

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

WRESTLING

JOHN MUNSON

SECTION I

The 1972-73 Wrestling Season

Florida International Wrestling got off to a rough, but encouraging start. Seven wrestlers endured a 0 wins and 8 loss season that found FIU behind 15-20 points via forfeit in every match. Despite this handicap the wrestlers kept their hopes and spirits up. Half way through the season, as a new wrestling mat arrived, a new wrestling area became available and new match uniforms were received, the wrestling squad gradually took shape. The later arrival of a superb "Daktronic Wrestling Scoreclock" added new dimension and visual stimuli to the wrestling scene.

Early in the year, Jim Norsworthy became the first wrestler to win a match for FIU as he decisioned Chip Post of Brevard Community College 15-4. That same day, Clint Riley followed suit by winning in the 150 lb. weight class. The arrival of Reggie Johnson, a 167 lb. wrestler from Dade North, gave FIU some much needed experience. While only wrestling at FIU for two weeks, Reggie highlighted the season by placing 3rd in his weight class (167) in the Florida Collegiate Championships hosted by Broward Community College. A total of five team points were won during the tournament; 3 by Reggie Johnson (167) and one each by Clint Riley (150) and Earnest Lundy (134). Joel Gross (118), and Justo Perez (177) also participated. Pat Palmer, and Gary Novak were forced to the sidelines due to injuries.

SECTION II

Projections for 1973-74

The future looks bright, as approximately 15 experienced wrestlers from around the country will be joining the 1973-74 squad. The second year's squad will be further reinforced by the first group of wrestlers from the area community colleges; a group which should expand greatly each year.

Coach Munson will be leaving to finish his doctorate at The Ohio State University and will be replaced by a new coach who will continue the wrestling team building process.

As one might project, the initial development of a successful wrestling program can only be accomplished through initiation of both long and short range goals. The following is offered as a brief summary of the goals toward successful wrestling at FIU.

SECTION III

1972-73

- 1) Field a wrestling team which will let the area know we have wrestling.
- 2) Schedule all of the community colleges in Florida.
- 3) Upgrade the wrestling facilities to host visiting teams comfortably.
- 4) Buy complete wrestling, practice and match gear for wrestlers (20 man team).
- 5) Recruit 10-15 experienced wrestlers for the 1973-74 season.

SECTION IV

1973-74

- 1) Field our first representative wrestling team.
- 2) Expand the wrestling schedule to include all four year institutions in Florida.
- 3) Provide an opportunity for outstanding team members to compete on a regional basis.
- 4) Provide sufficient financial aid to enable all wrestlers to concentrate on studies and wrestling.
- 5) Lay groundwork for winning Florida-State Championship in 1974--or 1975.

SECTION V

1974-75

- 1) Build towards regional prominence
- 2) Recruit 20-30 wrestlers per year.
- 3) Top 10 wrestlers on full scholarship.
- 4) Expand schedule to incorporate regional teams.
- 5) Place several wrestlers in the NCAA regional tournament.

SECTION VI

1975

- 1) Strive for continued national prominence.

SECTION VII
Recruiting Costs

Although it is difficult to project exact costs for future years, a few observations may be beneficial for future planning. The following are offered based upon the past season's experiences:

- 1) To win the Florida Championship, it will be very unlikely that it can be done with the majority of the wrestlers coming from the Florida Community Colleges.
- 2) The major competition for good wrestlers within the state will come from the Universities of Tampa and Florida.
- 3) To wrestle regional competition it will be mandatory that out-of-state wrestlers be recruited and that full scholarship be made available to them.
- 4) National tournaments must be included on each years schedule to entice outstanding wrestlers.
- 5) Each weight class should be filled by a potential champion and this will greatly expand recruiting costs.
- 6) The new coach should be able to take at least two out-of-state recruiting trips each year.