

Vic Bernardino came from Paulsboro High, a wrestling hot-bed in South Jersey. He was runner-up in the New Jersey States in his senior year. Bernardino was highly efficient as a Diplomat wrestler. His unorthodox stylish moves, like the 180 degree spin take down off of the Russian tie, or the standing back door flip off an opponents tight waist or leg hold, were crowd pleasers. Vic placed twice in the Easterns at sixth and fourth before his senior year. Bernardino entered the 1993-94 season, his senior year, with more resolve, partly due to a wrestling tour of Europe with a squad of collegiate wrestlers during the previous summer. Vic had great individual success during this tour. Although he had some injury problems during his senior year, he slashed through the season and through the Eastern field to become F&M's first champion in thirteen years. He was given the first seed at 158 for the Easterns and wrestled up to it. At Nationals, he won a decision over Minnesota's Zak Taylor 2-1 before suffering a loss to Edinboro's Tony Robie 8-5. His F&M career record was 83-21-3. In Bernardino's championship year, senior Ed Moore garnered an Eastern second place at 134. He had previously gained a fourth place in the Easterns. Ed was state champ from another strong wrestling program in New Jersey, Phillipsburg High. Moore's career ended at 61-32-1.



*[Editor's note: The late Paul Kunkel, nephew of Paul "Tiny" Kunkel, a member of the original 1923-24 team, volunteered countless hours and immeasurable effort in selling citrus fruit to raise cash for various projects that the wrestling coaches wanted to undertake. Paul was unquestionably the most devoted and faithful follower of the College wrestling team that one can imagine, whether at home or away. A bachelor, he lived for F~M sports. He died of a sudden heart attack in the kitchen of St. Peter's UCC, where he also volunteered his time.] (THR)*