

Oakland U. matman tries for Olympics

By DAVE STOCKMAN

More than a decade of dedicated wrestling by Rochester resident John Major will culminate next month with the Olympic Trials, the second leg in qualifying for the 1976 U.S. Olympic team.

The six-foot, 250-pound senior is practicing daily to grapple with the heavyweights of Russia, Bulgaria and Poland in the Greco-Roman division of wrestling in Montreal.

After competing on Rochester High School's first wrestling team in 1967, Major has reeled off trophies and ribbons so rapidly that he doesn't have to prepare for the Olympic Trials by attending the training camp for the country's top prospects.

Organizers are letting John work out and wrestle at his preferred pace so he will be ready when the candidates for the nation's Olympic wrestling team are trimmed to six after three grueling days of trials on May 16 through 18.

"I'll try my best at the trials," says the pride of Rochester. "If I can keep away from injuries, I think my chances of making the team are sound."

MAJOR'S COACH at Oakland University, Max Hasse, feels the same way. John has an outstanding chance of qualifying for the Olympic team, said Hasse. "Especially if he can remain healthy for all three days."

Competing in the games is the dream of many but the reality of few. Like Sheila Young, Mark Spitz, Spencer Haywood and Jim Ryan, competing with athletes from the entire world is only attained by winning, losing, learning and gaining experience in head-to-head competition without standing opponents. Major has gone that route.

He captured the national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Greco-Roman heavyweight title in 1972 and won both the AAU and United States Wrestling Federation (USWF) championships in Michigan from 1972 through 1974.

Major placed as runner-up in the USWF nationals in '72 and was America's alternate choice to silver medal winner Chris Taylor in Munich.

At Russia's World Games in 1972, Major gained a third-place medal. A year later, he took another third, this time at the AAU nationals. He won a fourth at the same AAU event in 1975.

BESIDES WINNING the Michigan chapter of the AAU and USWF events this

year, Major placed fourth at the AAU nationals in Greco competition despite an elbow injury. He placed second in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) championships after a compiling a 19-0 dual meet record at Oakland this past season.

The six-foot, 250-pound senior is practicing daily to grapple with the heavyweights of Russia, Bulgaria and Poland in the Greco-Roman division of wrestling in Montreal.

John is eyeing the Olympic Trials, but that comes after the games in Montreal. "I'll fulfill my requirements at OUI next fall for a major in social studies and a minor in physical education," said Major. "With that I hope to teach in addition to coaching wrestling."

"I'm looking forward to being a college coach someday."

It takes more than ability to coach any sport, and Hasse believes Major possesses all the necessary ingredients. "He has a great attitude to go along with his wrestling skills," said Hasse. "John has benefited our wrestling program at Oakland greatly. He'll make a fine coach."

The Rochester resident is in top shape for the trials, although he has lost 25 pounds since tipping the scales at 280 six months ago. He still measures an incredible 20 inches around the neck, with an impressive 36 waist and 54 chest.

He's taking matters one at a time and the weight loss will add quickness to his superior ability in downing opponents. His skills will be tested at the trials when America's best grapplers vie for a position on the team.

ALL BUT six will be eliminated, and those remaining will train for two months. Another three will be before the opening ceremonies, and that will leave two alternates and the number one man, who will be this country's top Greco-Roman wrestler.

Major has the potential to be matching the men of the world at Montreal.

Since he won the Oakland A's championship as a junior at Rochester High, Major has prepared for the Olympics by competing with wrestlers from Michigan, the U.S. and other foreign countries.

The time has come for Major to make his mark at the trials, the final camp in his pursuit of a gold medal at the '76 games.

"But right now, I'm just looking forward to the trials in Ohio," said Major, who is taking things one step at a time.

OU '9' doing well

By GLENN BUNTING

Oakland University's baseball team is combining incredible youth, fine pitching and the Deiters family in raring on in pressure 5-1 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) mark.

The all-commuter squad contains 14 freshmen and seven sophomores, most of whom have played prominent roles in early Pioneer wins.

First-year head coach Dick Deiters along with son Dirk T. have acquired several junior college transfers along with some outstanding high school recruits in making this year's team.

Two of Deiters' top transfers are son Rob and Jim, both of whom are regular infield starters. All family favoritism aside, Rob, a junior catcher, is hitting around the 400 mark while sophomore

shortstop Jim anchors a strong defensive unit.

Despite their youth, the Deiters can see themselves, along with Ferris and Wayne State, as the favorites to win the GLIAC crown. Regardless of the amount of success encountered this spring, it's a safe bet that the Pioneers will be the league's baseball power when its youth matures.

