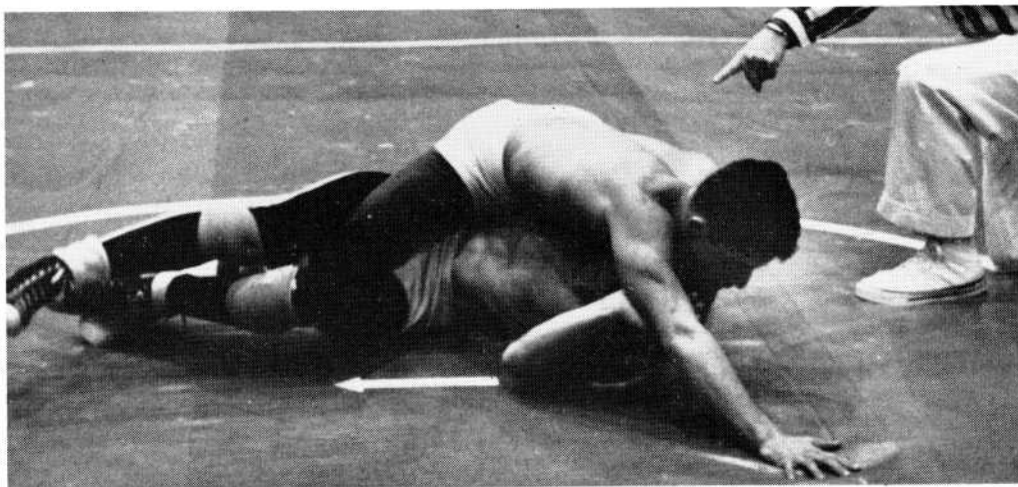


Delgado Is NCAA Title Threat



In the upper picture, Delgado applies arm and head lock, and below, an arm hook and top scissor for an easy win.

The State of Grunt & Groan

Oklahomans are being treated to the best collegiate wrestling in the nation. The Sooners and A&M are battling it out for the NCAA national championship.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT beat down from the stands. "You've got him, Dan!" "Take him down, take him down!" "Pin him, pin him!"

In recent years sports fans have discovered the ancient art of wrestling, as practiced by Port Robertson's wrestlers, is an exciting sport. Part of this interest stems from watching two individuals pit their strength and knowledge against one another. Part of it is created by the fan's ability to see all the action. But much of it results from watching superbly conditioned athletes strain and struggle, push and pull, take down and escape. Collegiate wrestling foregoes the dramatics of professional bouts and offers a real match of muscle and mind.

Dick Delgado, all winning 123-pounder, applies a bar arm and leg hold to dominate Wyoming competition.

Wrestling fever is at a pop-off level in Oklahoma. When O.U. wrestled A&M January 13, 8,200 fans poured into Gallagher Hall to watch. It was the biggest audience ever to see a college wrestling match.

When the NCAA tournament is held in Stillwater late in March, one of the Oklahoma teams will be favored to win the national championship. Which it will be is not clearly established. In their first dual match they fought to a draw, 12-12.

