

UW-SP wrestlers expect to be in hunt

By DON FRIDAY
Journal Sports Editor

Marty Loy doesn't hesitate a bit when asked to name the favorite for the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships here this weekend.

"There's no question in my mind that it has to be Trenton State," said the seventh-year UW-Stevens Point coach. "They won the National Duals, have been No. 1 in the poll all season and qualified 10 people to come here."



Marty Loy

The 21st annual event, which is being held in Wisconsin for the first time, is scheduled Fri-

day and Saturday at Quandt Fieldhouse. The first of four sessions starts at 11 a.m. on Friday with championship matches at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Although Loy likes Trenton's chances, he also feels several other teams are capable of mounting a strong challenge to the New Jersey school.

Among them are Ithaca, N.Y., which lost by just four points to the Lions in the National Duals; his own UW-Stevens Point team which didn't get to face Trenton but tied Ithaca in the same tourney Jan. 14-15; UW-La Crosse, which edged the Pointers twice this season, the second time for the Wisconsin State University Conference championship; and traditional power Wartburg, Iowa.

"There are also several others whom I would put in the darkhorse

category," said Loy, citing defending champion Augsburg, Minn.; Buena Vista, Iowa; and Kean, N.J.

The field reads like a "Who's Who" in the Division 3 wrestling world.

In addition to top-ranked Trenton, La Crosse was No. 2 in the final national poll, Ithaca No. 3, UW-SP No. 4, Buena Vista No. 5, Wartburg No. 6, Augsburg No. 7 and Kean No. 8.

The NCAA will establish seedings today and announce opening-round pairings on Thursday.

Augsburg, Wartburg and Buena Vista each qualified nine wrestlers, Ithaca seven and La Crosse five. All told, 69 schools will be represented by at least one wrestler.

In last year's national at the Coast Guard Academy, Augsburg edged Wartburg, 93-92, in the closest finish ever.

At least four of the Pointers' six qualifiers are expected to receive high seeds — seniors Dave Carlson (29-7) of Maple Grove, Minn., at 167 pounds, Colin Green (27-5) of Westby at 177 and Travis Ebner (30-3) of Cameron at 190; and sophomore Jere Hamel (31-6) of Vesper (Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln) at 134.

The Pointers' other two entries are junior Rick DeMario (20-7) of Port Washington at 142 and junior Seth Foreman (23-9) of Milwaukee (Wauwatosa East) at 158.

Loy feels six qualifiers are enough to win it all and he has history on his side.

"The last two years the team that won it had six All-Americans (top eight finishers) and the year before that a team won it with five," he said.

"Hamel, Carlson, Green and Ebner are certainly all capable of winning individual titles. All of them are proven winners. DeMario and Foreman are in their first year on the varsity and have shown steady improvement throughout the season. Any wins we can get from them would be a big plus.

"We've seen just about all of the top teams in the country this season. We faced as tough a schedule as any of the teams here and, of course, getting to wrestle in our home atmosphere should give us an advantage."

Trenton State's lineup features three 1993 All-Americans, including the only returning national champion in the field, heavyweight Glen Sandull.

All-session tickets for the event are on sale at UW-SP for \$12 (adults) and \$6 (students). Single session tickets

NCAA Wrestling

DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONSHIPS

UW-Stevens Point
Quandt Fieldhouse
FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Session 1: 11 a.m.—Preliminary rounds, first round consolations-wrestlebacks.

Session 2: 6:30 p.m.—Opening ceremonies, quarterfinals, second and third round consolations.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Session 3: noon—Semifinals; third round consolations; third, fifth and seventh place matches.

Session 4: 7:30 p.m.—Championship finals.

cost \$4 (adults) and \$3 (students). Tickets are available in advance by calling 346-4100 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. through Thursday.

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Wrestling

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Following is a list of 1993 All-Americans who have qualified for the national tourney:

118 pounds—Zane Braggs, Wartburg (runner-up); Jeff O'Gara, UW-La Crosse (third); Ken Herishen, Trenton State (sixth).

126—Chris Ristau, Wartburg (fourth).

134—Chris Steinbacher, Kean College (seventh).

142—John Johnson, Trenton State (fourth); Tim Godoy, State University of New York-Cortland (sixth); Kevin Fiedler, St. Thomas, Minn. (eighth); Heath Grimm, Luther (sixth at 150); Raphael Wilson, Augustana, (fourth at 134 and named out-

standing wrestler in the 1992 Championships).

150—Brian Stewart, Buena Vista (fourth); Mario Springer, University of Chicago (fifth).

158—Corey McCauley, UW-Stout (second); Matt Sorochnisky (third); Chris Connelly, John Carroll (seventh).

167—Randy Eastman, Augsburg (fifth).

177—Kike Murtha, Ithaca (third); Jeff Santos, Plymouth State (eighth).

190—Steve Farr, Ithaca (third); Chris Grothe, St. John, Minn. (fifth); Jon Dawley, Wartburg (sixth).

Heavyweight—Glen Sandull, Trenton State (first); Eric Thomas, Olivet, Mich. (fifth).