



**EDDIE KLINE**  
4th Army Champ

## Kline Finds Olympic Mat Style Tougher

By DRAKE MABRY

It's quite a jump from high school wrestling to the faster, rougher matches under the Olympic rules. But until injuries sidelined Ed Kline, the former Mason City High School mat star made the jump in good shape.

Kline is currently spending a furlough from the Army at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kline, 406 28th S. W. A 1953 graduate of Mason City High School, Kline picked up three state wrestling titles before he graduated. The Army got him in November 1953.

That's where the change from high school to Olympic rules came in. Ed took this basic training at

Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and was sent to Fort Sill, Okla., from there. He won the 4th Army 115-pound title as Fort Sill took the championship last winter.

He wrestled in the 115-pound class at the Army camp under Olympic rules. His first two years in high school he took the 95-pound title. He won the 103-pound crown as a senior.

The entire Fort Sill team journeyed to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for the Pan-American Olympic tryouts in April of this year. Ed hurt his back in the first match and spent four days in the hospital instead of on the mats.

A measure of the difference between high school and Olympic wrestling can be gleaned from the fact that eight out of the eleven men on the Fort Sill team were injured during the tryouts.

"Olympic style of wrestling is really fast," said Ed. "And it is a lot rougher. If your shoulders just barely touch the mat, that's all. You can't take as many chances as you could in high school. In fact, you can't take any. Those boys at the Pan-Am tryouts played for keeps. There are new holds the wrestlers can use under the Olympic rules. It's tough competition."

The Fort Sill team practiced under Olympic rules all the time at Fort Sill. "We really worked at it," said Ed.

Ed's coach at Fort Sill was Bill

Borders from Oklahoma A. & M. Borders placed third in the 1953 Olympic games in the 125-pound division. He got hurt during the Pan-Am Tryouts, too.

Wrestling wasn't the only sport Kline participated in while in the Army. He played second base on the championship Fort Sill softball team. They took the 4th Army tournament and placed second in the All-Army championships this year. The team compiled a 40-3 record.

Ed is a mail clerk in the 1st Officers Student Battery at Fort Sill. He is due to be released from the Army Nov. 3. He will report back from his current furlough Oct. 17.

Ed has no plans for the future. Wrestling? "I think I've about had it," he said.

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