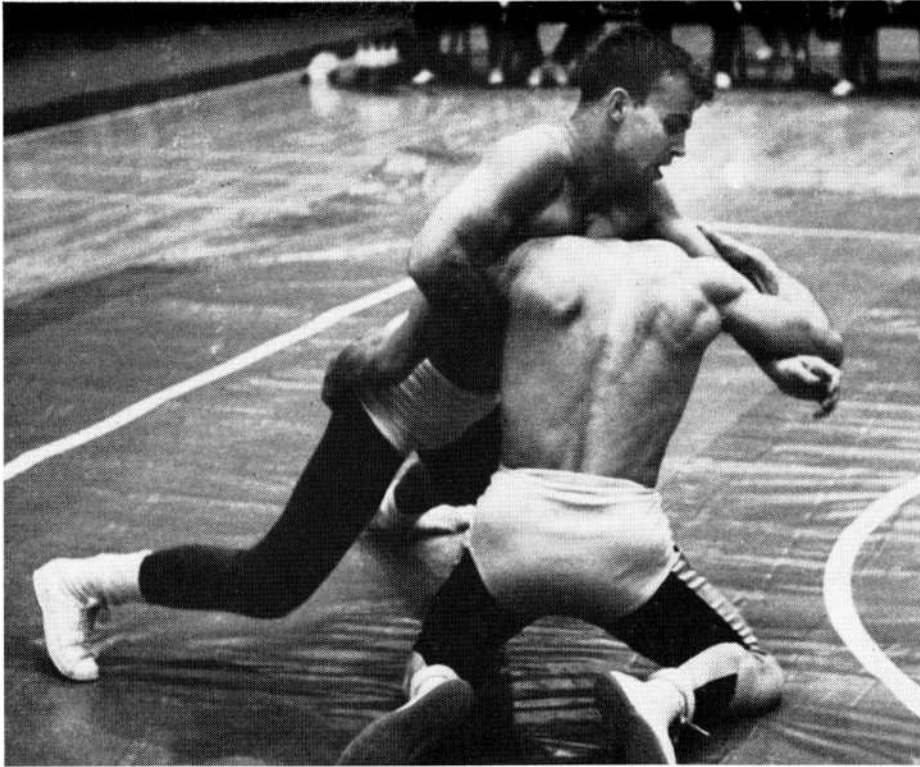
One thing is sure, the O.U. team will make a fine showing. Team members expected to be serious title threats are Dick Delgado, sophomore at 115 or 123 pounds; Bobby Lyons, last year's runnerup at 130 pounds; Dan Hodge, reigning 177-pound NCAA champ.

Team strength is good at most positions

as indicated by a summary of the team's first three dual matches.

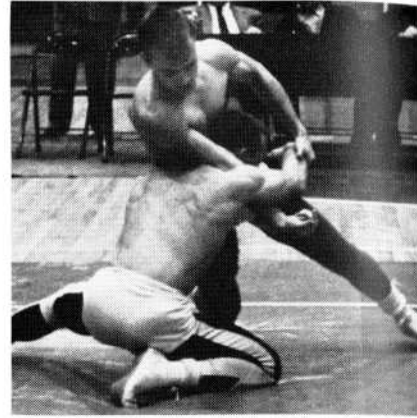
Besides the A&M draw, O.U. pasted Wyoming, pride of the Skyline Conference, 30-0. (Four O.U. wrestlers are pictured on these pages as they looked against Wyoming.) Kansas State, undefeated in four previous starts, lost 29-2. Five wrestlers are undefeated after the three matches—two heavyweights (used alternately); Hodge, Delgado and Lyons (who has one draw). Other team members have each lost one match (all were to A&M).

Presently picked nationally by one ranking agency as the No. 2 wrestling team in the country (A&M is ranked No. 1), the Sooners may reverse the ranking February 10 when they meet A&M again. Regardless of the outcome, O.U. will make a fine bid for the national championship.



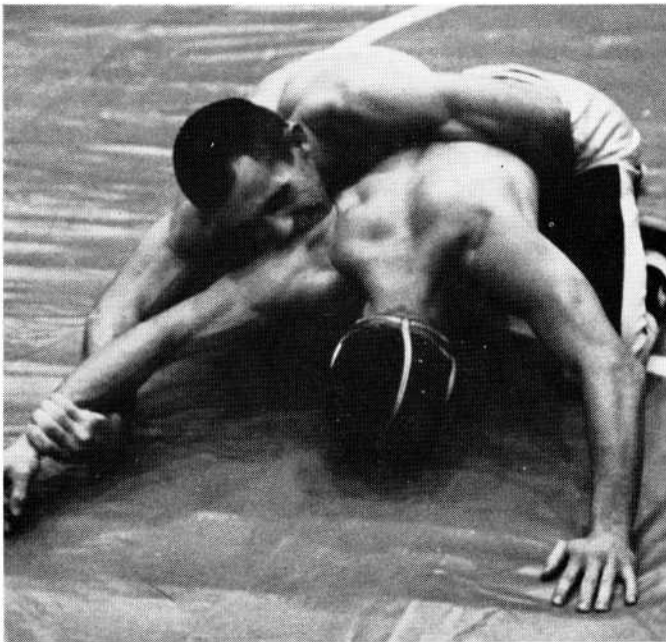
Don Hart, veteran 137-pound wrestler, outpointed Wyoming's best wrestler to allow O.U. to sweep dual match 30-0. Sooners scored three pins.

