

Falcon, Warrior wrestlers in Sectional main events

By ED D. SLOWINSKI

Tonawanda High School will host the Section VI, Division III wrestling tournament Saturday. The day-long event will begin at 11:00 a.m. Consolations and finals will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The host Warriors, and Niagara Frontier League co-champions, Niagara-Wheatfield will take part in the tourney. Both teams owned 16-0 records at the end of regular season competition.

There will be six other teams entered in the tourney: Williamsville South, Lake Shore, Lew-Port, Orchard Park, Clarence and Lackawanna.

This could very well be a rerun of the Niagara Frontier League wrestling meet that was held last weekend. In that one N-W ended up on top with the most individual winners with six. Tonawanda finished with three winners.

The Falcons will be without the services of NFL 135-pound champion Jim Falbo, who was injured during the week.

However, the Falcons will still be backed by NFL champs John DeLorenzo (101), Nick Perri (108), Bill Mowery (129), Pat Pittman (141) and Steve Magyar (158).

Tonawanda is always tough at home and the spirit aroused this week at that school has been a definite advantage to the Red Warriors.

George Miller's forces are behind three of the Frontier league's best in Jeff Toth (108), Rick Silvestri (148) and Ron Snyder (253).

Paul Stebbins of Lake Shore is the only unbeaten wrestler taking part in the tournament. He has a 27-0 record.

Though many of the Tonawanda Red Warriors and Niagara-Wheatfield Falcons finished their season undefeated, all of them tasted defeat in one tournament or another.

The Falcons and Red Warriors have not fared well in tournaments. Both posted sub-par performances in tournaments earlier in the season.

N-W traveled to Rochester to take part in the Caladonia-Mumford tourney. Not one of the powerful Falcons emerged as an individual champion.

Tonawanda found the going rough in the Amherst Town wrestling tourney. The Warriors had three individual champs (Guy Miller, Dan Doll and Ron Snyder), but managed only a fourth place finish.

DeLorenzo is the top seed in the 101-pound bracket.

In the finals of the NFL tourney, DeLorenzo outpointed Guy Miller. These two could possibly find themselves locked in a rematch Saturday night. But Miller (the second seeded wrestler) must first contend with Williamsville South's Larry Cohen.

In the Amherst tournament, Miller used an overtime period to gain a 9-1 win over Cohen. Miller had eight overtime points.

Cohen drew a bye in the opening round while Miller is matched up against Wayne Dieter (0-5) of Orchard Park.

In the lightweight 91-pound category, Wade Matteson of Niagara-Wheatfield was named the top choice while Mike Glavin of Lew-Port was the second pick.

In the NFL meet, Matteson the top seed in the NFL tourney, mustered on a third-place finish, with Glavin placing second.

Nick Perri is the top-ranked wrestler in the 108-pound class. He currently holds a 20-1-1 slate.

Perri won the NFL meet with little difficulty, except for a final bout with Kenmore East's Scott Pine. At this tournament, Pine won't be participating but Lake Shore's Tom Wood will.

Wood won the 101-Division III crown last year when he pinned Perri early in the first period. This year in the heavier weight class, Wood has suffered three losses. This matchup, if it comes through, will be an interesting one.

Tonawanda's Jeff Toth should have little trouble winning the 115-pound class. Toth's main opposition appears to be Niagara-Wheatfield's Jim Heuer.

The poorest class of the tourney will be the 122-pound bracket. The Falcons' Mike Martino is seeded first with a 13-6 record.

The only other seed in the entire class is Williamsville South's Mark Sofia (11-6-1).

Bill Mowrey will try to continue marveling in the 129-pound category. The N-W senior is the top seed in this class.

Mowrey has won the NFL 129-pound class and ended up his Niagara Frontier League season with a perfect 13-0-2 showing.

Dan Doll of Tonawanda is the second-seeded wrestler.

Another "weak" class is the 135-pound bracket. Tonawanda's Steve Gadt is the front runner followed by Bill Bauer of Williamsville South.

Gadt holds a 16-7 slate. Bauer's record stands at 12-9.

