

Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Somewhere in the pre-dawn darkness of 1974, William Taylor, Jr. of Portland crawled around on his hands and knees grappling at the opponent opposite him on the wrestling mat. And there in the dinginess of the Peninsula Park gym, unknown to anyone, a world champion was born.

Bill Taylor, Jr., representing the West in the National Sports Festival, brought home a gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling. The National Sports Festival brought together the finest athletes throughout America. The nation was split into four divisions: East, West, North and South.

Young Taylor got his start under Roy Pittman, of Peninsula Park. After winning every tournament he entered his parents felt that it was time for Bill to move on to a bigger calibre and a chance for their son to advance his skill level.

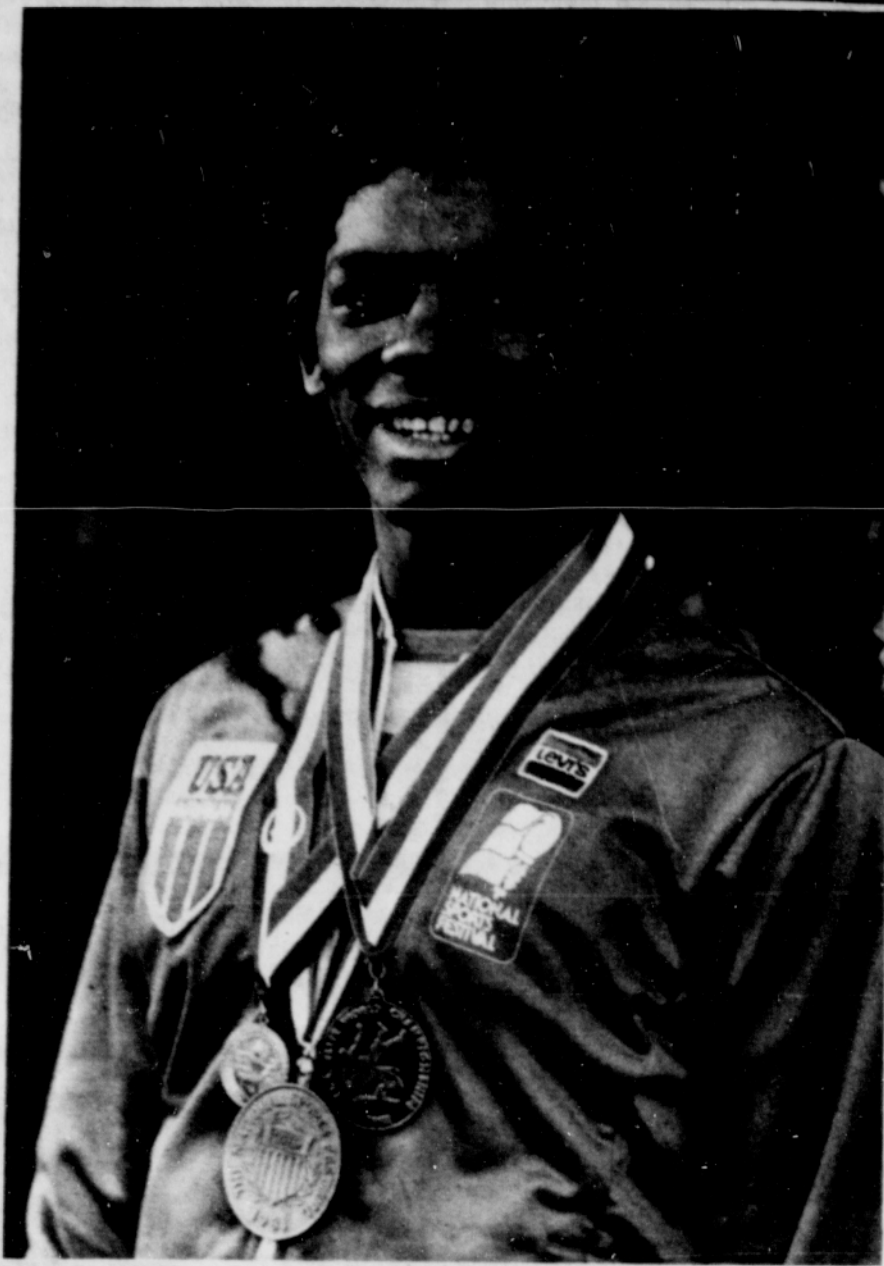
"Pittman is a fine coach," said Bill Taylor, Sr., "but our son was moving so fast that we felt he should have a chance to train in a better facility."

So it was on to the Oregon Athletic Association where Bill, Jr. trained under Mark Sprague, recognized nationally for producing junior world champions. Young Bill's wrestling career has taken him to such places as Nebraska, New York, Colorado, and Oklahoma locally and as far away as Sweden and Denmark. And it has also taken away some \$8,000 annually from the family income.

Bill and Marney Taylor are dedicated to their son's career and have opened their purse strings so that he may compete. "Our next goal," said his Mom, "is to see Bill graduate from college with a really good degree."

At the pace young Taylor is moving he should actually be pursued by more than a few good colleges.

Floyd Winters, West Point Wrestling Coach says, Bill is the best



WILLIAM TAYLOR, JR.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Floyd Winters, West Point wrestling coach, says, "Bill is the best wrestler on the U.S. team." And that's saying something.

The National Sports Festival was only his most recent championship. Others include the prestigious Grand National held this year in Lincoln, Nebraska. There were 126 wrestlers representing 50 states. Bill

won the Gold in his division. The 16-year-old Benson junior is a tireless worker and relentless competitor once in the ring.

Greco-Roman wrestling requires all upper-body contact—it is illegal to attack below the waist. It is the toughest division in wrestling, and the fact that Taylor excels here is a tribute to the young man.

It is not by accident that Bill chose wrestling, and it was not an easy decision. Bill was outstanding in both football, where he played quarterback, and baseball where he was all around. His family decided that he would drop two to become good in one. They, as a family, worked for their son: he hasn't let them down. The Taylors have two other sons, Andre and J.D., who also are junior champions. J.D. won the Oregon State 8-and-under championship.

"I stopped him there," said Bill, Sr. "I just didn't want to push him too early."

The Bill Taylors are a special family, and one of which all Portlanders should be proud.

AKA tea benefits students

The Zeta Sigma Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is featuring the popular choir, Joyful Sounds, directed by Margaret Carter in an Autumn Gospel Song Fest to be presented at the P.C.C. Cascade Auditorium on Friday, October 2.

Time for the scholarship Benefit Song Contest is set for 8:00 pm. Entry forms for contestants are available at the House of Sound where tickets are also available. There is to be a donation.

Books wanted

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