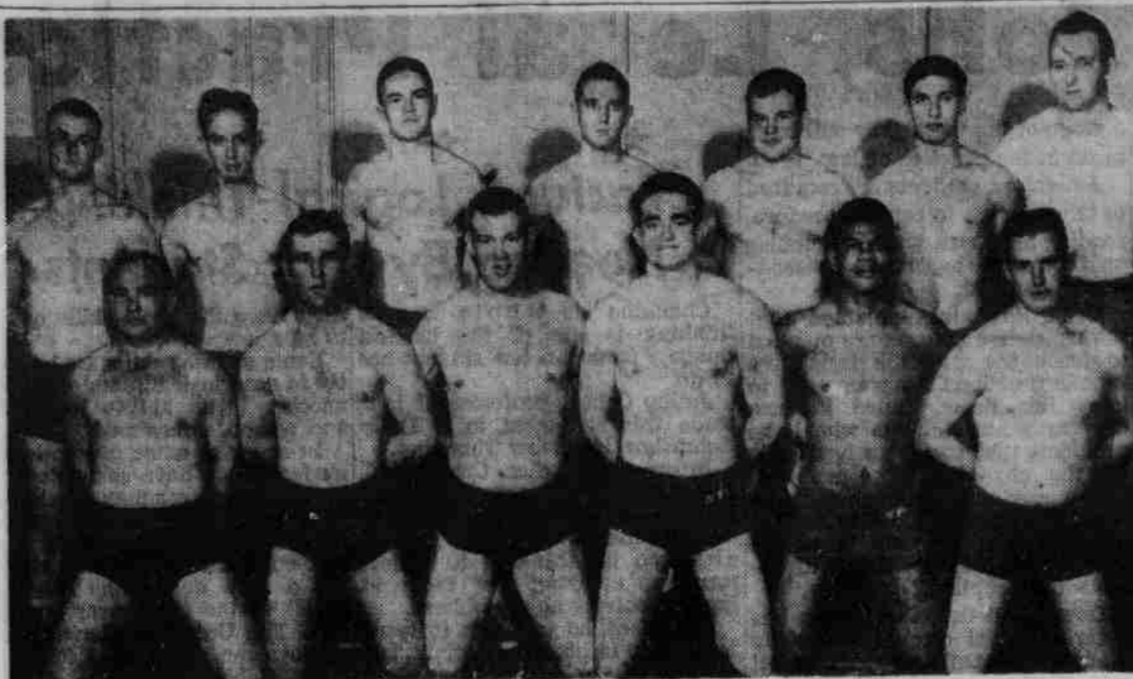
Partin, almost straight from the Cornell campus, came to NU in 1950 when Patterson was appointed head coach at Illinois. Al's overall record is 12 wins 17 losses and 2 ties, his best and Nebraska's best record of 8-2 coming this season.

It is interesting to note how heavily wrestling has drawn on football for material. In the past five seasons, Mike DiBiase, Herb Reese, Don Boll and now Ed Husmann have cornered the heavy-weight market, as well as starring on the gridiron. At one time this season, Partin carried seven gridders on his squad. Only Lawrence Goll and Husmann however, are at Norman this weekend.

No doubt the biggest surprise of this mat season has been the sensational showing of the Ogallala strong boy—Ed Husmann. Ed, co-captain and most valuable griddier this season, has won nine matches while dropping only one. The big strong lad put on a sizzling finish in taking his last four wins by falls.

Ed's only setback came at the hands of Iowa State's Mel Walden. Ahead on points at the time, "Huss" became the pinning victim of I experienced Walden. This setback left Ed dazed to say the least, and since then the big guy has come a long way. Ed told us that he is eagerly looking forward to the opportunity of avenging this defeat, and, in the process, dethroning Walden, last year's Big Seven king.

Pro wrestling, which has claimed one NU grad in Mike DiBiase, is eyeing Husmann. Ed is toying with the idea of giving the pro wrestling game, as well as the pro football game, a whirl after he has finished his two year military stint. Could he be trying to follow the path of Leo Nomellini, former Minnesota All-American griddier and heavyweight grappler who now makes a comfortable living playing football for the San Francisco 49ers as well as earning a good amount of cash wrestling during and between seasons.



