

Wrestling Team Points For NCAA Championship

With cheek close to mat, the referee watched every movement of the wrestlers. Flat on the canvas, he was making sure he was in position to see a pin. Then, a thump of the mat and the Fieldhouse burst into prolonged cheers. Dan Hodge, O. U.'s Olympic wrestler and considered the nation's best collegian in the sport, had just pinned his Iowa U. opponent to open the 1957 wrestling season at Oklahoma.

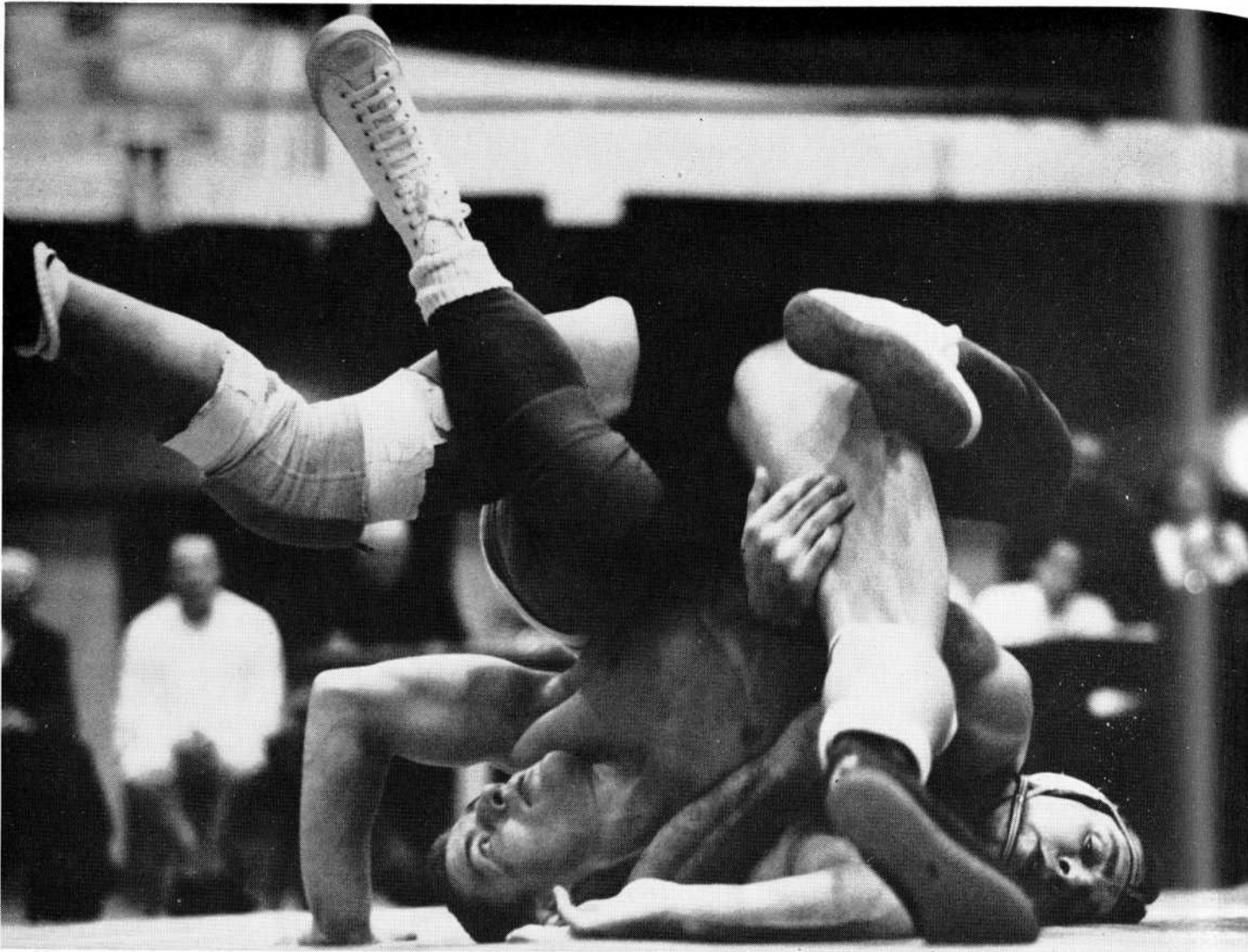
College wrestling, continuing to grow in popularity, is offering Sooners fans an exciting season. With NCAA champs Gordon Roesler (heavyweight) and Hodge (177 pounds) back to defend their titles, the Oklahoma team is top-ranked in U. S. collegiate ratings. Other team members that give team solid balance are Bobby Lyons (130), Dick Delgado (123), Paul Aubrey (137), David Calvert (147), Lee Young (157), and Rex Edgar (167).

