

★ **Super Bowl on Mats**

Perhaps it's an exaggeration to say that the visit of No. 2 state-ranked Canandaigua (9-0) to No. 1 state-ranked Baldwinsville (12-0) is the most important dual meet in the history of Central New York scholastic wrestling. Perhaps.

On the other hand, consider what's involved Saturday night in the Bee-Hive. (1) The top ranking in New York State, (2) Baldwinsville's 48-meet dual winning streak, which is definitely in danger; (3) History of sorts, as Channel 24 will, for the first time ever, televise a wrestling match. Channel 24 chose wisely for its first effort — featuring New York's top two mat teams, live.

This one is gonna be a Classic.

Or, as Canandaigua coach Weldon Canough commented yesterday, shortly before beating Victor, 75-0: "This is gonna be the Super Bowl of wrestling, and we're Los Angeles, going to Pittsburgh."

On paper, Baldwinsville (12-0) and Canandaigua (9-0) appear about exactly even. (See lineups, P-S Scoreboard). Perhaps, Canandaigua's wrestlers own the overall better records. When the powerful Bees of coach Leo Johnson finally taste defeat on the mats, their conqueror will be Canandaigua. If not Saturday, then definitely next winter, when B'ville visits the home of the Braves for a return match.

"We'll be a better team next year," agrees coach Canough. "Our only three seniors are Don Jones at 112, Ron Jones at 119 and Bill Hadsell at 167. Plus, we'll get (T.J.) Mincer back next year." (Mincer, state 91-pound runnerup last March, has been sidelined all year with an injured back). Believe that next year, Canandaigua will be near-unbeatable.

What about Saturday?

"We can wrestle with Baldwinsville, I'm not worried about that," says Canough. "What worries me is their crowd. I saw their meet at Fulton last Friday, and I've never in my life seen a crowd with that much enthusiasm. You couldn't even hear yourself think in that gym. My (young) team has never seen that kind of crowd. Never. To get ready, we've been practicing all week with a stereo system playing music in our wrestling room at full blast.

"If we don't let Baldwinsville's fans psyche us out, we'll be okay."

As for Baldwinsville, the loss of unbeaten 138-pounder John Pickard with a torn-up knee in practice may prove costly. To win, the Bees will have to rely on their favorite weapon -- pins. Without a few of those six-point plankings, B'ville's reign as king of Empire State wrestling will end Saturday.

Has there ever been a better CNY wrestling meet than No. 2 Canandaigua at No. 1 Baldwinsville? See for yourself Saturday via Channel 24. (The B'ville gym has been sold out for weeks).



B'ville Wrestling

BEES vs. CANANDAIGUA

98--Robert Allen (Bv) 16-3 vs. Marty King (13-4) or Joe Ricciotti (14-2).

105--Dave Peters (Bv) 10-8-1 vs. Dan Scheele (14-5-1).

112--Dan Allen (Bv) 15-4 vs. Don Jones (16-4).

119--Dave Zimba (Bv) 5-7 vs. Ron Jones (19-2).

126--Steve Gregory (Bv) 16-3 vs. Steve Finnicks (16-4) or John Hadsell (3-1).

132--Matt McGivney (Bv) 15-3 vs. Matt King (20-1).

138--Tim Ward (Bv) 0-1 vs. Morris White (23-3).

145--Dave Filsinger (Bv) 16-2 vs. Mike Reho (17-3-1).

155--Jeff Beaver (Bv) 17-2 vs. Mark Henderson (6-5).

167--Steve Earle 6-2-1 or Tom Bender (Bv) 7-4 vs. Bill Hadsell (17-2).

177--Mike Conners (Bv) 18-0 vs. Bill Condon (19-2).

215--Randy Shute (Bv) 16-3 vs. Joe Kuras (16-3).