**PARTIN'S POINTMAKERS . . .** Coach Al Partin's wrestlers have finished a successful season compiling an 8 won and two loss record. The grapplers are at Norman, Oklahoma this weekend competing for the Big Seven championship crown. Before Partin and his team left for the Sooner campus, the coach stated that his team will be trying for the runner-up position. He predicted that Oklahoma will win the championship.

### Class 'A' Competition Opens; Cowboys, Links Win Openers

By BILL MUNDELL  
Sports Staff Writer

Classes A and D inaugurated their action in the 1953 high school basketball tournaments Thursday afternoon. The highlight of the afternoon's tussles was the ushering out of defending class A champion Scottsbluff by a hustling Boys Town crew and the complete mastery of Grand Island by a smooth-operating Lincoln High outfit.

**Scottsbluff Falls**  
Boys Town defeated Scottsbluff for the third time this season Thursday by slapping down the defending champs, 51-42. It took the Cowboys exactly two and a half periods to settle the issue as a torrid third-quarter spurge ousted the Bluffs from further competition.

Finding themselves behind 0-5 after three minutes, the Cowboys began to click and overtook the Bluffs two minutes later as Dick Phillips hit from under the basket to make the tally read 8-7.

It was nip and tuck the rest of the way in the first half as the winners managed to stretch their margin to 26-23. Any hopes Scottsbluff entertained of a second-straight title soon evaporated.

With Dick Weid leading the way, the winners zoomed to a 12 point lead in the next four minutes and the rest of the way was easy.

Boys Town scoring was well distributed as Wiedel and Jim Cook each garnered 12 points and Charles "Deacon" Jones and Phillips each totaled 11. Doug Chappeil's 11 was tops for the losers.

SCOTTSBLUFF (42) FG FT PF TP  
Chappel, Doug . . . . . 4 3-11 2 11  
Comstock, Don . . . . . 3 1-2 1 7  
Detmer, Allen . . . . . 2 1-2 0 6  
Harris, Don . . . . . 2 1-2 0 6  
Kautz, Larry . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Knaub, Dick . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Nicholas, Norman . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Traut, Don . . . . . 1 1-3 1 3  
Weselin, Bob . . . . . 1 0-0 0 0  
Westervelt, Ted . . . . . 2 1-3 2 5  
Totals . . . . . 18 10-26 17 42

**Links Romp**  
Lincoln High won the right to meet the Cowboys in the second round by easily whipping Grand Island, 57-44, in a game marked with frequent fouling, the Links soared to a 12-0 lead before Don

Roe broke the ice for the Islanders with a gratis shot with less than three minutes remaining in the opening frame.

Still failing to find the range, the losers dropped further behind and trailed 21-2 before George Dunham hit the first fielder for the Islanders. Dunham duplicated his feat a minute later to give the losers the boost they needed, but by then the game was to far gone.

With Don Erway leading the way with seven field goals, equaling the total Grand Island output, the Links moved into a 31-15 half and 45-30 third quarter.

The Islanders kept the game from becoming a complete rout by hitting 30 free throws, exactly half their chances, as 37 Lincoln fouls forced the major portion of the game to be played at the free-throw circle.

Erway led all scorers with 16 points while teammate John Beideck helped the winning cause with another 11. Dunham was the only Islander able to get more than one basket and wound up with eight points. Roe topped the loser's scoring with 11 counters, nine on free-tosses.

LINCOLN FG FT PF TP  
Bathman, Leroy . . . . . 2 4-13 5 8  
Lewis, Allen . . . . . 2 2-4 2 6  
Barnett, Bob . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Lewis, Allen . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Hollibaugh, Bud . . . . . 1 1-1 0 3  
Graves, Allan . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
King, Ted . . . . . 1 1-4 2 3  
Johnson, Ronnie . . . . . 0 0-0 0 0  
Erway, Don . . . . . 7 2-5 3 16  
Beideck, John . . . . . 3 5-8 3 11  
Totals . . . . . 19 19-43 37 57

**Chester Wins, 44-28**  
Top-seeded Chester opened the Class D action with a handy 44-28 victory over Talmage. The visitors piled up their margin of victory in the first and fourth stanzas while matching their opponents' efforts in the two middle periods.

