

When The Lions Roared

By Jamie Moffatt and Roger Olesen

Wrestling is not, as some contend, like life. Wrestling is life-reduced to its essence. In collegiate wrestling, life is compressed, with special intensity, into a structured seven-minute drama. The end-

of-season championships are a festival of colors, sounds and smells - an annual celebration of wrestling's tapestry.

At the 23rd NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships at Penn State in 1953, that tapestry was once again rewo-

ven, and life, in all its colors, was on display. Along the multicolored felt mats in the newly refurbished Recreation Hall, the red robes of the Oklahoma Sooners flowed in and around a sea of other colors - the blue on darker blue of Pittsburgh Panthers;