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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2003

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Albion to host AAA tourney this weekend

Post season wrestling competition shifts into high gear this weekend with four Section VI class tournaments, including the AAA event at Albion.

In addition to the host Purple Eagles and defending AAA champion Iroquois, the 15 team field will include Starpoint, West Seneca East, Sweet Home, Grand Island, Pioneer, Williamsville East, Amherst, Williamsville South, Lew-Port, Depew, Olean, Cheektowaga and Springville.

The competition will include the crowning of a team champion and the advancing the top four finishers in each individual weight class to next weekend's Section VI state qualifier tournament.

Wrestling gets underway at 4 p.m. Friday. Competition resumes at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with the semifinals scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and the finals for 6 p.m.

"We're very proud to host this event and to be able to bring some of the better wrestlers in the Western New York area to Albion," said Albion coach Keith Piccirilli.

Albion junior Mike Sanders, who captured his fourth Niagara-Orleans League title this past weekend, is a defending AAA champion. Now at 34-4 on the season, he has a career record of 132-20.

Albion placed fourth in the AAA team competition last year behind Iroquois, Olean and Amherst.

Medina will be competing in the Class AA tournament at Fredonia Friday and Saturday.

The Mustangs finished fourth in the team competition last year behind champion Fredonia, Southwestern and Newfane, as Roy-Hart placed sixth.

Medina has one defending AA champion in senior Matt Root, who claimed his second N-O crown this past weekend.



Cheryl Wertman/The Journal-Register

Albion's defending champion Mike Sanders, who is shown here working toward a Niagara-Orleans League title win over Medina's Andy Hermann this past weekend, will lead the host Purple Eagles into this weekend's Section VI AAA Tournament.

Root, who is 33-2 on the season has a career mark of 111-49.

Mike Crane placed third and Nate Hartway fourth for MHS at the AA tourney last year.

Hartway won his second N-O title last weekend and is now 23-11 on the season.

Newfane, which captured a second straight N-O championship last weekend, is led by

senior Ryan Needle, a two-time state champion and the all-time Section VI victory leader.

Akron and Wilson are also in the AA field along with

Tonawanda, Maryvale, Lackawanna, Alden, East Aurora, Eden, Salamanca, Gowanda and Allegany-Limestone.

In all, eight of the top 10 ranked small schools in WNY are in the AA field.

Barker will be competing in the Class A tournament at Panama.

Holley, Kendall and Lyndonville will all be competing in the annual Genesee Region All-League Tournament, which will be held this weekend at Byron-Bergen.

Holley, which went undefeated to repeat as the regular season G-R champion, is also the defending tournament champion.

The Hawks have a quartet of defending G-R champions including Answar Goeres, Andrew Grillo, Matt Parth and Ben Doty.

Kendall has three defending league champs in Geoff Chippendale, Troy Tooley and Donald Williams.