

Rams, Lakers Favored

Haverling and Hammondsport appear to be the class of the Steuben County Wrestling League. Five teams are in the A Division and eight teams are in the B Division.

Here's how Division A looks:

HAVERLING — The Rams finished 14-1 overall and could equal or improve that record this season. Coach John Northrup has back four of the top wrestlers in the league.

Dave Snyder, 25-2 overall last season, was Section 5 98-pound champion, Jim Young (145) was third in the Section and Jeff Wheller (138) and Kurt Waldo (177) are rated strong by coach Northrup.

WELLSVILLE — The Lions are strongest in the lightweights and middleweights but coach Bill Moore feels his heavier weight classes are weak.

Jim Cornell, Section 5 runnerup at 98 pounds and Denny Hall sectional runnerup at 132, are back.

CORNING WEST — The Vikings, 9-4 last year and third in the Sullivan Trail Conference, and first in the A Division have four returning lettermen. David Bickford, 138 pounds, was 16-4 overall last year. Also back are Kurt Reibling (132), Jerry Tyler (126) and Mark Studley (119).

HORNELL — Five lettermen return from last year's 4-8 squad. Fran Noble, 119 pounds, was 20-4 last year and winner of the county championship in his class. Larry Pelkey, 105-pound sophomore is rated by coach Chuck Bostwick as an outstanding prospect. Seniors Joe Sciotti (145) and his brother Bill (155) provide additional experience.

CORNING EAST — Seven lettermen are back from last year's 1-13 team. Corning East is toughest from 112 pounds to 145. Four lettermen

Steuben County

who should provide experience are Danny Braid (126), Kevin Knapp (132), Brian Lovell (138) and Hale Saxbury (112).

Here's how the Division B teams shape up:

HAMMONDSPORT — Two returning league champions head a strong team for coach Dave Dallaportas.

At 126 pounds is Jim Pizura and at 145 is Jeff Bauer. Max Orr was second in the league at 132 and Dan Nichiporak was runnerup at 138. The Lakers were 8-2-2 last season.

AVOCA — Walt Peterson has considerable experience and is looking for a good season. "Our main asset is experience," he said. "We have filled every class and are strong particularly in the light weights." Phil Wilson was league titlist at 167 and Dave Goodrich, fourth in the county tournament, is back at 119.

HONEOYE — Pat Nugent, who coached at Central Tech of Syracuse last season, will face a rebuilding year.

He has two good prospects in Dave Pentle at 126 pounds and Mike Smith at 177.

ARKPORT — Dave Kelly is hoping for an improvement of last year's 4-8 record as he has three of his top veterans back.

Frank Perry, 16-4 last season, returns at 167 pounds, Steve Hedges, 13-5, is at 138 and Steve Hoyt is back at 112.

SAVONA — Don Jones has 14 lettermen returning but says, "We're inexperienced. Only a few wrestlers competed in all the matches last season."

CANISTEO — Coach Wayne Hartman has nine lettermen back from last year's 3-11-1 squad. The heavy weights are

strongest with Berry McKey at 155-pounds and Frank Pieter at 177.

ADDISON — The Knights have eight lettermen back from last year's 2-8 team. Coach Bill Hacker is confident that this year's record will improve.

Back is a junior heavyweight, Don Butler, who was second in the sectionals. Junior Dale Hanna is strong at 132 and Rick Williams is rated by Coach Hacker as solid at 126.