DePersis a SUNY Sitout

While this weekend's National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III national wrestling tournament will have a local flavor, Union-Endicott grad Scott DePersis won't be one of the area hopefuls.

Now wrestling for Massachusetts Maritime. 150pounder DePersis suffered a shoulder injury in the opening round of the recent New England Championships and is "definitely out" for the nationals, according to tournament director and host Coach Steve Erber.

The small-school extravaganza, which officially opened today at SUNY-Binghamton, has attracted some 600 wrestlers from nearly 100 colleges and universities (including three from California). Registration ended at noon today and competition will begin tomorrow at 10 a.m. with all preliminary bouts up to the quarterfinals.

SUNY-Binghamton's tourney lineup includes another U-E grad, 158-pounder Mark Palombo, and former

Unatego standout Matt Ouimet at 150. Perhaps the area's best hope for national honors, though, is "adopted son" Steve Cavayero, the 142-pound Colonial freshman from Huntingdon. He begins the two-day tourney with a 29-4 record.

Cortland State has two Section 4 products entered, Spencer-Van Etten grad Bob Eddy at 118 and Whitney Point's Rick Armstrong at 158. Maine-Endwell's Jim Hauptfleisch will be Oswego State's heavyweight entry.

The official opening ceremony is set for 6:30 tomorrow evening, to be followed by the quarterfinal bouts and first-round wrestlebacks. Saturday's schedule calls for noon wrestlebacks, 1:30 semifinals and third-round wrestlebacks, 7 o'clock consolations for third and fifth places and 8 o'clock championships.

Gymnast Rush's Goal