Lyons and Delgado are rated as possible national champions. Delgado was a member of the '56 Olympic team and Lyons has twice been runner-up in NCAA tournament competition. Aubrey and Calvert are newcomers to the squad, but Young and Edgar are experienced wrestlers.

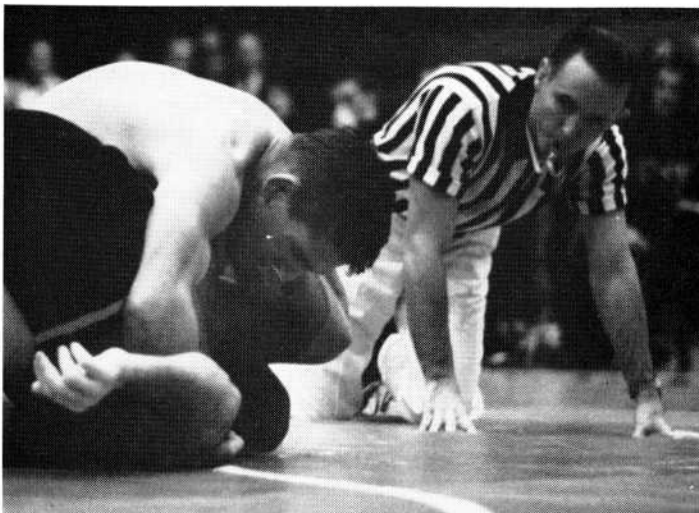
In early January, the Sooners met two traditionally tough wrestling powers: Iowa and Oklahoma A&M. They won the first match 14-13 with the help of Hodge's pin and Roesler's win in the final bout of the evening. Against A&M, the score was lopsided, O. U. 17, A&M 9.

A final rating of the wrestling team will be made in late March in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the NCAA wrestling tournament. But the experts seemed to agree that this school year may see a repeat of 1950-51 when the Sooners scored national championships in wrestling and football.

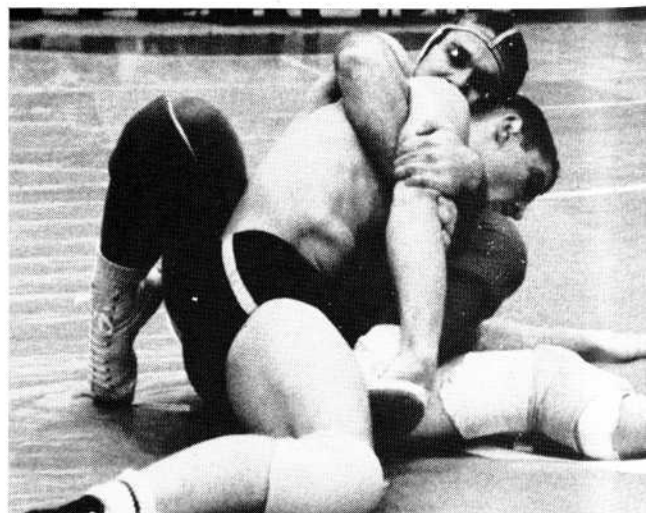
Coach Port Robertson and two of his wrestling stars, Dan Hodge and Gordon Roesler, are tense during Iowa match. Roesler had to win final bout for team victory; he outpointed his rival.



