



COACH STEVE BABCOCK talks over plans for the coming Alfred Tech wrestling season with two candidates for the heavyweight slot, Mike Moretti of Hornell, center, and Blair Buchholz of Wellsville. Alfred, which opens Wednesday night at Jamestown CC, has a mark of 33 straight dual meet victories, one short of the national record.

Tech Wrestlers To Open Wednesday; After Record

(Special to the Reporter)

ALFRED — Alfred Tech's amazing dual meet winning streak in wrestling is one shy of the national junior college record as the Pioneers head into the current campaign with a meet Wednesday night at Jamestown CC.

The Alfred mark of 33 straight, which began early in the 1968-69 season, is just one away from the national record of 34 established a few years ago by Lamar Junior College in Lamar, Colo.

"If there has been a longer winning streak in the history of junior college wrestling, we don't know about it," said Ernie Gould of Worthington, Minn., director of the NCAA Wrestling Coaches Association.

Steve Babcock of Hornell, now in his fifth season as coach of the Alfred squad, believes his current team has enough experience and potential among the frosh for another outstanding year.

He's quick to point out, however, that Tech has lost four regional champions from last season and that the pressure of the prolonged winning streak

has him worried. "Every team will be aiming for us. All our opponents want to be the ones to end the string," he observed.

Alfred won the Region 3 NJCAA title last year besides extending its dual meet streak but the only one of five regional champions returning is Dick Zeitler who took the heavyweight crown. Zeitler, 11-0 over the regular season, will be competing at 190 pounds this year.

The missing quartet of champions includes Steve Gustin, John Drisdon, Marty Wingenbach, and Ron Tojdowski.

Babcock's returning lettermen include Dan Tracy of Homer who was sixth in the nationals at 167. "Zeitler and Tracy are regarded by veteran coaches as two of the finest wrestlers in the east," Babcock noted.

The Alfred coach also has Paul Smith and Bert Finch returning. Smith, who is team tri-captain along with Zeitler and Tracy, is wrestling at 134 where Bob Castellani of Williamsville, Dan Phillips, and Bob Cooper of Copenhagen are also contending for the starting job. Smith and Phillips are both Elmira Free Academy grads.

Larry Finch of Sidney will be used at 150 pounds where he was 10-1 a season ago. His brother, Bert, will wrestle at 158, while the 177 pound slot appears to have been won by Dean Griswold, a senior who did not wrestle last year.

Contending at 118 are freshmen Gary Milanowski of Salamanca and Wayne Williams of Spencerport. Rich Norton, another frosh from Buffalo, is the top prospect at 126. He is a three-time Section 6 champ.

Bruce Snider, a frosh from Chestnut Ridge High in Imler, Pa., is battling Dave Crawford of York Central in the 142 weight class.

A three-way fight is being waged for the heavyweight spot vacated by Zeitler's move to 190. In this scramble are Butch Bartlett, a freshman from Elmira Free Academy who was third in the state meet; Mike Moretti of Hornell, a senior who

did not wrestle last year; and frosh Blair Buchholz of Wellsville. Morietti is a brother of Jim Moretti, Alfred University quarterback.

The Alfred schedule:

Dec. 15 at Jamestown CC, 8 p.m.

Dec. 18 — Delhi Tech here, 2 p.m.

Jan. 8 — at Auburn CC, 6 p.m.

Jan. 12 — Erie CC here, 6 p.m.

Jan. 14 — Hudson Valley CC here, 6 p.m.

Jan. 22 — at Canton Tech, 12 Noon

Jan. 26 — at Corning CC, 6 p.m.

Jan. 29, at Genesee CC, 3 p.m.

Feb. 9 — Monroe CC here, 6 p.m.

Feb. 12 — at Broome Tech, 2 p.m.

Feb. 19 — Mansfield, Pa., STC Frosh here, 2 p.m.

Feb. 25, 26 — Region 3 NJCAA Wrestling Tourney at Morrisville Tech, Morrisville, N.Y.