WALTHILL (30) FG FT PF TP  
Benter, Bob, I . . . . . 6 5-9 2 15  
Clark, Randy, I . . . . . 5 2-3 5 12  
Conkline, Ronald, I . . . . . 3 4-11 2 10  
Piper, Curtis, S . . . . . 0 0-0 1 0  
Krieling, Daryl, S . . . . . 2 2-4 2 2  
Meter, Don, S . . . . . 2 3-5 2 6  
Parnment, Doy, S . . . . . 4 1-2 2 8  
Stott, Gordon, S . . . . . 1 2-2 2 4  
Totals . . . . . 16 14-25 21 46

Talmage had only the 20-point effort of Henry Gadeken to show to the winners. Allan Due with 16 and Gary Parsons with 11 topped Chester.

The losers made their best showing at the start of the second half. Trailing 13-21, Talmage narrowed the gap to three points and a 19-22 score before the winners started to roll again.

ROCKETS (42) FG FT PF TP  
Gadeken, Henry . . . . . 7 6-7 1 20  
Folker, Robb . . . . . 0 2-3 4 2  
Fritz, Jim . . . . . 0 0-0 2 0  
Gorkins, Jim . . . . . 0 0-0 2 0  
Haubers, Bob . . . . . 0 0-0 1 0  
Bohkon, Bob . . . . . 0 1-1 3 1  
Peterson, Byron . . . . . 2 2-2 0 4  
Meyer, Gene . . . . . 2 1-3 1 5  
Totals . . . . . 9 10-14 11 25

**Walthill Fades**  
Melbeta spotted Walthill an eight-point advantage in the initial quarter in the class D afternoon wind-up and then fought back to capture a 46-39 decision in perhaps the day's top action.

Behind the accurate firing of Bob Benter, Walthill shot to early leads of 10-2 and 12-4 before the winners began their climb. A mighty second-quarter spurge put Melbeta into the lead for good as the winners dropped in 17 points while limiting the losers to a mere six. From their 23-18 halftime advantage, they upped it to 36-25 to open the final frame and coasted the rest of the way.

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Clark, Randy, I . . . . . 5 2-3 5 12  
Conkline, Ronald, I . . . . . 3 4-11 2 10  
Piper, Curtis, S . . . . . 0 0-0 1 0  
Krieling, Daryl, S . . . . . 2 2-4 2 2  
Meter, Don, S . . . . . 2 3-5 2 6  
Parnment, Doy, S . . . . . 4 1-2 2 8  
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Totals . . . . . 16 14-25 21 46

By BILL MUNDELL  
Intramural Sports Columnist

The undefeated and powerful Ramblers left no doubt as to who is the top independent basketball team in University intramural circles Wednesday afternoon as they crushed the Rockets, 95-42 to win the 1953 Independent I-M cage championship.

It was the third meeting of the year between these two league XI teams and the champions put on an awesome display of power to as they more than doubled their first two margins of victory combined.

While shattering the hopes of the highly-regarded Rockets, the Ramblers set one new mark for the year and nearly equaled an all-time intramural record.

Ralph Weddle of the champions could do no wrong as he scorched the nets for a blazing 35-point production and a new individual playoff scoring mark for this year. Big Ralph dunked 14 fielders on every kind of shot conceivable and added seven free throws for good measure.

The previous high for the season was 32 held by Weddle's scoring mate, Bill Thayer, in a first round engagement with the Robbers.

The Ramblers as a team came within one point of equalling the all-time I-M playoff scoring mark also owned by themselves. They pushed through 96 points in their opening playoff contest with the Robbers.

The marks were recorded after their name right next to their 109-point alltime scoring record set last year.

It was the second straight championship for the Ramblers, or at least for the men who compose the team. The same aggregation, minus one or two, copped the 1952 title while playing as the M-Street Boys.

It was a case of just "too much everyone" Wednesday afternoon as far as the Rockets were concerned. All seven of the Ramblers seemed to be able whenever they felt like it, and most of them felt like it all 32 minutes.

