

Opens Tonight At Maple Grove

Seven Returning Champs First Seeds For Wrestling Tourney

By RON GUSTAFSON

BEMUS POINT—Seven returning champions received first seeds for the 18th annual Southern Tier Wrestling League's Holiday Tournament, which opens at Maple Grove High School tonight.

Sixteen teams, eight in each division, will grapple for division championships. The wrestlers will battle for division titles as well as an overall tournament title in each weight class.

From Division One Falconer's Mike Ognibene, the Division One and overall 98-pound weight class champ last year, is seeded first at 119 for tonight's first round action.

Olean 88-pound champ Jim Diehl, also a Division One and overall title winner last year has the top seed at 98 this year.

Maple Grove's Kim Wefing is seeded first at 138 in the same division. Last year Wefing was beaten in the overall tournament championships by Pine Valley's Keith Granger. Granger will be out of Wefing's hair this year as he is at 132. The Panthers' grappler is seeded first in that weight class in Division Two.

The other Division One returning champ is Dennis Long of Dunkirk at 167. Long was beaten in the tournament championships last year by Maple Grove powerhouse Glen Gese, a 1974 graduate.

In Division Two Westfield's Darrell Stebbins took the top seed at 119. Last season Stebbins won the 112-pound weight class in the division and was topped in the tournament championships by Salamanca's John Fitzgerald.

At 126 Pine Valley's Gerry Reynolds, second in the overall championships last year, has the top position for tonight's opening. After winning the Division Two crown at the same weight class last year he was topped by Olean's Dan Shembada in the in-

terdivision competition.

Teams in Division One are Maple Grove, Olean, Dunkirk, Southwestern, Falconer, Salamanca and Cassadaga Valley. Fredonia, a non-league member of the Southern Tier organization, will also wrestle on the Division One side of the tournament. Next season the Hillbillies are planning on joining Division One on a league basis.

In Division Two newcomer Frewsburg is in the running along with Ripley, Panama, Pine Valley, Randolph, Silver Creek, Sherman and Westfield.

Maple Grove took the team championship in Division One in last year's get together with Silver Creek taking the Division Two crown.

The grapplers weigh in from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. today with the first bouts slated to start around 6 p.m.

According to Maple Grove Coach Dick Errico the entire first round of the tournament will be concluded tonight.

Tomorrow the action opens at 12 noon with the champions from the two divisions battling on the mat at 8 p.m.

Each wrestler winning a division title will receive a trophy. The overall tournament champs will receive tournament jackets.

The top four seeds in each division and weight class follows:

Division One

91: Hallberg (KG), Cucchiaro (Olean), Campese (Dunkirk), Conti (Fredonia).

98: Diehl (Olean), Campese (Dunkirk), Conlon (Salamanca), Caskey (MG).

105: White (SW), Tripody (Olean), Traynor (MG), Cappolino (Salamanca).

112: Grean (Olean), Newark (Salamanca), Frederickson (SW), Becker (MG).

119: Mike Ognibene (Falconer), Swan (SW), Callen (Salamanca), Goodell (MG).

126: John Ognibene (Falconer), Bushnell (Olean), Woodfield (MG), Smith (SW).

132: Butler (MG), Leichtweis (Olean), Sandbury (SW), Conti (Fredonia).

138: Wefing (MG), Mortenson (SW), Simon (Olean), Nutt (Falconer).

145: John Beichner (Cassadaga Valley), VanBrunt (Olean), Chiolek (Salamanca), Lentz (Dunkirk).

155: Dan Golando (SW), Meder (Cassadaga Valley), Ranus (Dunkirk), Pikulski (Olean).

167: Long (Dunkirk), Pat Johnson (Falconer), Morton (Olean), Stevens (SW).

177: Dave Golando (SW), Simon

(Olean), Pike (Falconer), Mitchell (Fredonia).

Hvy: Linske (SW), Meissner (Salamanca), Steger (Fredonia), Perry (Falconer).

Division Two

91: Emke (Randolph), Jim Eddy (Ripley), Horsch (Westfield), Card (Sherman).

