

# Road to State Mat Tourney Starts Here for Bombers

East Rochester continues to be one of the "hot spots" for school boy wrestlers Saturday morning, starting at 10 a.m. There will be 18 teams besides the High School Bombers in the Section 5 Class A tournament and the name of the game is "there's no tomorrow if you lose."

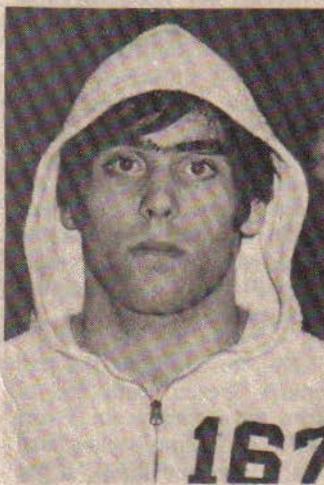
The matmen who survive will move into the next weekend intersectional qualifiers that will send the victors in weight classes to the New York State tournament in Syracuse, March 10-11. That's where the state champions will be crowned.

In the past 10 years, East Rochester has had two state champs, both in the 177 pound class. Timmy Gay won the laurels in the 1970 tourney and Richie McPhee in 1974.

The Bombers have nabbed a pair of runner-up ribbons. Mike Duffy was a second in the 154 pound class in 1969 and Keith Cotroneo just missed out as a 126 pounder in 1972.

Jimmy Tortorici, coach of the Bomber Jayvees, took a 3rd place as a 112 pounder in 1967.

This season's Bomber club has two favorites who can make it to the state tournament. One is junior John Zito, 167 pounder who is undefeated in 24 matches this season and the other is senior Joe Baldo, who as a 215 pounder is 22-2.



John Zito

Coach Don Quinn of the Bombers says both Zito and Baldo can go all the way. A state title would put more cream on the Bomber 1977-78 season that resulted in an undefeated 8-0 Monroe County Eastern Division championship and a share with West Division Hilton for the combined County title.

The Class A qualifier and preliminary round is set for the Victor Central School mats tonight (Thursday) starting at 5:15 p.m.

The survivors continue their Class A chase here in Saturday's semifinals, consolation and championship rounds.

The interclass Section 5 action moves to Fairport next weekend, March 3 and 4. On the first day, four mats will be on the Fairport High floor for preliminary round starting at 5:30 and ending around 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 4, three mats will be the battleground for the quarterfinal round starting at 11 a.m.

The semifinal round is getting a 2 p.m. starting time on two mats.

At 7 p.m. and on one mat, the final round will decide the Section 5 participants who become eligible for the state tourney.