The Rockets made a contest of it during the initial three minutes only. After trailing 0-6, the losers narrowed the gap to one point on goals by Hal Andrews and Ron Powers and the latter's free throw. But their rally was short-lived as the champions took off for the races and had the tally reading 18-6 five minutes later. Weddle had nine points in this first-quarter action.

It was more of the same during the second stanza as Weddle fielded ten and the rest of the Ramblers contributed 13 and the champs owned a 41-17 bulge with the game half over.

The fourth stanza really produced the scoring. A total of 50 points were rung up in that period, the winners getting 36, as the Rockets knew the end was at hand but still fought until the final buzzer.

Following Weddle in the point-parade was Thayer with 19, Dirk Rolston with 15 and Jim Evans with 12. Powers led the scoring.

for the Rockets with 16 points with Marv Lawton helping a lost cause with 13 more.

The Ramblers thus join Alpha Gamma Rho "B" as the first two I-M champions of 1953. The Aggies disposed of Sigma Chi "B" Tuesday night to capture the Fraternity "B" title.

As the only unbeaten team left in the University, the Ramblers will carry the independent colors into one more contest. Their victory Wednesday earned them the right to meet the fraternity "A" champion next Monday for the All-University championship.

Their opponent will be decided Saturday as Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Phi Epsilon tangle for the "A" crown on the Coliseum maples as a preliminary event before the state high school class D and A finals.

RAMBLERS (95) FG FT PF TP  
Jim Evans . . . . . 6 0-1 2 12  
Bill Thayer . . . . . 9 1-3 2 35  
Ralph Weddle . . . . . 14 7-10 2 35  
Dan Brown . . . . . 2 1-3 5 5  
Dirk Rolston . . . . . 6 3-5 1 15  
Del Gould . . . . . 0 0-0 3 0  
Ken Reiners . . . . . 3 1-4 1 7  
Totals . . . . . 40 12-28 14 95

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**Main Feature Clock**  
(Schedules Furnished by Thayers)  
Varsity: "Thunderbirds," 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40.

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CORNEL WILDE  
CONSTANCE SMITH  
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Eileen Christy & Gene Evans  
John Derek & John Barrymore, Jr.

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**TOURNAMENT HOSTS . . .** Nebraska basketball Coach Harry Good (left), and head baseball Coach Tony Sharpe are this year's hosts to the 47th annual high school basketball championships. The tournament rolls into its third day of competition. Finals in the Class A and D divisions will be played Saturday night in the Coliseum.

## IM EDITORIAL

### Record Crowd Expected To Watch Frat 'A' Finals

By BILL MUNDELL  
Intramural Sports Columnist

Probably the largest crowd in intramural history will witness the fraternity "A" championship basketball game this Saturday. By special permission, the University I-M Department will stage the "big one" for the fraternity "A" cage teams on the Coliseum Varsity court as a preliminary event before the Class D and A high school basketball finals Saturday evening.

It will be an added treat for the thousands of fans who journey to the state tournaments each year and it could well be one of the finest contests these thousands will see during the four days if past I-M action is any indication.

It is indeed gratifying to see the chance of publicizing such a worthy University activity to the people of the state. Probably no single activity on the campus is so successfully serving the needs of so many men enrolled at Nebraska and probably no single activity has received less recognition outside the walls of the Physical Education building and The Daily Nebraskan.

The basketball fans of the state Saturday will see an example of a major University sports program that is open to and serves the needs of any man who is interested. They will see a major sports program that is not blemished with subsidization, de-emphasis, point-shaving or the various other evils that have blotted our national sports scene. They will see University men who are playing for the enjoyment they cannot receive in Varsity competition, playing cleanly but with a fierce desire to win.

More people in this state of ours should learn about this aspect of university life and Saturday's example could be a giant stride in this direction.

Although Saturday's winner will have one more step before it can claim the All-University championship for 1953, this is the "triumph" for the organized houses on campus. The two teams battling for the crown will be Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Tau Omega. Both of these aggregations are capable of putting on a great show for the fans as well as reviving pleasant memories from home-town observers.

The game has been set for 4 p.m. Saturday and following this fray will come the Class D and A high school championships. Let's hope a big crowd turns out early and catches all three.