98: Ackley (Frewsburg), Jensen (Westfield), Cedergvist (Panama), Warner (Sherman).

105: Mullard (Panama), Yokum (Sherman), Newberry (Ripley), Livecchi (Silver Creek).

112: Torres (Westfield), Maloy (Panama), Lampson (Pine Valley), Case (Ripley).

119: Stebbins (Westfield), Preston (Panama), Horrigan (Silver Creek), Harper (Sherman).

126: Reynolds (Pine Valley), Bill Root (Silver Creek), Mead (Westfield), Smith (Sherman).

132: Granger (Pine Valley), Sponanza (Frewsburg), Senske (Panama), Terry Root (Silver Creek).

138: Clark (Panama), Livett (Silver Creek), Wollett (Ripley), Hetrick (Frewsburg).

145: Calrick (Frewsburg), Rowe (Ripley), Shultz (Randolph), Eimers (Panama).

155: Smith (Westfield), Aiken (Randolph), Strandburg (Frewsburg), Ross (Panama).

167: Davis (Ripley), Roger King (Panama), Green (Randolph), McCutcheon (Westfield).

177: Hoffman (Randolph), Westerlund (Panama), Gugino (Westfield), Tampo (Silver Creek).

Hvy: Baht (Ripley), Bartlett (Westfield), Andrews (Randolph), Marling (Sherman).

WHA: Indy Handed 7th Zero, Wins Five Of 31

By Unified Press International

Scoring a goal is becoming as big an achievement for the Indianapolis Racers as winning a game is for other teams.

The Racers, who have won only five of 31 games, were shut out for the seventh time this season Thursday night when they dropped a 6-0 decision to the Minnesota Fighting Saints. The loss was the fifth in a row and 18th in the last 19 games for the Racers, who have scored only 65 goals this season and are in last place in the World Hockey Association's East Division.

Mike Walton collected his 20th goal for the Fighting Saints, who used the victory to move within four points of third place Phoenix in the West Division.

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Olean Off To Big Lead In Maple Grove Tourney

BEMUS POINT — After one round in the 18th annual Southern Tier Wrestling League's Holiday Tournament, which opened at Maple Grove High School last night, it looks like Olean will be the Division One champ.

The Huskies racked up 44 big points last night after 87 matches in the tourney. Next in Division One is Maple Grove and Salamanca, both with 22.

With that margin between first and second, Olean would have to take quite a tumble in today's action to lost the first place standing.

Panama led Division Two last night with 27½ points. Right behind the Panthers is Ripley with 27. Randolph and Westfield both have 26 points with Sherman tallying 18. Silver Creek, last year's Division Two champ, has 15½ points with Frewsburg and Pine Valley both scoring 12.

Rounding out Division One is Southwestern with 21, Falconer with 20½, Dunkirk with 20, Cassadaga Valley with 14 and Fredonia with 0.

Most of the top seeds made it through the opening bouts.

Some of the fastest pins in Division Two were by Ripley's Larry Bahl and Dennis Newberry and Westfield's Rusty Jensen and Mark Bartlett. Randolph's John Hoffman also recorded a fast fall. All of the above pinned their opponents in under a minute.

First period pins in Division One were by Maple Grove's Leon Traynor and Greg Wefing; Falconer's Howard Nutt and Jim Pike; Dunkirk's Dennis Long; and Cassadaga's Brian Meder.

One wrestler, name and school not available, was injured in last night's action. According to a tourney spokesman the grappler broke a finger and will not continue in the event.

The consolations start at 6 p.m. today with the championship finals slated to start around 8 p.m.

Olean, Southwestern In Top 20 Of

Clean, Westfield Divisional Winners In Wrestling Meet

By RON GUSTAFSON

BEMUS POINT — All 13 Olean wrestlers placed in the 18th annual Southern Tier Wrestling League's Holiday Tournament at Maple Grove High School over the weekend, proving the Huskies certainly have a team to be reckoned with.

Olean walked away with the Division One team championship while an individual grappler found his glory in winning his third straight overall tourney title.

