

Hornets, Unbeaten Devils Meet on SHS Mats

★ Elmira Free Academy

Record: 11-0

Coach: Bob Diehr



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| Bunner 98 Moore | Lucas 106 Swimelar | Collins 115 D. Osgood | Hale 123 G. Osgood | Coggins 130 Davis | Losito 136 Sherman | Lewis 141 Carleton | Diello 148 Ottaviani | Jackson 157 Pronti | Carr 168 Coon | Greene 183 Manchester | Stermer Hwt. Robinson |
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Elmira Southside

Record: 9-1-1

Coach: Tom Hurley

By BOB KELLY

"We're the underdogs in this one," says Southside's Tom Hurley.

"We could lose this one," retorts Academys Bob Diehr.

And that was the way the verbal fencing went on what could be the biggest wrestling match in the history of the two crosstown arch-rival schools.

In this intra-city battle which began in 1947-48, Southside has taken a commanding 26-9-1 lead, has won 16 straight and 17 of 18 since Hurley has been at the Hornets' helm. Hurley's only loss to the Devils came at the opening match of the 1957-58 season, when the Hornets tumbled 27-14. Since then the Hor-

nets have been untouchable, including a last year's 23-17 title match.

It has been ten years since the Devils have won, but the time may have come and the moment of reckoning will be tonight, with everything on the line.

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An undefeated season faces the Blue Devils, along with undisputed possession of the Sullivan Trail Conference trophy. Should the Devils win against Southside in the Hornets' nest tonight, only upstart Notre Dame remains between Academy and the perfect season. The Devils also won the STC Christmas Tournament on the same Southside mats.

The Devils sport one of the

finest balanced teams in local history and have steamrolled their way to an 11-0 dual meet season with four wrestlers coming this far unscathed, and three more having lost but once.

A. J. Losito, John Diello, Don Jackson and Tony Greene are four undefeateds, though Diello was held to one draw in his 11 bouts.

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It will be an unenthusiastic homecoming for Diehr, who graduated from Southside and after a stint on the Ithaca College mats, returned to his alma mater as an assistant to Hurley before moving across the river to Academy to take the head coaching job.

Southside was rolling mer-

rily along in the season until Waverly's Wolverines sprung the surprise of the season in handing the Hornets their only loss of the year at Waverly. Southside recovered and then was forced to come from behind to manage a tie with Horseheads, the team Academy manhandled 31-13 in its last outing.

Never to be counted out, Southside could well spring the upset if the momentum gets moving in the first few matches.

In the opener, Dan Bunner (10-1-1) will go for Academy, meeting either Keith Moore (3-1-1) or Gary Perkins (4-1). At 106, it will be Devil Rich Lucas (3-0) and Mark Swimelar (8-1) going at it.

Southside's Dave Osgood (8-3) will meet Mike Collins (8-3) at 115, with brother Gary Osgood (4-2) taking on Bill Hale (9-2-1) following at 123.

Academy's Chuck Coggins (6-2) goes after Russ Davis (5-6) at 130, with Losito (12-0) taking on Dan Sherman (2-2-3) at 136. Terry Lewis (11-1) for the Devils will meet John Carleton at 141. Carleton is 6-5 for the Hornets.

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Gene Ottaviani returns to the Southside lineup after missing part of the season due to a fractured finger, and he will meet Diello (11-0-1) at 148. Jackson (12-0) for the Devils then takes the mat against Bob Pronti (10-1) in a match-up at 157.

Gary Coon (8-3) will face Jim Carr (8-4) for the Hornets at 168, with Southside's undefeated Dan Manchester, (10-0-1) greeting 11-0 Tony Greene in a "meetin of unbeaten" at 183. Greene has fashioned his skein although regularly giving up 25 pounds or better to his oppoinets.

In the heavyweight battle, Academy's bullish Earl Stermer, trimmed down to a svelte 205, will battle with Southside's Gary Robinson (7-4). Stermer is 11-1 for the year, with all but two wins coming with pins, most in the early part of the bout.

The Varsity takes the mats at 8 p. m., directly preceded by the Jayvee battle at 6:00.