

Seven 1979 Champs Vie for Mat Titles

By JIM PETERS

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There are seven of 'em, led by three-time winner Clar Anderson of Olean, so if all of last year's champions repeat, Section VI will enter perhaps its most experienced lineup ever in next weekend's State Inter-Sectional high school wrestling championships in Syracuse.

Even if all seven lose in the Inter-Sectional qualifier which begins at 5 this afternoon at Sweet Home, it can mean only that Section VI, seventh a year ago, should be a stronger contender in the State-wide team scoring.

That, you'd better believe, won't happen this weekend.

Six Are Top-Seeded

Five of the seven returning champions have moved up in weight classification and six of the seven are top-seeded.

The six No. 1 seeds back looking for another title are Newfane's Calvin Swanson at 98 pounds, up from 91; Sweet Home's Craig Weber at 105, up from 98; Anderson at 126, up from 112 where a winter ago he became Section VI's 14th State champion; Falconer's Mike Walker at 155, up from 145; Maryvale's Ron Wolowicz, who defends at 167, and Salamanca's Peter Lee, still at 250.

Lee was a Courier-Express all-Western New York football selection last fall.

The lone exception is Pioneer's Daryl Rogers, the Section's 105-pound champion last year. Rogers began the season at 112, became ill, then surprisingly gained weight rather than losing it and will compete at 132.

Gains Spot After Loss

Rogers was beaten in last weekend's ECIC qualifying meet, but came back Tuesday night in a series of consolation matches to gain a berth.

The wrestler everyone will watch, of course, is Anderson. Now a senior, he has been vic-



Clar Anderson
... 4th straight title?

timizing opponents since the eighth grade. He's 30-0 this season and, with a five-year record of 151-7-1, holds the State record for most career victories.

Anderson, shooting for an unprecedented fourth straight Section VI title, hopes to become only the second from the section (Pioneer's Kyle Grunwald, in 1976 and 1977, was the other) to win two State championships.

He took Sectional crowns at 91 pounds as a freshman, 105 in his sophomore year and at 112 last season.

Three 1979 Finalists

Among the top two seeds in

each of the 14 weight classes, there also are three wrestlers — Williamsville South's Mike Massaro at 112, Olean's Rob Parks at 145 and Iroquois' John Mariacher at 167 — who were Section VI finalists last year.

Salamanca, with Lee, Marty Redeye (215) and Dan Ciolek (177); Iroquois, with freshman Todd Slade (91) and Rodney Offhaus (138), and Olean, with Anderson, and Parks, are the only teams with more than one top seed.

Preliminary and second-round matches will be completed tonight, with quarter-finals at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, semifinals at 1 p.m., consolation matches at 3 and finals at 7:30.

The top two seeds in each class:

91 — Todd Slade (Iroquois), Chris LaPreto (Salamanca). 98 — Calvin Swanson (Newfane), Doug Boer (Southwestern). 105 — Craig Weber (Sweet Home), Paul Sullivan (Iroquois).

112 — Pat Hughes (Orchard Park), Mike Massaro (Williamsville South). 119 — Alex Conti (Fredonia), Mark Cassidy (Williamsville North). 126 — Clar Anderson (Olean), Jeff Fitzpatrick (Jamestown).

132 — Dave Hickson (Cheektowaga), Joe Santilli (Maple Grove). 138 — Rodney Offhaus (Iroquois), Doug Gallon (Sweet Home). 145 — Rob Parks (Olean), Jerome Elsberry (Niagara Falls).

155 — Mike Walker (Falconer), Dave Radich (Lockawanna). 167 — Ron Wolowicz (Maryvale), John Mariacher (Iroquois). 177 — Dan Ciolek (Salamanca), Steve Behrns (Tonawanda).

215 — Marty Redeye (Salamanca), Ed Briggs (Niagara-Wheatfield). 250 — Peter Lee (Salamanca), Kurt Urbanic (Orchard Park).

Marauders Picked In 'Cup' Playoffs

Bishop Timon High School will be the defending champion, but unbeaten St. Joe's the logical favorite as the Msgr. Martin Catholic Assn.'s annual Manhattan Cup basketball

playoffs open with three games tonight at St. Joe's.

O'Hara (4-18) opposes St. Mary's for the Deaf (8-14) in the 5 p.m. opener. Bishop Turner and St. Francis match 8-14 records at 7 p.m., with two