Hustle, Speed Win for Hart

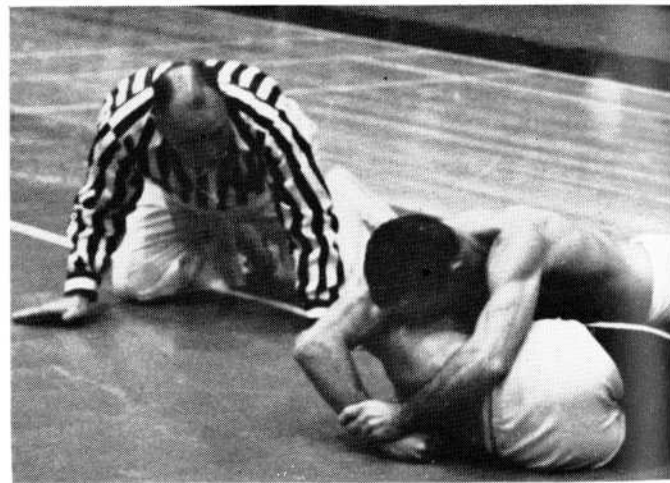


Hart successfully avoids a double leg pickup try by Wyoming wrestler, Stan Wintermote.

Lyons Bids for Top Spot



Bobby Lyons, NCAA runnerup at 130 lbs. last year, shows the familiar body press on Wyoming opponent. Lyons has yet to lose a match in '56.



Above, Lyons applies a half nelson and body press. Referee inspects action. Below, he forces opponent to mat with the cradle hold.



DAN HODGE, O.U.'s 177-pound NCAA champ, may well be the finest collegiate wrestler, pound for pound, in America today. If this sounds like undue bragging, it also sounds like a mild understatement for Hodge fans. And there are facts to support the brag.

He is a two-time AAU winner at 177 and as a sophomore last year was all victorious, winning Big Seven and NCAA crowns. His wrestling high point came in the 1952 Olympics when he wrestled for the U. S. at his present weight. His lack of experience under the Olympic rules, differing considerably from U. S. college rules, proved his undoing and he lost to a Russian wrestler.

Dan's training in wrestling stems from the 8th grade in Perry Junior High School. He tried out for the team but failed to make it. He spent the season learning. He never missed again. After high school, and winning the state championship at 177 pounds, he entered the Navy and competed in AAU tournaments. In 1952 he won

Dan Hodge, NCAA 177 pound defending champ, pinned Wyoming opponent in less than 2 minutes.

the AAU title and qualified for the Olympics.

In three dual meets this year he has scored two pins and outpointed A&M's former 177 NCAA champ, Jim Greggson. When the NCAA holds its national tournament at Stillwater in late March, Hodge will be a prohibitive favorite to repeat as champ.

Hodge is married and has two children. After each home match, spectators can see

Hodge sitting with his young son in his lap after his match is over. The strong, quick bone-crusher on the mat returns to his normal chores as a doting father.

Hodge says the Russian who defeated him in the Olympics was a nice guy but his ambition is to make the 1956 Olympic team and to prove that his loss was something of a fluke. The odds are that when the U. S. Olympic team sails for Australia, Hodge will get his opportunity.

Here he begins to turn foe for pin with arm lock.

Hodge May Be Nation's Best Collegiate Wrestler

