

Lamson seeks one prize that has eluded him

BROCKPORT — Joel Lamson has been wrestling for 12 years. He has never won the big one. He'll get his final chance tomorrow at Brockport State in the Section 5 State-Qualifying high school wrestling tournament.

Lamson, a Waterloo senior competing at 119 pounds, is one of 66 area wrestlers vying for 14 berths on the Section 5 state team that will compete in Syracuse next weekend. For most of the area wrestlers, however, tomorrow's single-

elimination torture test is the big one.

Simply because if you don't win four bouts in a row, you don't go.

"I've been wrestling 12 years and this is my last chance. It can't be that way again," Lamson said after last week's victory in the Class B meet at Geneva High School.

Lamson has never been to the state meet. Last year, he was beaten in the finals of the qualifying tournament. Not competing in the state meet is the on-

ly blemish on what has been a brilliant career.

Lamson is 29-1 this season and 132-15-1 for his career. His loss this year came to the man he will have to beat to get to the state meet — Canandaigua's Butch Hibbard (30-1), a state runner-up last year at 98 pounds.

Lamson dropped an 8-7 decision to Hibbard on Dec. 14 in only his second bout of the season following lymph gland surgery in November. "I was a little rusty," Lamson said. "The

second match won't be that way."

The possible confrontation between Lamson and Hibbard is one of several involving local wrestlers. In at least three other weight classes, area entrants are expected to battle each other into the finals.

The most interesting of those three classes is at 112 pounds, where Geneva's John Williams (30-0) could meet Paul Lamphier of Canandaigua (28-2), the state runner-up last year at 105. Williams, the Class B champion,

decided Lamphier, the Class A titlist, 5-0 in a dual meet Jan. 9.

Three locals, Class D champ Pete Bower of Red Creek (21-5-2), Class C kingpin Phayvanh Chanthysack of Sodus (24-6) and B titlist Tom Finnerty of Waterloo (27-5) should battle for the 91-pound title along with Class A runner-up Dave Delforte of Canandaigua. At 98 pounds, Canandaigua's Mike Locagnato (23-6), the Class A champ and fifth in the state at 91 last year, could meet Class C

titlist Lucas Dobbins of Lyons (24-2).

The other highest hopes for locals rest with unbeaten Vaughn Petersen of Sodus at 132 (27-0-1), Paul Petersen of Sodus at 138 (32-0), Tim Habecker of Marion (32-0) at 155 and Rich Carmel of Victor (26-0) at 215. The Petersens and Habecker won Class C crowns last week, while Carmel took the Class B title.

The top four finishers in each of the four classes last week will be competing in the event.