Some of the excitement college wrestling provides is indicated during meeting between University of Oklahoma and University of Iowa. Arms, legs flying, muscles strained, opponents stage fast battle for advantage.



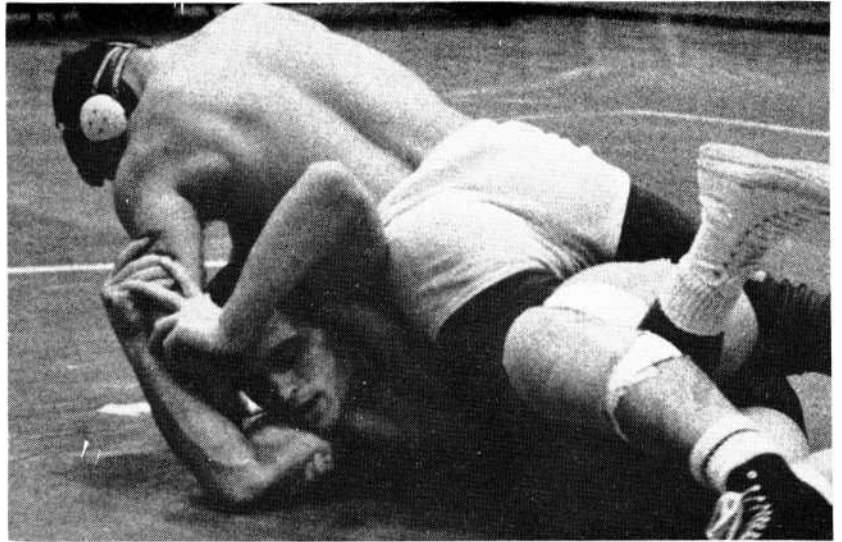
Undeclared during his college wrestling career, Dan Hodge will complete his eligibility this year. He also completed pinning his Iowa opponent.



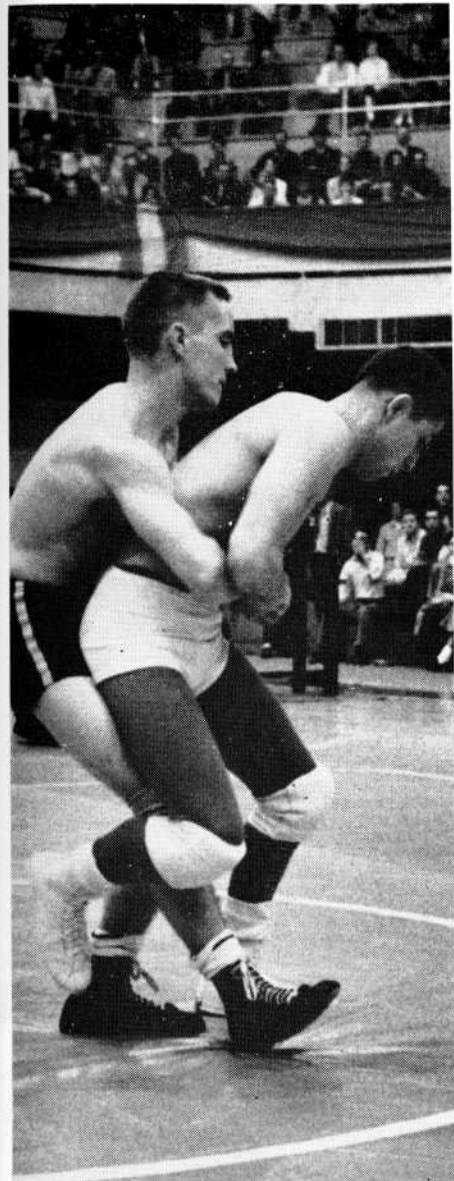
Wrestler Lee Young, in forced ballet position, shows why muscles must be superbly conditioned to take unusual strain.



