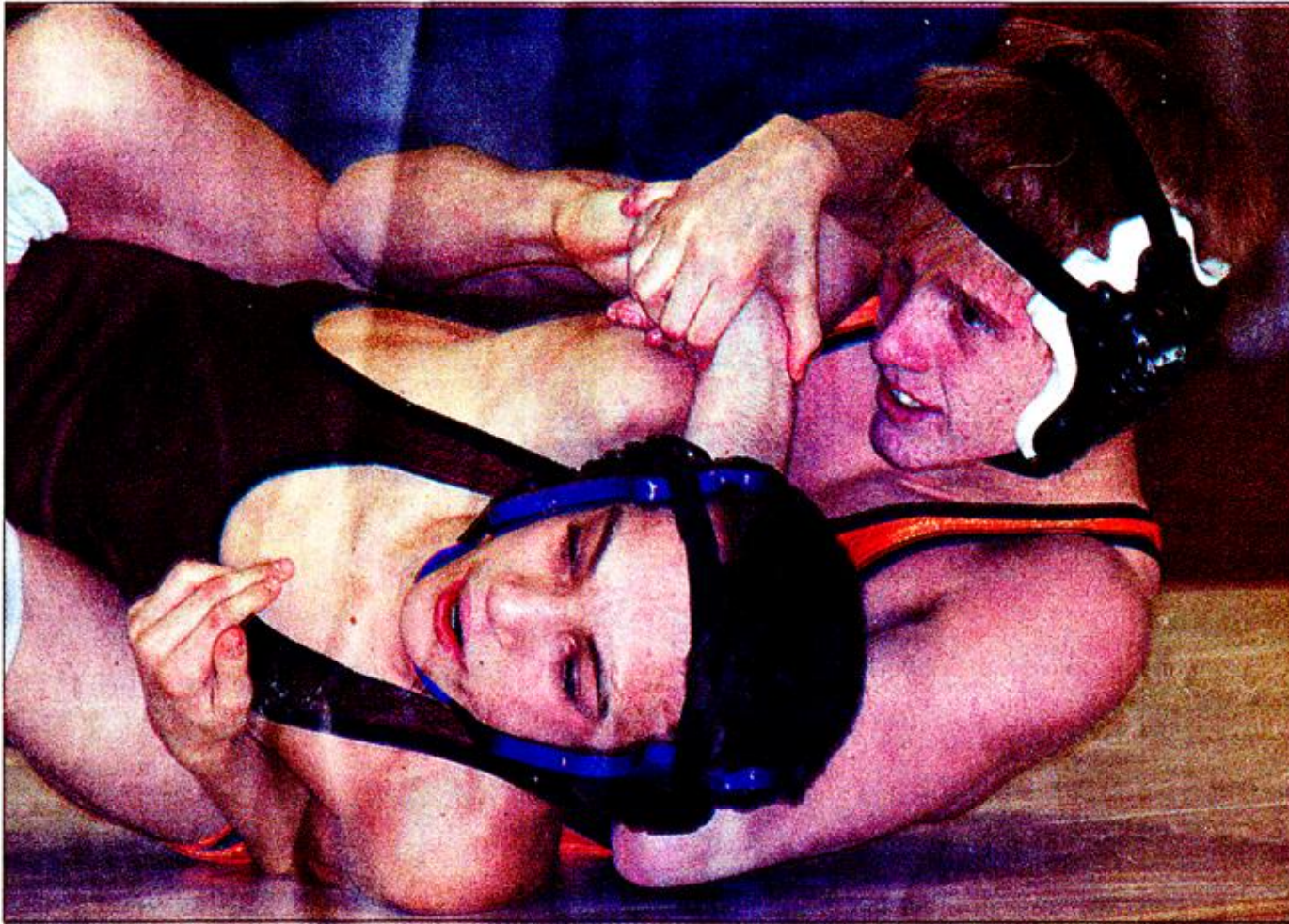


WRESTLING



Daily News File Photo

PADDOCK PADLOCK: Ian Paddock, right, shown beating Owen Scott of Lyons in the Supersectionals two years ago, is one of the stars at this year's LCAA Wrestling Championships in Dansville. Paddock is the defending state champion at 119 pounds and will wrestle at 135 this weekend.

LCAA set for tourney

By Chris Metcalf
For The Daily News

DANSVILLE — Eight defending champions return to this year's Livingston Conference Athletic Conference Wrestling Championships Friday and Saturday at Dansville.

Dakota Stackhouse (Warsaw), Bucky Hendrickson (Letchworth), Ian Paddock (Warsaw), Mike Nevinger (Letchworth), Kevin Green (Pavilion), Eddie Koziel (Perry), Cody Hutcheson (Bath) and Nate Schiedel (Caledonia-Mumford) all return in hopes for a repeat performance at the top of the podium.

Hornell's Joe Sirianni is a defending champion who would have been back to defend his crown but a shoulder injury has forced him out of the lineup.

Hutcheson was named MOW a year ago as he defeated Warsaw's Zak Griffith 6-2 in the finals at 152 pounds.

It was the second straight conference MOW for Hutcheson, who owns a 154-29 career record.

See Wrestling — page B-3

Wrestling

— From page B-1

The Bath junior returns at 171 pounds and he sports an impressive 31-2 record this season.

The 171-pound division looks to be the toughest as Hutcheson and Griffith very well could meet in the finals again but Way-Co's Jon Weldy could spoil that party.

Letchworth captured the team title a year ago and the Indians will have plenty of competition for that same crown this weekend.

Stiff competition should come from Bath, Warsaw, Le Roy, Way-Co, Keshequa and Geneseo.