Pittman and Nick Simon have never met on the mats this season. However, tomorrow, these two 141-pounders could end up facing one another in the finals.

Pittman's only loss on his 21-1 record came in that tournament up in Rochester. His credits include an unblemished 16-0 record during the NFL regular season and the 141-pound crown in the NFL meet.

Simon is the second seed with a 19-4 slate. So far it has been Kenmore East's Scott Wilkinson that has handled Simon on the mats.

If both of these two meet in the finals it will be quite a show.

Rick Silvestri, 148-pound NFL champion, should have no difficulty in this tourney.

As expected, Silvestri is picked to win his weight class with flying colors. His closest challenger, Bill Caterisano of Niagara-Wheatfield has a 10-5-1 record.

Steve Magyar's efforts allowed him to be the top seed in the 158-pound category. The Falcon grappler has a 17-3-2 record.

Pete Caldwell of Lake Shore is hoping to knock the NFL's 158-pound champ from the top spot. Caldwell is second seeded and the holder of a 19-4-1 record.

Steve Marone, last year's runner-up in the Division III tourney, has been announced the top seed in the 170-pound class. The four-year letterman lost to Kenmore East's Chris Lawson in the finals in the NFL meet, 4-3.

Marone will be looking for his first individual crown this season but he first will have to watch the likes of Mark Carroll of Clarence and Kurt Meckes of Lew-Port.

Carroll and Meckes are seeded second and third respectively and barring an upset they will meet in the semi-finals early Saturday afternoon. Carroll is the favorite to win that contest and test Marone in the finals.

Lew-Port's Bob Hart won the top spot in the 180-pound category with a 14-4-4 record.

Tonawanda's Tom Poeller is the second seed and if Poeller can shed the injuries that have plagued him for the last couple of weeks, he will have a good shot at the 180-pound crown.

Tom Blinco is an odds-on choice favorite to repeat in the 218-pound class. The Lew-port junior went all the way to the state meet last year before being eliminated.

Blinco has a single loss surrounding 21 wins. That came at the hands of North Tonawanda's Paul Bartlett, who Blinco beat in the finals of the NFL meet.

Stebbins of Lake Shore is the second seed with a 27-0 record. Blinco had no trouble in disposing of Stebbins in the Division III finals last year, 9-3.

A grudge match is on tap for the 253-pound class. Tonawanda's Ron Snyder is already awaiting opposition in the finals as he byed to the final bracket.

Only three wrestlers will take part in this class.

Barring any misfortune Lew-Port's Pete Battaglia and Snyder will showdown again in the finals thus replaying their show in the NFL meet where Snyder came up with a pin in 1:54.

The Seeds

- 91: Wade Matteson (NW) 16-2-0, Mike Glavin (L-P) 14-2
- 101: John DeLorenzo (NW) 21-1-0, Guy Miller (T) 20-1
- 108: Nick Perri (NW) 20-1-1, Tom Wood (Lakeshore) 12-3-1
- 115: Jeff Toth (T) 21-2, Jim Heuer (NW) 16-6
- 122: Mike Martino (NW) 13-6, Mark Sofia (WS) 11-6-1
- 129: Bill Mowrey (NW) 19-1-1, Dan Doll (T) 20-3
- 135: Steve Gadt (T) 16-7, Bill Bauer (WS) 12-9
- 141: Pat Pittman (NW) 21-1, Nick Simon (T) 19-4
- 148: Rick Silvestri (T) 21-1, Bill Caterisano (NW) 10-5-1
- 158: Steve Magyar (NW) 17-3-2, Pete Caldwell (Lakeshore) 19-4-1
- 170: Steve Marone (T) 17-1-1, Mark Carroll (Clar) 20-3-1
- 180: Bob Hart (L-P) 14-4-4, Doug Berkun (WS) 17-6
- 218: Tom Blinco (L-P) 21-1, Paul Stebbins (Lakeshore) 27-0
- 253: Ron Snyder (T) 7-1, Pete Battaglia (L-P) 13-1