

Mighty Brentwood was Best in 1970-71



By Neil Kerr

Thanks mainly to powerful Brentwood High, Section 11 (Suffolk County, L.I.) muscled to a first-place finish, with 82 points, here at last year's Ninth Annual Intersectional Wrestling Tournament.

Brentwood, coached by Joe Campo, last March advanced a six-man delegation into the semifinals—an Intersectional first—and finished with three firsts, a second, a third and a fourth.

Campo's mighty team had three champions in Ivan Gonzales at 112, David Larrache at 119 and Bob Antonacci at 126. This feat tied an Intersectional record for most champions from one school. Mephram of Section Eight crowned champions Bill DeSario (112), Tom Gleason (145) and Jack Paz (180) at the 1964 Intersectionals.

Section 11 finished ahead of defending champion Section Three, with 72 points, and Section Eight, with 59 points, a year ago.

This was the first sectional title for the Long Island Suffolk delegation. Through nine state meets, Section Eight has won the team title five times (1963-64-66-67-68), Section Four (Southern Tier) has won it twice (1965 and 1969), while Sections 11 and Three has accounted for the other two titles.

A number of other noteworthy events took place here in March of 1971, and are worth recalling.

Named as the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" by the voting press was Elmira Free Academy's John Cuyler, a senior who won the 145-pound championship. Cuyler finished with 51 straight victories over two years, as he had won the Intersectional 138-pound title the previous year here.

At heavyweight, the winner was big Jim Rosecrans from West Genesee High in Syracuse. Jim's victory enabled Section Three to take heavyweight honors a third con-

secutive year, having had champions in 1970 (Mike Phillips of Cooperstown) and 1969 (Bill McCauley of Skaneateles).

Section Three's Charlie Franks of Tully, who is 21-0, will try to make it four straight at heavyweight this weekend.

Another outstanding wrestler last year was the state runnerup at 112 pounds, 15-year-old Dan Hunt of West Genesee. His effort was little short of sensational, because he was only a freshman at the time, competing in his first year of varsity wrestling. Hunt lost to Brentwood's Gonzales, 5-2, in the championship match.

Hunt returns this year, undefeated, as a 16-year-old sophomore in the 119-pound class, and he is well worth watching.

Two wrestlers return who won championships last year—Joe Goldsmith of Ramapo (Section Nine) and Brentwood's Bob Antonacci. Goldsmith won at 105 last year, and is returning at 112 pounds this time. Antonacci will shoot for a second straight 126-pound crown.

The 250-pound class champion in 1971 was Mount Vernon's Bob Hill, who had finished second the previous year.

Another outstanding champion was 167-pound Kurt Blank of Irondequoit (Section Five) who was also a repeater at the Intersectionals.

Later in the spring, EFA's Cuyler and Irondequoit's Blank were both named as All-Americans by Scholastic Wrestling News magazine. Cuyler finished his scholastic career with a record of 80-3, while Blank had a two-year varsity record of 56-2.

Mount Vernon's Hill was an honorable mention choice by the editors of Scholastic Wrestling News. All in all, it was an exciting state tourney last year, and this 1972 event promises to be another great one.