Two returnees enter this weekend's tournament perfect as Paddock and Schiedel look like shoe-ins for another county crown.

Paddock, last year's 119-pound state champion, currently owns a 28-0 record after sitting out a few weeks with sore ribs while Schiedel is sitting at 33-0 in the 189-pound division.

Paddock will wrestle at 135 pounds this weekend.

Warsaw has several other could-be winners.

Senior Nick Czapla looks tough at 160 pounds, after placing third at the state tournament a year ago; Griffith, a sophomore, will be in the mix at 171 pounds; Kyle Akers has been improving plenty at 152 pounds; seventh-grader Austin Keough has been tough all season at 96 pounds and Chris Whiting should open some eyes at 119 pounds.

Whiting placed second a year ago at the same weight class.

Letchworth, which wrapped up the D-I title last week with a win over Bath, will look to defending state champion Mike Nevinger to lead the way at 135 pounds. The junior Nevinger should be hungry after suffering two losses at Sweet Home last week.

Brother Chris Nevinger will make a run at 130 pounds although beating Paddock will be a tough chore. Chris looked tough last week during his 9-2 whipping against Bath's Billy Crowe.

Bucky Hendrickson has been consistent all season and has solidified himself as the favorite at 125 pounds.

Look out for Frank Day (140), Dave Wooley (145), Evan Saylor (152), Pat Pankow (160) and Jeff Holly (189), all of whom could give a title shot a chance.

Pankow is the defending 'BB' champion.

Youthful Bath has more than

just Hutcheson too.

Eighth-grader Brian Hojnoski (96) has a 25-7 record; sophomore Kyle Conrad (103) is 31-1 and is the returning 'BBBB' champ; seventh-grader Mitchell Buckley (112) is 23-9; freshman Jacob Harrison (119) is 28-6 and pinned his way through both the Watkins Glen and Hornell Tournament titles; junior Billy Crowe (130) is 29-6; and junior Zack Simons (189) is 30-4 and should be taken as a serious contender.

"We are very beat up," said Bath coach Jim Fowler. "I don't think we have enough kids in the tournament to win but we should have a couple champions. I think Warsaw and Letchworth will be in the running along with Le Roy and Keshequa."

Keshequa has a few legitimate chances at individual crowns.

Their best chance will come at 215 pounds where senior Jake Dale sports a perfect 27-0 record. Dale, a two-time sectional champion, has already won tournament titles this winter at Hornell, Hammond-sport, Byron-Bergen, Batavia and last Saturday at Newark.

Nick Shute (22-9) should be in the hunt at 189 pounds while Matt Kreuzer (21-6) will make some noise at 145 pounds.

Brandon Schrier (24-6) will make a run at 135 pounds.

Look out for 125-pounder Korey Gillen (21-6), a sectional runner-up a year ago.

Geneseo has a trio of solid chances at LCAA crowns.

Their best chance will come at 285 pounds as junior Vinnie Lukaszonas brings in a 24-1 mark, and a probable top seed.

Lukaszonas has already captured titles at Alexander and East. He placed second at the county championships a year ago.

The Blue Devils will also look for something special out of John Fayiah, a 145-pound junior with a 26-2 record. Fayiah is wrestling on top of his game, winning his third MOW this season last Saturday at the Lilac Invitational.

Sophomore Clayton Phelps should make a run for the 125-pound title in a rugged weight class. His lone loss this season came to Way-Co's Richie Sikes.

Other Geneseo wrestlers to look out for include Tyler Carman (112; 21-8), Pat Gilmore (160; 19-3) and Ethan Moore (189; 21-6).

Livonia coach Mike Cronmiller Sr. has his Bulldogs' sparking on all cylinders after

their second place showing at the Lilac Invitational last Saturday.

Tim Coughlin has a solid shot at making a serious run toward the 135-pound crown while Kevin Bischooping should give the 160-pound class a serious look.

Two seniors, Terry Matthews (140) and Matt Knight (145) also have potential. Look out for Livonia junior Justin Becker at 285 pounds.

Hornell will have to find a capable replacement to the top of the podium with Sirianni out and their two best chances come from the Dwyer brothers, Adam and Austin.

Austin has the best chance at the 140-pound class and he enters the tournament with a 28-3 record, including an impressive performance at the State Farm Invite where he pinned his way to the title.

Adam is 14-5 at 130 pounds.

Other Hornell wrestlers to keep an eye on include Jordan Harrison (96; 19-12), Richie Harkenrider (103; 12-5), Mike Stoddard (145; 18-17) and Darrin Armaly (215; 19-14).

Perry's Eddie Koziel (24-1) has been the Yellowjackets' top horse in the barn the last three years and he should make another run at the LCAA crown, this year moving up two weight classes to 160. Beating Warsaw's Czapla won't be easy however.

Pavilion's Kevin Green has been solid at 140 this year and could bring home another title.

York is still a very young team but they will bring a few youthful studs to the weekend party. Eighth-grader John VanSlyke has been their most consistent wrestler this winter and is 18-4 on the season and should make a run for the 112-pound crown. Jeff Butler (17-6) has already made some noise at 103 pounds while Chris Dermody (17-7) has done some solid things at 119 pounds. Derek Draper (14-7) will look to make the finals at 96 pounds while Mike Truax (18-5) has potential in the 125-pound division.

Third-year coach Steve Wu has a solid chance at an individual title as Matt Martone sports a 24-4 record in the 103-pound weight class.

The LCAA Wrestling Championships will begin Friday at 5 p.m. with preliminary action through to the quarterfinals. Semifinals will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday with consolation finals and championship finals beginning at 4 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$4 Friday and \$5 Saturday.