

## Wrestlers Pin Hopes on Future

By JIM RICKEY

The 1970-71 college wrestling season swings into high gear next week and it looks like a better year all around for the five area schools.

Rochester Institute of Technology, with Earl Fuller back for his 22nd season as coach, has five returning regulars and a host of other hopefuls seeking to improve last year's 5-6 record.

Best of the five returnees is captain skip White, a junior, who as 8-2 a year ago excluding two tournaments (RIT Invitational and Binghamton Tournament) where he was voted the outstanding wrestler.

Tom Pearce, at 126 pounds, and Larry Fuller, at 134, both of whom placed a third in the RIT Invite, Gary Inzana, at 142 and Mike Wilson, at 177, are the other starters back.

"We should do better," Fuller predicted. "The boys we have back are capable wrestlers and the new kids are pretty good, too."

Marvin Wilcox, last year's Section 5 wrestling champion and Fred Buehler, the Monroe County champion from Fairport, are battling for the 190-pound spot. Buehler's only loss in high school last year was to Wilcox.

In the heavyweight class, Jim Miller, Section 6 champion a year ago, seems to have the inside track.

In the lighter weights, Ray Rullifson, a Genesee product, is fighting Inzana for the 142-pound class while Lee DeRuyter from Phelps High School, appears to have a lock on the 150-pound spot.

Other hopefuls include Kevin Rowe, from Wayne at 167, Stu Smith, from Mynderse Academy at 177 and Carl Lyman at 177.

University of Rochester has six lettermen back for another season, but coach Frank Olivari says freshmen will occupy most of the other seven weight categories.

The yellowjackets posted their best record ever, 9-5-1, last season and Olivari has high hopes for further improvement.

"I think we're on our way," said Olivari, who is entering his third year as coach. "If we come up with a winning record this season, it will be the first ever at UR."

John Howell (150), Don Mitchell (118) and Tony Macavarró (126) all went to the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships last year. The trio returns this season.



D&C photos by Brad Bliss

Gary St. James of MCC, former high school wrestling champ, pins Genesee's Tom Murray.

Howell was 11-1 last season as a sophomore, Mitchell 10-1 as a junior and Macavarró, 7-4, as a sophomore. But Paul Lester, who also went to the nationals a year ago, and who according to his coach "is the finest wrestler I ever had" appears doubtful after undergoing two operations for torn cartilage in his knee.

Other returnees are Lyle Fields (190) and Neil Hammer (177). Another grappler Olivari hopes will recover is Adrian King, a junior from Brighton, who was 9-2 last year before he, too, suffered cartilage damage.

Leading the newcomers are Reggie Wilcox (three-time Region 1 champ at Madison),

John Stichmoth (All New England champion) and Tom Shaffer. All are freshmen.

At Brockport State, first-year coach Don Murray has only one senior in the starting lineup, but he is still optimistic.

"It's a little early to tell yet," Murray said. "But if we can get some help from our freshmen and sophomores, we'll do fine."

Paul Lewis (150), Paul Edwards (128), Rich Carlson (130) and a transfer from Nassau Community College Jim Every (118) are the experienced college matmen.

Mike Underwood, a sophomore will break into the starting lineup at 142. Dan Buckheit

(167), Jim Valent (157) and heavyweight Paul Conklin are other underclassmen who hope to give the Golden Eagles a boost.

St. John Fisher coach Joe Cavallaro does not have much depth, but what he does have is impressive.

Mike O'Connell (123), Bill Holland (134), John Icone (142) and Greg Brown (158) is more from Rush-Henrietta, a solid crew to build around.

Brown, a senior, had the best record with a 9-1 mark. Icone, Webster grad, and O'Connell each had 8-2 records while Holland, an Irondequoit product, was 6-3 as a freshman.

Mark Talliferri and John Lewis, both sophomores aiming for a berth in the 118-pound bracket and Larry Waller, a 167-pound freshman, are the best of the new crop.

"It's a young team," Cavallaro said. "We have only two seniors."

"But the big problem is depth. We have only 15 that came out for the sport and if we get injured we're in trouble. But if we can keep healthy we'll be OK."

Monroe Community College coach Roscoe Hastings has his three best back from last year and five outstanding freshmen.

Bob Hildebrandt (150) was 11-3 and third in the Region 3

tournament while Gary St. James (158) was 10-2 and second in the Region 3 tourney, Dave Young (167) had a 10-3-1 slate.

Wander Scott (134) is a sophomore, but is in his first season as college wrestler. Dan Ranier (126), runnerup in the Monroe County Tournament from Rush-Henrietta last year; Mike Miller (142), runnerup in the state from Caladenia-Mumford; Rich Cenzi (177), second in the county tournament from Rush-Henrietta, and Tony Joy (177) are the top fresh.

"We have better personnel than last year at this time," Hastings said. "We should do a lot better than 8-6."