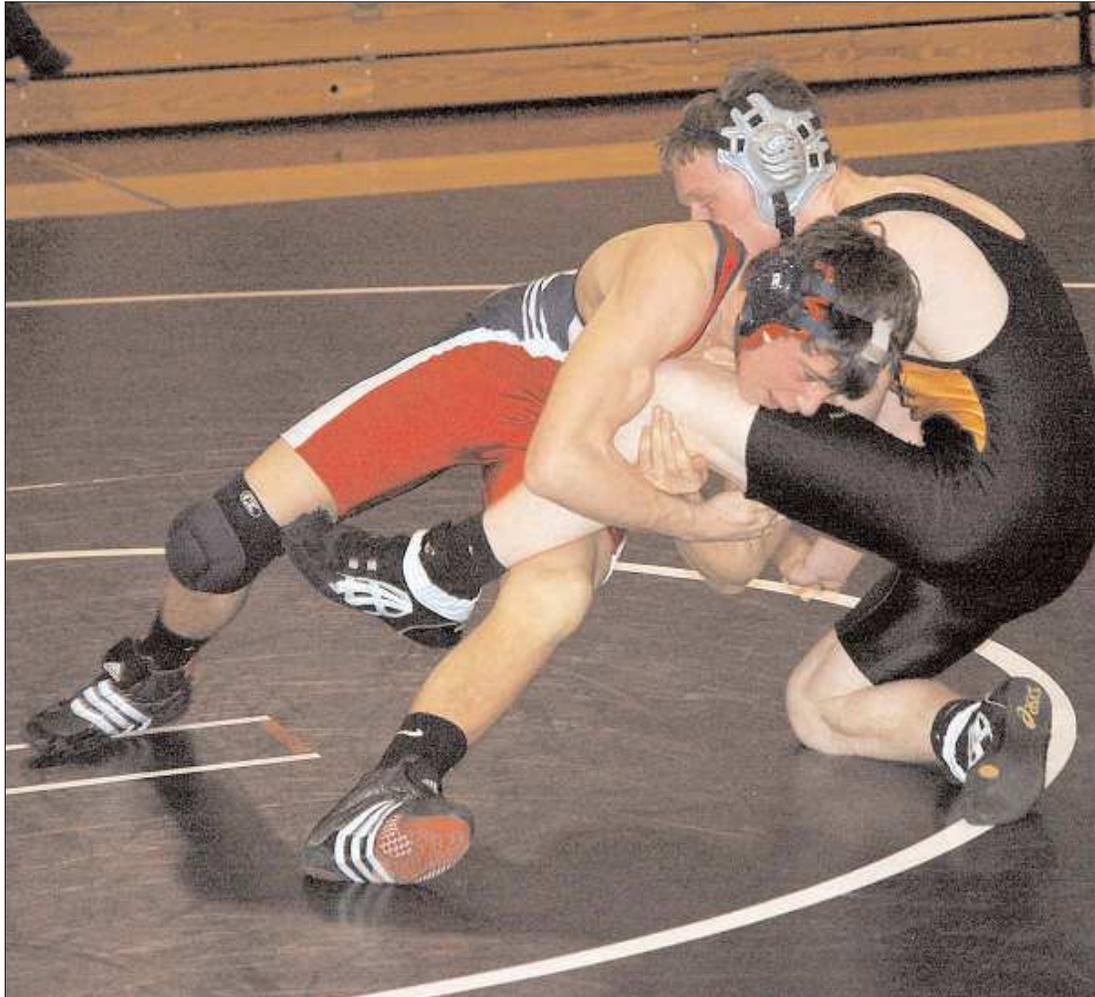


Winter weather forces LCAA Waiting game



DERRICK BALINSKY

Hornell's Adam Dwyer, left, wraps up the leg of Honeoye Falls-Lima's Bryan Lampson during their 130-pound Livingston County Athletic Association match Tuesday evening in Hornell. Dwyer was able to pick up an 8-7 decision in the match.



