



First Day Of Monroe County Championships In The Books

TIM SCHNEIDER • JANUARY 30, 2009

New York's top ranked large school state is at the top of yet another tournament. Spencerport accumulated 105 points on the first day of wrestling at the Monroe County championships, well enough for a 27 point lead over second place Penfield. Fairport is in third after one day with 68 points, four ahead of Hilton. Spencerport has a tournament most nine wrestlers scheduled to battle for a spot in the finals, while Fairport and Penfield have six apiece. In total, seventeen different teams have at least one wrestler in the semi-finals.

While it is all but assured Spencerport takes home yet another county championship, there are plenty of toss ups in individual weight classes.

In the 119-pound class the top four wrestlers according to ArmDrag.com are set to square off in the semi-finals. Fairport's Jeff Slabe will wrestle Gates Chili's Chester Demanchick in one semi-final. Slabe won a 9-2 decision in a dual meet earlier this season. Pittsford's Cam Kelly, the top seed of the tournament and number one according to the armdrag.com rankings, will wrestle Greece Olympia's Mike Gentilcore, ArmDrag's second ranked wrestler, and the fourth seed of the tournament. Kelly defeated Gentilcore 8-6 in an earlier match up.

At 125-pounds, Pittsford's C.J. Howard, a state place finisher last year, and Armdrag's top

ranked wrestler at 125-pounds, will wrestle Hilton's Dave Richards. Richards is ranked fifth in the Armdrag.com rankings. Spencerport's Steve Maier and Churchville Chili's Charlie Morone, ranked second and third respectively, will wrestle in the opposite semi-final. Maier defeated Morone 4-3 earlier this season.

At 135-pounds, top ranked wrestler Jon Roberts is missing from the field. This season marks the second consecutive season Roberts has missed the county championships. In his absence, top seeded Lewis Cucchiara and Joe Bonaldi are the top two seeds. Cucchiara defeated Bonaldi earlier this season in the finals of the Penfield Holiday tournament.

In the 171-pound class, Fairport's Jeff Cowden will have another chance to avenge an earlier loss to Spencerport's Nick Baxter in the semi-finals. Baxter pinned Cowden in a dual meet on Jan. 14. Batavia's Troy Ireland is the top seed in the weight class. Ireland, ranked third in the ArmDrag rankings at 160-pounds for Division II, will wrestle Churchville Chili's Greg Schworm in the semi-finals.

Semi-finals are scheduled to begin at noon on Saturday following a round of consolation wrestle backs. □

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