OAKLAND IS DOING surprisingly well after a dozen games this spring.

Since their 15-day trip to Florida which included several top collegiate opponents the Pioneers own a respectable 7-5 record. The only team that has swept a two-bill from Oakland this year is the University of Toledo.

After splitting a doubleheader with Eastern Michigan on the strength of a four-run seventh inning rally in the opener, and Toledo's sweep, Oakland opened the GLIAC season with Wayne State.

OU split a pair of 1-0 games with the Tartans in bitter 30 degree temperatures. Wayne's flex LeDbetter was solely responsible for the split with his inconsistent play.

LeDbetter collected three hits in the opener off pitcher Dan Green, and drove in the game's only run. But he relinquished his reversed roles and dropped a perfect throw at first base with two out and the bases loaded to allow the game's only tally.

Dave Jones of Troy poked up the win, fanning 10 Tartans on a two-hitter. The Pioneers then returned home for a pair of doubleheaders with league foes Northwood and Hillsdale, their first on Oakland's field.

On Wednesday, freshmen Greg Ilfinger and Mike Michelski combined to hold Northwood to a total of two runs and six hits in sweeping both ends of the twin bill 8-2 and 9-0.

In the opener, sophomore Walk Ducharme's pinch hit three-run homer and freshman Jerry Monette's solo blast provided all the firepower Ilfinger needed. The Birmingham, Alabama, struck out eight Northwood batters and surrendered two unearned runs in the fourth when the visitors assumed a short-lived 2-0 lead.

MICHELSKI WAS superb in the nightcap, giving up only a first inning base hit and fanning 11. Jerry Monette belted another solo shot, while junior brother Dan collected three hits and two runs batted in. Both Monettes and Michelski are graduates of Madison Heights Lamphear High School.

1 DAY WORKSHOP ON FAMILIES

For people in the helping professions

FAMILY SYSTEMS

SAT., MAY 8 10AM-5PM

Learn About: • Different kinds of family systems • Techniques used with families • Stages of family counseling

Learn How to: • Work with children and adults to help them grow and change within their family system.

Limited Enrollment \$25 FEE + LUNCH INCLUDED

Send \$10 deposit before May 3

HOUSTON/ABRAMSON ASSOC.

Betty Houston, MSW, ACSW
Conna Abramson, MA
Orchard Building
2722 Orchard Lake, So
of 12 Mile, Suite 283 Farmington

REDWOOD FENCE

- GENUINE REDWOOD
- PRE-ASSEMBLED
- PRIVACY FOR POOL OR PATIO
- POSTS EXTRA

25⁹⁵ SECTION

PICNIC TABLES STURDY • 10 TOP AND SEATS EASY TO ASSEMBLE 8' TABLES \$35.95 6' TABLES \$33.95	SANTA ROSA REDWOOD TIES • FOR LANDSCAPING • LAWN & GARDEN 4" x 6" 69' LIN. FT. REAR 97' EA.	REDWOOD BOARDS 1" x 6" - 6 REAR 97' EA.
---	--	--

REDFORD CASHWAY LUMBER DIVISION OF ERB LUMBER

LIVONIA 11970 FARMINGTON RD. 261-5110

MAIL 22 201 51
THUR. PM 7:30

TENT SALE

one half of a sale

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

Spring Spirit Days During Our

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday • April 29-30 • May 1st

NOON-8 PM

8-3

You are invited to join with us in getting into the spirit of Spring — it's been a long cold winter.

Spring means lawns need to be mowed, flowers planted, and gardens prepared. This will be a chore to some — a snap to others.

Come see our selection of products that make summer lawn care activities more enjoyable. Selections include the Cadet Riders, Lawn, and Garden Tractors, Rotary Tillers, Shredders, Power Washers and other quality International Harvester products.

Free balloons for the children and savings for you. Let us help turn your ☺ days to ☺ days.

Make us an offer on these items and you'll save \$\$\$\$

Cadet Tune-Up SPECIAL

One each: Spark Plug • Set of Points • Air Filter • 2 qts. Oil

OPEN HOUSE SPECIAL

\$8 Reg. \$10

Spring Service Special FREE

MOWER BLADE SHARPENING

Bring yours in

Register For FREE DOOR PRIZE

Drawing for free push mower will be held Sat. at 3 pm.














INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER Co.

31666 Eight Mile Road, Farmington

476-0960

Any way you cut it.