DERRICK BALINSKY

Dansville's Jason Lovetro, top, closes in on a pin during his bout with Arkport's Casey Wellington at the Hornell State Farm Wrestling Classic nearly two weeks ago at Hornell High School.

Livingston County championships to be held all in one day

From staff reports

DANSVILLE — The Livingston County Athletic Association Wrestling Championships will be celebrating its 50th birthday this weekend at Dansville Central School, as 16 LCAA D-I and D-II schools compete to see what teams and individuals can lay stake to the title of county champion.

The tournament, which was originally scheduled to begin with weigh-ins at 3:30 p.m. today, has been postponed to Saturday and will

be completed in one day.

Defending champions, Letchworth, Bath-Haverling, Warsaw and Keshequa are generally considered to be the frontrunners by local coaches competing in the tournament.

"The teams to beat are Bath-Haverling and Letchworth," said Hornell coach Collin Hall. "There's no question that those are the top two teams. Both teams have a full line-up and their line-up is pretty good.

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“It’s hard to compete with those guys when they have so much talent and a full squad,” added Hall, who will be competing with just 10 wrestlers.

Hornell has had a difficult time as of late, taking on 15 weight classes with five fewer competitors than required to fill out a complete lineup card. However, Hall has big hopes for his players this weekend.

“Our sophomore 135-pounder Austin Dwyer has a good shot of winning counties for the first time,” said Hall. “He’s been doing good all year long. Both Jordan Harrison (96) and Richie Harkenrider (103) should do well also. It’s going to be hard for us, but the guys that I take could do pretty well.”

Ralph Perry, coach of the Dansville Mustangs, one of the original eight teams in the LCAA Tournament 50 years ago, agrees that the top two teams in the tournament are pretty cut and dry.

“Bath-Haverling and Letchworth are the big contenders,” said Perry. “They’ve been strong for a couple of years now. I know they both beat us pretty good.”

While Bath-Haverling coach Jim Fowler is flattered by the praise from other coaches, he’s got a somewhat different prediction for the outcome of this weekend’s competition.

“Really, my personal opinion is that it’ll come down to Letchworth and Warsaw on top,” said Fowler. “But Bath-Haverling, LeRoy, Keshequa and Wayland-Cohocton have kids that could be spoilers for both those teams.

“We’re pretty solid but we’re young and beat up right now,” he continued on his 6-1 team. “I have two kids out: one with a dislocated elbow and one with a broken shoulder. We’ll just do with what we can with what we’ve got.”

The one bad thing about all-league competitions is that they come at the end of the season, leaving a lot of opportunities for top wrestlers to get hurt along the way.

“We’re taking a couple extra kids,” said Fowler. “I’m putting in a senior that doesn’t wrestle much, and think he’ll do fine, but hopefully our kids can wrestle hard. I’m really looking for everyone to place.”

The Rams (22-5 overall) were handed their only LCAA loss of the season last week when they took on top contender Letchworth (7-0 LCAA), and all too aware of the determination they’ll be up against once again.

If Bath-Haverling can reach Fowler’s goal of getting wrestlers to place in every weight class, they could do as well as last year, or better at counties. In 2007, B-H came in third, 46 points behind second-place Warsaw. Wayland-Cohocton snatched up the fourth-place spot a year ago, while Geneseo came in fifth and Keshequa snagged sixth. Hornell came in 13th overall in the 2007 county tournament.

One factor that could prove to be uncontrollable for all teams is the pending weather. With a weekend storm predicted to set in, the wintery weather could prove to be the impending doom for some teams.

“If more than six schools are closed on Friday, the tournament will be rescheduled to happen all on Saturday,” said Fowler. “It would be a real bummer for the kids.”

The Saturday portion of the tournament will also feature the induction of new members to the Century Club, which honors seniors with 100 plus wins on their careers, and the presentation of scholarships. The Coach of the Year, chosen by all LCAA coaches, will also be announced on Saturday, with a Hall of Fame Induction

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