

Morrow, Welch favored in state mat tourney



BART MORROW

By **TOM FLEISCHMAN**
Journal Staff

In the 15-year history of the New York State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships, only five people have won an individual title three years in a row.

This year, two local grapplers, one from Ithaca College and one from Cornell, both have a chance to become Nos. 6 and 7.

Bart Morrow, IC's 134-pounder, and Cornell 150-pounder Pat Welch are both seeded No. 1 going into this weekend's state championships at Light Gym. And according to Bomber coach John Murray, the top seeds in each of the 10 weight classes are considered the favorites.

In the team race, the class of the 20-team field and a "clear favorite" is Syracuse, according to both

Murray and Cornell coach Andy Noel. The Orangemen most likely will have three top seeds in the tourney — Tony Cotroneo (returning champ at 118), Wayne Catan (177) and heavyweight Andy Schwab (also a returning champ).

Murray thinks that the next two places could be taken by any of six schools, including Ithaca and Cornell. The Bombers are ranked third in New York State, behind SU and Army, while the Big Red is fifth.

Weigh-ins for this weekend's action take place tonight, with Friday's first-round matches slated for 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The quarterfinal round is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 9. The tournament concludes Saturday, with semifinal matches from noon to 4:30, and the championship matches set for 6 to 7:30.

Of the 10 weight classes, seven have returning champions, including Morrow at 134 and Welch at 150. In his four years at IC, Morrow is 42-0 in dual meet competition and is hoping for a big finish to his college career.

"My goals at the start of the season were to win states, win the nationals, and place in the top eight in Div. I," Morrow said. If he wins the Div. III national title (he was runnerup last year), he automatically earns a berth to the Div. I nationals.

Morrow is ranked No. 1 in the nation at 134 in Div. III, and views this weekend's match as a sort of stepping stone to nationals. "I'd say this meet is the second most important meet of the year, next to the Div. III tournament," he said.

The 150-pound weight class fig-

ures to be the most competitive of the 10, as all eight competitors have a realistic shot to win it. Cornell's Welch has two reasons for wanting to fare well this weekend. "First, there are four guys in my weight class ranked in the top 12 in the country," he said. Welch is ranked No. 4 in Div. I. "And second, I've won this meet twice in a row, and I'd like to go out a winner."

Winning is certainly not unknown to Welch. In 1984, he became the first Cornellian in three years to win an Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association individual title, and advanced to the NCAA tournament where he made it all the way to the championship round.

Welch is a three-time winner at the Cornell Open, and was named

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PAT WELCH

Morrow

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All-Ivy first team last season as the Red captured its second straight league crown.

His career record is 59-11, and this year he is 15-1, with his only loss coming to Jim Heffernan of Iowa, the top-ranked 150-pounder in the country. That loss came in the semifinals of the prestigious Midlands tournament.

Although both Welch and Morrow feel it will take a small miracle to knock off Syracuse for the team title this weekend, neither is throwing in the towel. "We expect to come closer to SU than we did last year," Welch said. The Orange and the Red ran away from the rest of the field a year ago in Binghamton, with SU scoring 122 points, Cornell 106 1/4, and the next five teams scoring 77 1/4 down to 72 3/4 (IC).

"We should finish in the top four this year, maybe second, but it would be a major upset if anyone beats Syracuse," Morrow said. "But anything can happen."

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Admission for each of the four sessions of the tournament is \$2, but a weekend pass plus program and updated bracket sheets is \$5. Light Gym will be set up to accommodate five matches at a time.

The following is a list of the top 15 teams in New York State, all of which will be competing this weekend:

1. Syracuse
2. Army
3. Ithaca
4. Hofstra
5. Cornell
6. Binghamton
7. Buffalo
8. Albany
9. Columbia
10. Brockport
11. St. Lawrence
12. Cortland State
13. Oswego
14. Oneonta
15. C.W. Post

Other schools that are scheduled to compete: RIT, RPI, Clarkson, Merchant Marine, and Potsdam.

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