Falconer's Mike Ognibene worked his way through the two-day event to take home his third trophy in the lowerweights in Saturday night's finals. In 1972 and '73 the Golden Falcons' outstanding wrestler won the title at 98. This season Mike has moved up to 119.

There seemed to be no hope for any team in beating Olean after the first round, Friday night. The Huskies racked up 44 points. Next in line was Salamanca and Maple Grove, both with 22.

Olean ended up with 93 points in the tourney with Southwestern taking second for the second straight year with 61. Falconer was fourth in Division One with 59 and Salamanca fourth with 55. Last year's title winner, Maple Grove, was fifth with 40 points.

In Division Two Westfield won a close race with 68½ points. Ripley took second with 64 and Panama was third with 51. Randolph was fourth with 33 and Frewsburg, in its first year on the varsity level, had a fine showing with 30½ points.

Silver Creek, the Division Two winner last year, was back in seventh place this year with 21½ points.

A capacity crowd was on hand for the championship finals Saturday night, which had the first place grapplers in each division and weight class going against each other.

Mike Ognibene scored three near falls in a 12-6 decision over Panama's Steve Preston in the 119-pound final. In the second period Preston scored a near fall on Ognibene.

The outstanding match of the finals was the 132-pound clash between Pine Valley's Keith Granger and Maple Grove's Dave Butler. Granger, also last year's champ, topped Butler, 2-1, in overtime.

The Pine Valley grappler injured his left shoulder early in the season last year and has been hampered by it since.

Saturday he won his second title with that shoulder taped up. Both wrestlers scored escapes in the regular match to tie the score at 1-1 and take it into overtime. Granger scored another escape in the second period of the overtime match to win, 2-1.

Maple Grove's Bari Hallberg

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

Division One

Olean 93, Southwestern 61, Falconer 59, Salamanca 55, Dunkirk 43, Maple Grove 40, Cassadaga Valley 31, Fredonia 0.

Division Two

Westfield 68½, Ripley 64, Panama 51, Randolph 33, Frewsburg 30½, Pine Valley 24½, Silver Creek 21½, Sherman 18.

took the 91-pound championship with a 5-2 decision over Randolph's Dan Emke. Hallberg had one near fall in that bout.

Olean's Jim Diehl recorded his second straight tournament win at 98 with a 13-4 victory over Westfield's Rusty Jensen. Diehl had two near falls, one a three-pointer, in that match. Last year he was the 88 (now 91) winner.

Jensen won the 88-pound title in Division Two last year.

Southwestern's Greg White got the only pin in the championship finals. He used the cradle to get the count in on Panama's Tim Mullard at 105 in 4:18. White had three near falls prior to the pin.

Mike Ognibene had his win at 119 and, younger brother, John, took his first Holiday Tournament crown at 126. He topped Gerry Reynolds of Pine Valley, 6-2. Ognibene had a three point near fall in the match. Reynolds was the Division Two champ last year, losing in the championship finals.

Panama's Gary Clark dominated the 138-pound match for an 11-2 win over Falconer's Frank Nutt.

Ripley's Darwin Rowe, younger brother of former Southern Tier powerhouse Marty Rowe, won the 145-pound title.

Rowe topped Cassadaga Valley's John Beichner, 6-0, in the bout. Beichner won the 138-pound title two years ago and was third at 145 last year.

Dan Golando, Southwestern, came through with a third period reversal to beat Westfield's Brad Smith, 3-2, for the 155 title.

Falconer's Pat Johnson won the 167-pound crown with a 5-1 decision over Panama's Roger King.

Olean's Sheahan Simon downed Randolph's John Hoffman, 8-2, for the 177 title.

Kurt Linske, Southwestern, won the heavyweight bout against Westfield's Mark Bartlett, 12-1. Linske had a three point and two two point near falls in the match.

At unlimited Silver Creek's Gary Betts beat Dunkirk's Rich Winder, 10-4, for the championship.

The overall tournament champs received tournament jackets. First place winners in each division received trophies.

