

★ Grapplers converge on Sweet Home mats

More than 200 wrestlers from five leagues plus the area parochial schools will converge on Sweet Home High School this Friday and Saturday for the Section VI Intersectional Qualifier.

Action Friday gets underway at 5 p.m. and is expected to carry into the wee hours of Saturday morning. Wrestle-backs and semi-finals will be contested Saturday morning with finals tentatively set for 7:30 p.m.

Some 35 grapplers will represent the Niagara Frontier League. All class champions from last weekend's NFL meet have earned seeded berths in the tournament with the remaining 21 being placed in a pool to draw for their opening matches.

The Niagara-Wheatfield Falcons, champions of the NFL, lead the way for the locals with five seeds. Heavyweight Sherman Greene is the second seed among the 250-



STEVE BEHRNS
...Top-seeded at 177

pounders behind Falconer's Lynn Jose. Freshman Dom Cianchetti, who was named as the Most Valuable Wrestler in the NFL tourney, has earned the fifth seed in the 167-pound division while 145-pounder John Martino carries a 16-4 log into the qualifier for the sixth seeding.

Vince Schiffert, the NFL champion at 138 pounds, may have one of

the toughest roads ahead of him. He is ranked second behind defending class champion Dave Hicks of Cheektowaga. Both possess 26-1 marks heading into the match and could well end up clashing for the right to represent Section VI in the Intersectionals in Syracuse.

Doug Mt. Pleasant rounds out the Falcon seeds with a fourth rating at 112.

A pair of undefeated wrestlers in NFL bouts will carry the hopes of Kenmore East boosters into the tourney. Frank Verdi, by virtue of his 13-0 league mark and 25-5 overall, has earned the No. 6 slot at 98 pounds while three-time NFL champion Gary Caciatore has picked up the third seeding in the 119-pound division. He owns a 25-3 record as a senior for the Bulldogs.

Kenmore West and Grand Island also will have two seeded entries in the sectionals. The Blue Devils will look to 105-pounder Kurt Baron and 126-pounder Blair

Chattley for any hopes of a state crown. Baron is ranked fourth with a 21-2-2 record on the year while Chattley comes into the affair fifth with a 19-4 log.

Grand Island's 91-pound representative Earl Wright stands 22-5 on the season and is seeded second behind Ken-Ton tourney titlist Rob Haverly of Southwestern while Ken Carter, who compiled a 24-3-1 mark at 155, is seeded fifth behind another defending champion Jim Beichner of Cassadaga Valley.

Tonawanda also takes two grapplers to the tourney led by senior Steve Behrns and 132-pounder Jamie Smith. Behrns, who earned his 100th career triumph in capturing the NFL title, stands an impressive 29-0 this year and is the top seed in the 177-pound division. Smith capped his year with a 24-4 overall record and is rated fifth in his class. Rounding out the NFL seeds is Lewiston-Porter's 215-pounder Scott Freischlag.