



## Solero has ingredients to be state mat champ

(Editor's note: Don Weber, Orange County Community College wrestling coach, will be reporting on the New York State Intersectional Wrestling Tournament for the Times Herald Record.)

The War Memorial in Syracuse will be the setting for the high point of the high school wrestling season today and Saturday as 143 wrestlers gather to compete in the New York State Intersectionals.

In addition to coveted individual crowns, the inevitable question of sectional power will be contested. The Intersectionals have been dominated in the past by Section 8 (Nassau), Section 11 (Suffolk), and Section 3 (Syracuse area).

This year, however, Section 9 coaches are optimistic. The consensus is that the team is one of the best balanced the section has ever sent to the big meet.

Rockland County grapplers account for 10 of the 13-member group, but Orange County has contributed the three S's—Saul, Simmons and Solero.

Steve Saul (18-2) of Port Jervis will wrestle Saturday in the 112-pound class, but doesn't know yet whether his competition will be Robert LaBate (21-0) from Section 1 or Tim DeMulder (21-1) of Section 4. LaBate and DeMulder will face each other in a first-round match tonight.

Port coach Al Wilgard feels that Saul's experience at the Intersectionals last year could make a big difference in his performance this year. But Saul's competition if he gets to the semi-finals will be Ivan Gonzales (15-0) of Section 11's Brentwood High School, and Gonzales is the pick as I see it.

Port's Dan Simmons (16-0), competing in the 215-pound class, will meet Joel Puleo (24-0) from Section 6 in a quarter-final match on Saturday, and the winner there will go on to face Pete Beucher (25-2-1) of Section 8 in the semis. This weight class is loaded with undefeated or nearly-undefeated wrestlers, and could be one of the toughest contests.

Ruben Solero (16-0) of Middletown has been described by coach Art Gage as "determined, quick and strong"—all the necessary ingredients for winning. Solero will go against Lloyd Weigle (25-1) of Chittenango, Section 3, on Saturday. If he wins, his next opponent will

probably be Dick Meldrin (25-0-1) of Cortland High School (Section 4) in the semi-final match.

Class by class, this is the way I see the winners:

98 pound—Matt Smith (26-2), Calhoun High School, Section 8.

105 pound—Tim Wilson (24-1), Elmira Free Academy, Section 4, should win it. Bob Applebaum (23-0), Glen Cove, Section 8, will give him a run and Joe Goldsmith (19-0), Ramapo, Section 9, could be the dark horse.

112 pound—Ivan Gonzales (15-0), Brentwood, Section 11.

119 pound—David Carrache (13-2), Brentwood Section 11. But Ruben Solero could be a surprise winner, depending on his conditioning.

126 pound—Everybody in this one has an impressive record, but Roger Voorhis (25-0), Indian River, Section 3, looks best.

132 pound—Either John Golden (25-0-1), Island Trees, Section 8, or Jim Wilson (24-1), Sidney, Section 4, with Todd Farrison (21-2-1), Suffern, Section 9, coming on strong.

138 pound—Lou Conway (25-0), Pearl River, Section 9, —probably the section's best shot at a championship.

145 pound—John Cuyler (25-0), Elmira Free Academy, Section 4, was the champion at 138 pounds last year and looks good in this class. But so do Jerome Williams (26-0-1), Farmingdale, Section 8, and Pete Galea (13-0), Brentwood, Section 11.

153 pound—A pick 'em. Richard Molbury (29-0), Carey, Section 8, has the most impressive record. Dave Rust (22-0), Kenmore-East, Section 6, and Ron King (20-0), Trumansburg, Section 5, also look good.

167 pound—Another one that's up for grabs. The only undefeated wrestler in this class is Willie Hunt (20-0), Niagara Falls, Section 6, but Paul Farsetta (21-2), Pearl River, Section 9, could come through.

177 pound—Dwight Cartwright (20-0), Keshauqua, Section 5, is the wrestler to watch—20 wins, 20 pins. But the first-round contest between Artie Goldstein (29-0) Carey, Section 8, and Jim Hohman (24-0), Pearl River, Section 9, could be the championship match.

215 pound—A class loaded with talent.

250 pound—Russ Rano (26-0), North Shore, Section 8, or Bob Hill (16-0), Mt. Vernon, Section 1. Hill looked good last year.