

**Don Weber:**



# Intersectionals need to seed wrestlers

(Editor's note: This is the wrap-up column for the TH-Record on the state intersectionals by Don Weber, Orange County CC wrestling coach.)

The New York State wrestling Intersectionals which concluded Saturday night in Syracuse lacked the true championship look they should have.

The Intersectionals are just that — intersectionals, pitting one sectional winner against another without regard to race, color, place of national origin and most important — without regard to ability.

All too often preliminary and quarter-final matches are really the finals and should be taking place on the center mat in front of the entire audience as the title event in that weight class.

To have that happen the Intersectional committee must come up with some device to seed the wrestlers. It's been said in the past and it will continue to be said for as long as matches are set up on the basis of the "luck of the draw."

There are flaws in the seeding method too, I'll admit. Past records are not always indicative of an individual's ability because in some sections, the competition isn't always there. Thus a wrestler will sometimes come in with an inflated 25-0 record while someone else at perhaps 18-3 from another section might be the better wrestler.

But records should only be one area in which the Intersectional committee can seed a wrestler.

There are others that when tied together in a neat package, can give the committee a pretty good idea how each wrestler in each of the 13 weight classes stands in relation to the others.

And some of these items can be:

—Finish in the prior year's state tournament.

—Finish in the sectional tournaments in the prior year and the finish of sectional

representatives in the prior year's Intersectionals.

—Caliber of competition in the section based on past experience.

—Sectional finish in previous tournaments.

Many of the items are subjective I admit but the premise on which all sectional chairman would get together in advance to weigh them is the major step. With all of them acting together to step up the seeding no doubt would provide a more equitable setup than the draw which currently is used.

Time is a major factor, however. Most sectional tournaments which qualify wrestlers for the Intersectionals are usually held on the preceding weekend. But a week's time would be enough to decide on the airings. Other tournaments, like the nationals for instance, decide their seedings in much less time.

Looking back over the tourney in which one Section 9 wrestler, Joe Goldsmith of Ramapo, emerged a state champ and in which Ruben Solero of Middletown and Jim Hohman of Pearl River were runnersup, I picked eight out of 13 champs in a column Friday morning. I avoided the 215-pound class because of all the talent. The exceptionally strong group didn't lend itself to picking a winner. That leaves four misses.

At 126, my choice Roger Voorhis of Indian River (Indian River, 3) was beaten in the quarter-finals by Scott Casper (Rye Neck, 1) who eventually finished second. At 138 my choice and nearly everybody else's Lou Conway of Pearl River, was beaten in the preliminaries by the eventually runnerup Rory Houlihan of Niskayuna (Section 2). Other misses came in 167 where Willie Hunt of Niagara Falls (section 6) finished second and at 177 where Section 3's Eric Bratt of Westhill sneaked by.



## Hard to break

Port Jervis' Dan Simmons tries to break the grip Joel Puleo of Iroquois (Section 6) has around his waist as the 215-pound champ from Section 9 loses his quarter-final bout in the state wrestling meet.

--TH-Record photo by John Szefc

# Schneider to head racing field at Orange April 17 opening

MIDDLETOWN Veteran Frankie Schneider, all-time Orange County champion, will head the field when Orange County Fair Speedway begins its

County's 26-year-old Rich Rickey, who has been racing at the Speedway since he was 18. Always a good driver, Rickey is expected to be among the leaders this season when he pilots the John

policeman Herman (Butch) Matern of Middletown says Malzahn looks like a good bet to take the checkered flag first quite often.

Two area drivers expected to