Head and assistant coaches

from Olean and Westfield received team trophies.

Referees at the tournament were Jim Lacey, Don Wishart, Larry Duckwell and Norm Thomas.

Championship Finals

(Note: Each wrestler is a division champ.)

91: Bari Hallberg (MG) d. Dan Emke (Ran), 5-2.

98: Jim Diehl (Olean) d. Rusty Jensen (West), 13-4.

105: Greg White (SW) p. Tim Mullard (Pan), 4:18.

112: Dave Crean (Olean) d. Jorge Torres (West), 9-1.

119: Mike Ognibene (Fal) d. Steve Preston (Pan), 12-6.

126: John Ognibene (Fal) d. Gerry Reynolds (PF), 6-2.

132: Keith Granger (PV) d. Dave Butler (MG), 2-1 OT.

138: Gary Clark (Pan) d. Frank Nutt (Fal), 11-2.

145: Darwin Rowe (Rip) d. John Beichner (CV), 6-0.

155: Dan Golando (SW) d. Brad Smith (West), 3-2.

167: Pat Johnson (Fal) d. Roger King (Pan), 5-1.

177: Sheahan Simon (Olean) d. John Hoffman (Ran), 8-2.

Hvy: Kurt Linske (SW) d. Mark Bartlett (West), 12-1.

Unl: Gary Betts (SC) d. Rich Winder (Dun), 10-4.

Second Place Winners

In Each Division

(Division One listed first)

91: Campese (Dun), Horsch (West).

98: L. Campese (Dun), Ackley (Frew).

105: Traynor (MG), Newberry (Pan).

112: Newark (Sal), Case (Rip).

119: Swan (SW), Stebbins (West).

126: Bushnell (Olean), Roof (SC).

132: Leichweis (Olean), Spontano (Frew).

138: Wheeler (Sal), Woffett (Rip).

145: Ciolek (Sal), Hartzell (Frew).

155: Meder (CV), Aiken (Ran).

167: Long (Dun), Davis (Rip).

177: Case (Dun), Gugin (West).

Hvy: Meissner (Sal), Bahl (Rip).

Unl: Nolet (Sal), Foti (West).

Consolations

(Winner took third and the loser fourth in each weight class in each division.)

91: Eucchiaro (Olean) p. Conti (Fred), 1-27.

98: Conlan (Sal) won by default over Caskey (MG).

105: Trippid (Olean) d. Cappallino (Sal), 2-0.

112: Becker (MG) d. Fredrickson (SW), 6-1.

119: Callen (Sal) d. Bliss (Olean), 2-0.

126: Smith (SW) d. Woodfield (MG), 3-2.

132: Barmore (CV) d. Qverend (Fal), 2-0.

138: J. Simon (Olean) won by default over Welling (MG).

145: Leitz (Dug) d. VanBuren (Olean), 8-4.

155: Rikus (Dun) d. Pikulski (Olean), 3-1.

167: Morrison (Olean) d. Tom Beichner (CV), 2-1.

177: Dave Golando (SW) d. Pike (Fal), 8-2.

Hvy: Dallas (Olean) d. Steffen (Dun), 2-1.

Division Two

91: Card (Sherman) d. Nartzell (Fred), 4-2.

98: Cederquist (Pan) d. Warner (Sherman), 10-2.

105: Livochi (SC) d. Yekum (Sherman), 7-5.

112: Lamson (PV) d. Newby (Sherman), 8-2.

119: Harper (Sherman) d. Horrigan (SC), 2-1.

126: Towers (Ran) d. Doss (Rip), 2-1.

132: Senske (Pan) d. Leahy (Ran), 8-4.

138: Loavitt (SC) d. Dexter (Ran), 4-0.

145: Schulz (Ran) d. Elmers (Pan), 7-0.

155: Nobles (PV) d. Strandburg (Frew), 5-2.

167: Green (Ran) d. McCutcheon (West), 1-0.

177: Tamplin (SC) d. Westerlund (Pan), 4-2.

Hvy: Marling (Sherman) d. Andrews (Ran), 4-2.