

Iowa State Grapplers Provide Mat Thrills

by John Marousek

ONLY TWO men provide the action in a wrestling match, but every muscular movement equals the energy put forth when a fullback charges through the line for a first down. Each twist and turn on the mat must have a specific purpose, and there are no huddles to map out strategy.

From the time the referee says "wrestle," each man must be constantly alert to take advantage of any weakness in his opponent. No relaxing, no coasting; if he does, he's flat on his back before he knows it, trying to keep both shoulders from touching the mat at once.

But this is the end of the picture. Let's go back to the beginning and see how he got in this unfavorable position.

Collegiate wrestling provides eight weight divisions for dual competition. These grapplers range from 121-pounders to heavyweights anywhere above 180 pounds. Many times a 250 pound hunk of man is paired against one 50 or 60 pounds lighter.

Extra Advantage

This may seem terribly unfair to the average sports fan, but actually each man has advantages not common to his foe. Those extra pounds may hold down the speed and efficiency of the heavier man. When he is in an advantage position on top, the added pounds will work much like a paper weight on a stack of loose papers.

In the next meet at Iowa State, watch John Stout and Ray Klootwyk. Neither of these husky Cyclone matmen relies entirely upon his weight. Their advantage lies in the ability to execute split second reversals, to match the movements of the opponent quickly. Practice will be necessary to follow the movements of four arms and legs all at once, but once you learn to have your eyes on the right spot at a decisive moment, the sport will become more fascinating to you. Soon, you too will shout instructions and warnings to your Cyclone.

Long hours of training are necessary before a man takes to the mat in an exhibition. Drop around East Stadium any afternoon and watch Don McCormick and Bob Kucera as they twist each other into crazy positions. No small amount of perspiration is freely lost in these practice sessions.

Although much of the period is used for timed bouts in which all energy is expended toward a fall,

the wrestlers often use part of the session going through the motions of a particular hold or maneuver. First Pat Bush tries it on Dick Ditsworth and then they reverse. This goes on until each feels he has the motions down pat and will be able to call upon his memory of this practice to get him out of a tough spot.

A promising 165-pounder with a good arm lock like Don Thomas receives as many invitations from colleges today as a prize halfback. Iowa has become the center of this collegiate wrestling activity. Iowa State is one of four Iowa schools ranking in the upper ten national collegiate wrestling schools.

Back to the Mat

All of this gets us right back to the mat where we are about to hear the slap of the referee's hand on the mat signalling a fall. There must be some way to get out of this predicament, but what is it?

Take advantage of the next opportunity to see the Cyclone wrestlers in action. Maybe they will give you the answer. When you pick up a few of these maneuvers and become acquainted with the rules through association with the action, we'll wager that before long it will be one of your favorite spectator sports.



Dick Ditsworth looks for a soft spot on the mat as he and Glen Brand take turns giving each other a workout.