

★ Oswego To Host Tourney

OSWEGO — Defending State University conference wrestling champion Brockport State is favored to win here Friday and Saturday over Cortland, Oswego and five other SUNY entries in the 1977 championship tournament.

Brockport is ranked third nationally among Division III teams, and second-ranked in New York State in the overall poll. Oswego is 12th in the national ranks, and Cortland is 14th. None of the other five entries — Albany, Binghamton, Geneseo, Oneonta or Potsdam — is in the top 20.

"We've got an outstanding field with many young competitors," said Jim Howard, Oswego State coach. "The SUNY is the first round in a three-step plateau for these wrestlers. The best are going to keep driving until they wrestle in the NCAA national Division III championship in Binghamton."

Five defending champs from 1976 are returning.

Wrestling will begin with the quarterfinals on three mats at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Laker Hall. The 1976 champs include Brockport's Abe Lang at 134 pounds, Jim Habel at 167, and 238-pound heavyweight Mackie Tyndall. Other defending champs are Binghamton's Mark Palombo at 158 and Oswego's Paul Corley at 177.

Many competitors who were runners-up or semi-finalists last season are also back. Tyndall, who defeated St. Lawrence's 1976 national champ Ron Pelligra and won the New York State Invitational tourney on his last visit to Laker Hall, could collide with Oswego's colorful 258-pound heavyweight hopeful Jimmy "Cuddles" Hauptfleish, whose many wins include a decision against a 610-pound Canadian black bear.

Hauptfleish won the title in 1975, but because of illness, was unable to defend a year ago. Other Oswego hopes include Marc Chacona, runner-up at 158 last year, and Rich Lobdell, second at 167 a year ago. Rod MacDonald, a freshman 142-pounder, is among the highly regarded rookies in the tourney.

Saturday's semifinals will begin at 11 a.m. Championship finals will be at 3 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 each day, and included all daily sessions. Students and senior citizens are admitted at half price. Oswego State students with properly validated ID cards are admitted free.