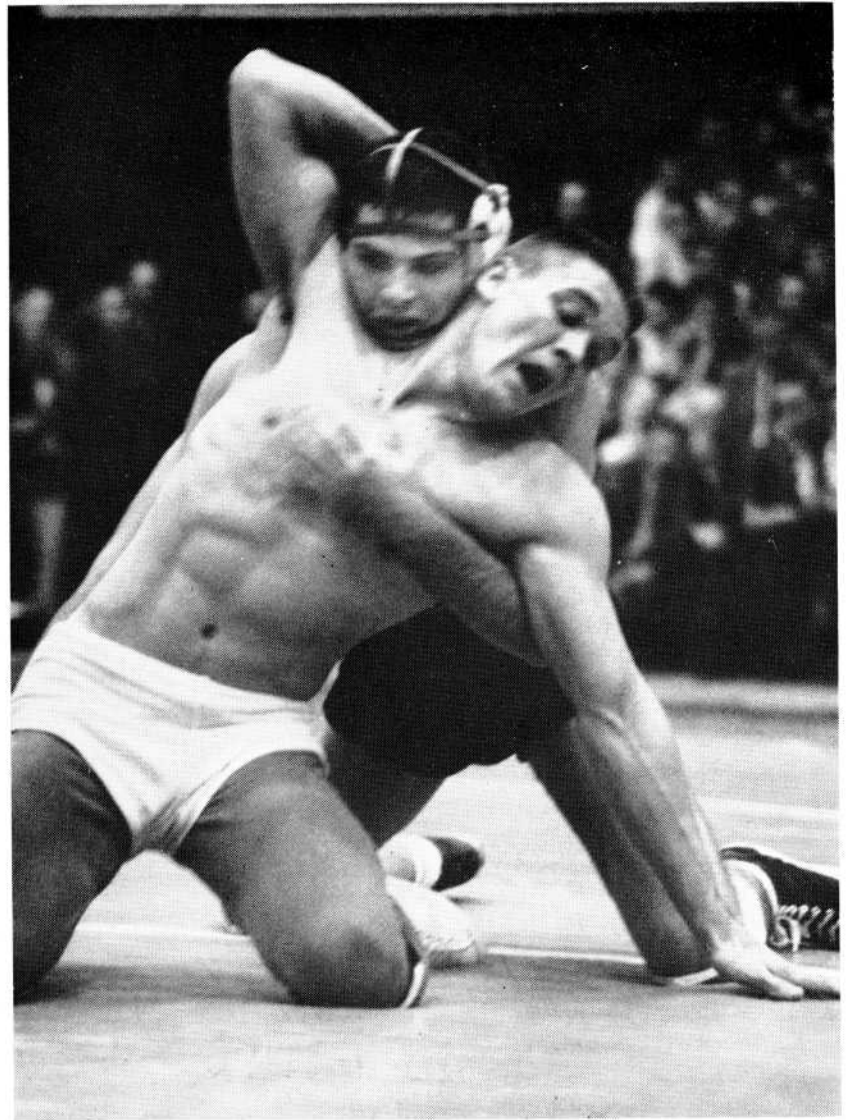
College wrestling rarely results in scene above. Ed Corr, wrestling Iowa opponent at 130 pounds, hit his head in backward fall; required trainer's attention, but recovered to complete the match.



Lee Young gets advantage over Iowa opponent, tries to turn him into position for a possible pin. In closest brush of season, O.U. handed Iowa a 14-13 team loss.



In a battle of stars, O.U.'s Dick Delgado tries to escape Iowa's NCAA champ, Terry McCann.



Bernard Sullivan, substituting for ailing Rex Edgar at 167 pounds, grips head of Iowa rival. Iowa will furnish rough competition in NCAA championship tourney.