

New York State 19th annual Wrestling Intersectional Tourney

91 Pounds--Favored is Marty King-5, runnerup here last year. His early matches won't be easy, as Fusco-11 and Pauley-3 are talented. Grossfeld-8 is in the same bracket, which means the other bracket ain't much, frankly. Maybe Erno or Gumble will come through the lower half, hard to say. Top four would appear to be in upper bracket. King.

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98 Pounds--Ophals was 91 third-placer last year and is slim pick here. He is well-bracketed because solid contenders Pannariello-11, Hood-3 and Penrith-4 are all up top. (Remember, no seedings, a pity). Hood returns for a second year, might come through bracket if healthy, a big if. Penrith was 5th at 91 last March.

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105 Pounds--Open the envelope and you find the name: Placio. A shocker if he doesn't win. Was 98 king last year, should repeat at 105. Others to watch are Brian Keyes-9, 4th last year at 98, Mike Murnane-11, who was NYS 91 king two years ago; unbeaten-in-his-career George Soto (40-0) of Clinton-PSAL. Keyes and Murnane in lower bracket, Placio will roll through upper. Placio.

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112 Pounds--Again, seedings are needed. Favored Cotroneo-5 has 160 career wins and returns for third NYS finals. Was 3rd at 112 last March. He will be tested in tough (lower) bracket by Brillo-3 and perhaps returning Wilsey-2, who was 4th at 105 a year ago. Schwartz-8 is also in that bracket. Ooof. Winner of Morales-11 vs. Hughes-6 match looks like best of upper bracket, but Cotroneo to triumph with 164 career wins.

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119 Pounds--Returning Hopkins-11 to win, having been 2nd at 112 last year. It won't be easy - he's got Giufre-3 and Gillespie-8 to open. Nah, no seeds are needed. Bull. Tim Lehmann-5 is in the same bracket which leaves (?) in the other one. Kennedy-1 has over 100 wins and could reach finals if he gets past Baglia-6 and Watsin-2. Giufre has 99 career wins, is a junior.

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126 Pounds--Favored is Leo Placio, Al's brother. Both Placios are superb. Sect. 3's Catania is all-time wins recordholder (125) and gets Placio in a Friday 2nd round. Ugh. Mankowich-11 is in the same bracket which means state title match will likely occur before finals. In the lower bracket is.....? well, Lateer is solid. \*\*\*\*\*

132 Pounds--Aptly-named "Matt King" is the pick here, 149-13-1 for career. But, Lynch-3 returns after being 5th last year. He's capable of winning. Possible breakthroughs are Gormley-4, Feingold-2 and veteran DiPasquale-11. In fact, DiPasquale-11 is in a class with King, Lynch in terms of talent. Longshot--Fischbein. \*\*\*\*\*

138 Pounds--A trio of section "MOWs" are Arceri-11, Pickard-3 and Doherty-8 and they're all in the lower bracket!! That reeks, but "you can't seed the states" as they say. Nuts. Graham-5 could come through the other bracket, but the action will occur in bottom bracket. Pickard vs. Doherty for state title, in the semifinals. \*\*\*\*\*

145 Pounds--Again, state finals in a/m. semis when Glynn-11 collides with Bevilacqua-8 in bottom bracket. Soph Cardi-2 is 82-6 for career, can reach the finals handily. Longshot--Buenting-5. Bevilacqua or Glynn tops. \*\*\*\*\*

155 Pounds--All-State gridder Kay-5 is strong, gets Howard-3 (son of SUNY Oswego coach Jim) in tuff one. Northrup-4 or Pillari-8 to come through bottom bracket in balanced class. Hard to pick. DeGennaro maybe. Longshot: Sabo. Beichner placed last year. \*\*\*\*\*

167 Pounds--All-time wins leader (129) in Two is Diekel; slim favorite. He was 3rd at 145 a year ago. Also check Amoia-CHSAA; a rock. He meets Diekel Friday if Diekel gets past Catan-11 in rough opener. Diekel or Amoia from below, vs. either returning Cavayero-8 or Webb-4 from top bracket. Cavayero was 4th at 145 last year. \*\*\*\*\*

177 Pounds--Tough top bracket with Chetti-11 favored here. He will be pursued by Butryn-9, Matteson-3 or Behrns-6. Cox or Gallo-2 from lower bracket vs. Chetti in final. \*\*\*\*\*

215 Pounds--Defending Schwab vs. Button, and get the hell out of the way. They are featured in program writeup. Pick a winner? no way. Button my lips. Longshots: All-State gridder Green-3 wants revenge vs. Schwab in semis, but tough to say. Longshot: McAdon. \*\*\*\*\*

250 Pounds: DeSoto-11 returns, a slim favorite if he beats Kuras-5 in tuff semi. Keith-4, Schwab's workout partner, may survive top bracket. DeSoto or Kuras to win, though.

TEAMS: Either Eight or Eleven (Long Island) to take section title, with long-overdue Five (Rochester) top contender. Longshots: Three, Two, Four.

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