

Opening Match At Irondequoit Saturday

Veterans Make Bomber Mat Team A Powerhouse Again

Coach Don Quinn may not tell you but his 1977-78 East Rochester High School wrestling team is loaded again this year.

And it may have enough class to dethrone Fairport as Monroe County Eastern Division champs although the Red Raiders won't be exactly hurting with several of last season's mat wizards back.

Maybe the champ will have to wait until Feb. 11 before the loop kingpin will be crowned. That's the night the Bombers and Raiders collide at Fairport.

And Quinn's team will be aiming to rub off some of the athletic prestige the cantown athletes have been crowing about the past few years as the school has reaped high laurels in baseball and basketball and spiced their attitude with the past season's undefeated football record that included a 37-14 embarrassment of East Rochester. The Raiders were the State's No. 2 big school football power.

Quinn was enthusiastic over the attitude of a number of his football team members to jump from the grid to the below the stage auditorium "pit" that was oozing with sweat as the matmen started adopting the Quinn creed of condition for the mat wars.

This season, the Bombers will have prestige in all weights, from the skinny small guys but hard-muscled like Mike Brien and Jeff Kier to heavier weighing John Zito,

Rick Sidor and Joe Baldo. Other familiar last season names back are Bruce Kier, Dave Yacoma, Bob Marianetti, Dave Prong, Dennis Essom and Mike McAuliff along with Rick Consaul.

But don't count out the rest of the 27 man roster vying for the 12 weight classes. They'll be out to win a spot in the game lineups when the real action starts by eliminating their team mates in mid-week matches.

That could come from a freshman by name of Romeo Battazzi who as an eighth grader last year, registered points for Sammy Morabito coached junior varsity; or Greg Bonacchi, Billy Sayles, Joe Marcoccia, Reggie Reid, Paul Rohack or even Drew McGregor who left Fairport to become a Bomber.

Or the problem of a game spot may come from Mike Castro, Dave Bussey, Kevin Kronenberger, Pat Petti, Kevin Maynard, Jeff Venette, Leon Goodman, or Rick Cappellino.

And there's nothing to avert a member of the Jayvees wearing a varsity suit with 19



Jeff Kier

members providing the threat. Mainly it could be a freshman like Curtis Doreen or Marty LaFica or even one of the McIntosh twins, Mike and Scott.

The roster has some eager grapplers like Tom Pagano, Don Fornataro, Joe Walczyk and his brother John; Pat Zito, Steve Petrone, Dave Alongi and Mike Kuhn.

Add Dan Morey, Sam Marshall, Billy Condon, Anthony Taveritte, Craig Venette, Dan Cappiello, and Mike Dauphinee, and you can understand why there is a

deep winning interest in wrestling that has been a trademark of Quinn coached teams that have notched over 200 victories and reaped two New York State champions in Timmy Gay and Richie McPhee.

The regular schedule calls for the league opener Saturday night at Irondequoit with the jayvees scrapping at 6 p.m. and the varsity main event at 7:30. The Bombers move into Webster Schroeder next Thursday, Dec. 8 and both tilts go on at 6:30.

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The junior varsity Christmas tournament is a Dec. 17 program here and on the 22nd, the teams are at McQuaid for 7:30 scraps.

Dec. 27-28, East Rochester will be an entry in the Monroe County tourney with local matmen pitting their ability against county rivals. And Dec. 30, the Bombers end the year activity at the prestigious Baldwinsville Tournament.

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The New Year's first engagement is at Canandaigua Jan. 4 at 7:45 p.m. and at Brighton Jan. 7 with the jayvees on the mats at 1 p.m. and the varsity at 2:30.

Penfield is the first home attraction, Jan. 12 with a 7 p.m. starting time for both Bomber teams.

Quinn takes his club to Pittsford Mendon on the 13th for night affairs. The

Canandaigua Tourney has ER as a contestant Jan. 20-21 at the College of the Finger Lakes.

Eastridge is here Jan. 28 in a doubleheader with Bishop Kearney; Sperry moves in Feb. 3; another home twin bill Feb. 4 includes powerful Sweet Home of Buffalo and Olean; Pittsford Sutherland is the last attraction here Feb. 9.

Tournaments that wind up with winners grappling for State title start with the East-West League tourney Feb. 18; the Monroe County Class tournament Feb. 24-25; the interclass playoffs on March 3 and 4 and the State intersectionals on March 10 and 11.