

★ Canandaigua must go for wrestling crown without Joe Hibbard

Sectional hopes could suffer with 112-pounder out with flu

By Gary Fallesen

Democrat and Chronicle

If Section 5 were to publish a wrestling injury report it would read: Joe Hibbard doubtful.

Hibbard, one of Canandaigua's top five individuals, has missed the past three days of high school because of the flu. As a result, his doctor has ordered him not to participate in this weekend's Class A championship tournament at Hilton, Coach Larry Reynolds said last night.

That medical request may keep the Braves from regaining the sectional title.

"Brockport has to be the favorite with all the seeds," said Reynolds, "and without Joe."

Brockport, ranked third in the *Democrat and Chronicle* coaches poll and 12th in the state sports writers poll, has 10 wrestlers seeded.

Among those seeds are sophomore Jim Lupisella (24-4 record) at 112 pounds, junior Phil St. George (28-3-1) at 145, and senior Jeff Miller (27-6) at 177. All three were sectional runners-up last year.

"Brockport looks real good on paper," said Brighton Coach Mark Hoyt, the Class A tournament's director. "Of course, they looked real good Saturday night, too."

Brockport narrowly lost the Monroe County League's East-West Day championship to the area and state's top-ranked team, East Rochester, 23-20.

Hibbard's illness could be costly

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ER is heavily favored to repeat as the Class C champion. Classes B and D, meanwhile, are rated as tossups by area coaches.

Here's a look at each of the four tournaments, which begin today and conclude tomorrow night at various sites:

Class A

Canandaigua had five wrestlers seeded before the 112-pound Hibbard fell ill.

The Braves, ranked second in Section 5 and No. 10 in the state, still have in their lineup defending champions Butch Hibbard, Joe's younger brother, at 98; Paul Laphier at 105, and Marty King at 126. Also seeded is Mike Locagnato at 91.

King, who won the state championship last year at 119 and was named All-America, is unbeaten this season (26-0). He is pursuing his fifth sectional title.

King (157-11) needs just eight wins to become the state's all-time winningest wrestler — breaking Irondequoit graduate Tony Cotroneo's record of 164 victories. He can pick up four this weekend, and by finishing in the top three he will advance to the Super Sectionals, a state qualifying meet next weekend at Brockport State.

Canandaigua's impressive lower weight classes drew praise from Brockport Coach Jeff Brown.

"I would certainly rate Canandaigua the favorite," said Brown, whose team lost to Canandaigua, 31-20, in a dual meet on Jan. 28. "They've got five great kids.

"To beat Canandaigua," he added, "you've got to at least match them in finalists. We've got to have more kids picking up seconds, thirds and fourths."

Spencerport halted Canandaigua's eight-year hold on the sectional title last season. The Rangers, ranked fourth in Section 5 and 26th in the state, return two individual champions in John Suhr (145 pounds) and Steve Vigliotti (215).

Two other individual champions return in McQuaid's Bob Zoeke (105) and Brighton's Brian Kurlander (155). Both McQuaid and Brighton also are contenders in what many are calling a "wide open" tournament.

FALLESEN'S FAVORITE: Brockport.

Class B

Victor missed a sectional title last year by 2½ points, finishing second behind Palmyra-Macedon. But the seventh-ranked Blue Devils' return three individual champions — Jeff Annesi (22-0) at 105, Keith Bonalle (21-1) at 126, and Dan Ahonen (16-1) at 145 — and gain the favorite's nod.

Wayne, Pal-Mac and tournament host Geneva all could challenge. Wayne has one individual champion back in 112-pound Ron Gross.

FALLESEN'S FAVORITE: Victor.

Class C

The battle at ER will be for second place as the host Bombers are expected to retain sectional honors for the seventh successive year.

"It's occasionally frustrating," said Le Roy Coach Bob Gately, whose team finished second last year behind ER. "Last year, we thought we had a shot at them and we still lost by 30 points. This year there's no way . . . no one's going to touch ER."

ER returns four individual champions and two runners-up. Bill Herko (105), Nick LaPietra (155), Kevin Condon (167) and Chris Schojan (177) all won titles last year, while Tim Quinn (132) and Tony Marcoccia (145) finished second.

Schojan, a state runner-up last year, is unbeaten (25-0).

FALLESEN'S FAVORITE: ER.

Class D

Canisteo won easily last year, then graduated most of its starters. Dean Thompson (138) is the only individual champion to return for the Redskins, who still are favored.

Bolivar, Lyndonville, Campbell and tournament host Geneseo all are contenders. Bolivar's Mike Dunsmore (119) is another defending champion.

FALLESEN'S FAVORITE: Canisteo.

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