

Sixteen All-Americans To Wrestle In University Gym

by Ken Kurtz

"Cortland is the team to beat with Armstrong, (158), Eddy (126), Ciotoli (134), and Rossi (142) making them a very strong squad," Albany wrestling coach Joe Garcia said about tonight's SUNYAC wrestling championships at University Gym. Cortland is currently ranked fourth in the nation in Div. III, seeking to improve on last year's third place SUNYAC finish.

Binghamton, the conference runner-up last year is currently ranked sixth in the nation, while Brockport, last year's champ, is rated seventh nationally. Rounding out the nationally ranked teams is Buffalo State, competing in the SUNYAC's for the first time. They are rated ninth in the nation, despite the fact that the squad is the defending NCAA Div. III national champion.

There will be 16 All-Americans competing in the tournament, an impressive number since only 80 grapplers participate in this tourney, which illustrates the strength of the SUNYAC conference. The top four placewinners in the SUNYAC's are eligible to compete in the Division

III championships, and for the first time, the NCAA is picking up the travelling expenses for participants.

As usual, there will be many fine wrestlers competing in this year's tournament. Here's the card: At 118, there will be Brockport's Raymond Porteus (5-5), who took third in last year's SUNYAC's and sixth in the Div. III National Championships. Charles Marino, in the same class, (9-4) of Oneonta is a returning 4th place winner in the SUNYAC's. Rounding out the competition in this tough class will be Buffalo's Tom Jacotut (11-1), a fourth place winner in the New York State tourney last year.

At 126, Bob Eddy (12-4-1) of Cortland is the favorite. A returning SUNYAC champ (at 118) Steve Darling (6-1) of Binghamton was the SUNYAC runner-up and third place winner in the nationals. Podiak (Oswego) and Denson (Potsdam) are also fine competitors in this class.

At 134, Cortland's John Ciotoli (20-2-1) is a returning SUNYAC champ, and is the man to beat this year. At 142, Greg Locke (7-2) is the defending tourney champ, but he should have his hands full with Pete Rossi (8-4-1) of Cortland.

At 150, Cortland's Chris Bourne (13-3-1) is the runnerup SUNYAC champ, facing tough competition from Jim Diorio (11-3-1) of Oswego, third place finisher in last year's SUNYAC's. Brockport's Joe Giani (13-1) and Buffalo's third place winner in the nationals, Bob Anderson, makes this class very competitive.

At 158, Cortland's Rick Armstrong (18-0-1) is the returning SUNYAC and Div. III National Champion. At 167, Oswego's returning SUNYAC champ, Paul Corély (6-1) will face fierce competition from Bob Woolf (15-0) from Potsdam, last year's third place finisher in the conference.

At 177, Brockport's Richard Sipple (11-3) is the defending SUNYAC champ, and was also a sixth place finisher in the nationals. Cortland's Cliff Moore (20-6) will seek to improve on last year's third place finish in the conference. At 190, Fred O'Meally (10-5) of Oneonta is the only returning place winner, taking fourth in last year's SUNYAC's. Finally at heavyweight, Paul Curka took third in the nationals last year for Buffalo.

Both days' competitions promise a fine display of wrestling, and Albany's strength seems to lie in the 126, 150, 158 and 167 classes. The Albany wrestlers should manage to hold their own against tough competition in each class.