

★ Mat men look forward to Salamanca wrestling tournament

By **CHRIS CHAPMAN**
Sports Editor

SALAMANCA — Nine schools will bring their wrestling teams into the confines of the Salamanca High School gym this weekend to participate in the annual Salamanca wrestling tournament.

This year, the tournament will bring in wrestlers from schools that are not usually seen by the Warriors mat men, others haven't been scene by the team since the early tournaments that kick off the year.

But how do the Warriors match up against these competitors?

"I expect to take at least four championships," said Warrior coach, Mike Sebaaly. "We have four guys seeded number one in their weights. They are the odds-on favorites to win those."

The mat men that Sebaaly is expecting to walk away with big wins are Been Haas in the 96-pound weight class, Matt Metzler in the 125, Carmen Pappa in the 130 and Mitch Hoag in the 171 division.

Haas and Metzler are both contenders for the state tournament. Both are currently in the Western New York



Matt Metzler in action earlier this season.

rankings for high school wrestling. Haas is an honorable mention in the 96 pound division and Metzler is ranked number one in the 199 pound class.

Last year saw Bolivar-Richburg top the team list for the tournament victory, with Salamanca finishing fifth, 59 points behind.

Sebaaly says things will be different this year.

"We should win the tournament this year," he said. "beyond the four that are expected to win, I can see two more in the finals and probably a total of nine to

place. That should be enough for us to win it."

The tournament comes at a time when the wrestlers are getting ready for the home stretch of the season and are fine-tuning for the post season.

"This would be a good warm-up for the postseason," Sebaaly said.

The tournament will have some of last year's champions returning to make an attempt to capture another crown.

Steve Cochran of Westfield won last year in the 96-pound weight class. After a year, he has moved up to the 112-pound division, where he is ranked number one.

(File photo)

Logan Kellogg of Oswayo Valley took home the title in the 103 weight class last year and is seeded first among the 119 pounders this year.

Salamanca's Matt Metzler won last year at 112. This year he will attempt to win from the top seed of the 125 division.

Sweet Home's Nick Stella, another Western New York poll-ranked wrestler, won in the 125 class last year. This year

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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND HOW THEY FARED LAST YEAR

Bolivar-Richburg 194

Campbell-Savona 180

Oswayo Valley 177

**Canisteo-
Greenwood 156**

Salamanca 135

Sweet Home 111

Westfield 92

Bradford 84.5

Olean 45

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he is looking to keep his ranking high with a win in the 140 pound weight class.

Bradford's Tim Keen will try to repeat as the 140 pound champion, as will Oswayo Valley's Brandon Salter in the 152 pound division.

Zeke Drake, last year's 160 pound champ from Oswayo Valley, will try his hand in the same division this year. He is ranked number one for the tournament.

Rounding out last year's champs that will be going for more accolades is Nick Allen in the 275 pound division. He won it last year and is seeded in the number one spot.

Matches are set to get under way at 10 a.m. Semi-finals are expected to begin around 1 p.m. with finals to happen near the four o'clock hour.