



Matmen Look to NCAA

CORTLAND — State University College's wrestling team heads into the SUNY Athletic Conference championships Friday and Saturday at Oswego with seven men already qualified to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships and two more with a good chance to qualify before the end of the season.

Cortland ended the dual meet part of its schedule at the weekend at Springfield College by taking matches from Springfield and the Coast Guard and losing to St. Lawrence. The Red Dragons' record is 11-4.

In the 118-pound class, freshman Bob Eddy from Van Ertan and freshman Wade Cummings from Smithtown qualified for the NCAA meet by having won 60 per cent of their matches. Eddy holds a 13-3 record while Cummings stands at 10-6.

Pete Rossi will go into the 134-pound competition with a record of 15-7. Rossi is a sophomore from Horseheads.

In the 142-pound class, sophomore Chris Bourne of East Rochester has qualified with a 9-5 record, while Whitney Point's Rick Armstrong has qualified at the 158-pound level with a record of 15 wins and two losses.

The Dragons have two national qualifiers at 177-pounds. Junior Bob Menz of Webster went into the Springfield affair with an unblemished record and suffered his first defeat of the season by virtue of what

coach Vince Gonino termed "a lousy out-of-bounds call." Menz is now 17-1. Another 177-pound qualifier is Bill Hedges, a senior from Greene with a 10-6 record.

Gonino hopes that senior Don Cooper from Baldwinsville will qualify by virtue of becoming one of the top three wrestlers in the state in the 150-pound class. Senior John Libby of Cazenovia also stands to qualify in the 167-pound class by the same criteria.

As far as the heavyweight class goes, Gonino concedes that the Dragons are hurting. Freshman Walt Kieda from Endicott has a 1-5-1 record, and sophomore Paul Suzat from Batavia, who stands at 0-5, injured an elbow against Syracuse and is probably through for the season.

Brockport State is the defending champion and has a great chance to repeat this season, according to the Cortland coach. Gonino said the competition between Brockport and the Dragons will be tough, with teams like Geneseo possibly playing the role of spoiler in favor of Cortland. Cortland finished in last year's SUNYAC competition in third place.

At this point, Gonino said he expects that Menz, Armstrong and Rossi will be seeded No. 1 in their respective classes, with Bourne seeded second in his class and Hedges third in the 177-pound class.