



The

# OSWEGO

Feb. 21, 2003

SERVING THE OSWEGO STATE COMMUNITY SINCE 1935

<http://www.oswego.edu/~gonian>

2003 EMPIRE CONFERENCE



WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Lakers hoping to rule the Empire

By Everett Fell  
ASSISTANT  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday Feb. 22, Oswego State will host the 12th Annual Empire Conference Championships. A collegiate wrestling tournament that will bring together some of the best athletes in Upstate New York.

At stake is a trip to the NCAA Division III Championships, which will be held at Ohio Northern University on Friday/Saturday March 7-8.

The tournament kicks off at 11 a.m. at Laker Hall in the Max Ziel Gym. The finals are scheduled for 4 p.m. Two matches will be simultaneously going on at all times except

during a half-hour intermission.

Oswego State will face wrestlers from Brockport, Ithaca, RIT, Oneonta and Cortland.

Wrestlers will compete at 10 different weight classes ranging from 125 to 285 pounds. Wrestlers that win their weight class, make it to the Nationals.

### Wrestling Around

■ A look at the six teams which are competing at the Empire Championships this weekend:

Brockport	Ithaca
RIT	Oneonta
Cortland	Oswego State

Armored Tank – Page 21.  
Players to Watch – Page 21.

Cont. from Empire, page 1

However, 18 individuals in all qualify for the Nationals. Eight wild cards are up for grabs. This provides hope for those who fall just short of the gold. The wild cards are voted on by the Ranking Committee, which includes Oswego State's Coach, Mike Howard.

Entering the tournament Brockport is the hands down favorite to take first place. They are ranked 3rd in the Division III Coaches Poll. Brockport astonishingly has eight individual wrestlers ranked in the top five of their weight class in the Coaches Poll. Lenny Baker ranks 1st at 149 pounds. Baker is the only No. 1 ranked wrestler competing at the Empire Championships. The senior posts a 14-2 record on the season, with a career mark of 82-22.

"Brockport has a large contingent of seniors," Howard said. "They have guys who have been in the program for four, five, even six years."

Oswego on the other hand has one lone senior:

Captain Ed Miller, who wrestles at 174 pounds.

Oswego's young corps heads in with an optimistic attitude.

"If we start to get and get on a roll, who knows what could happen?" Howard said. "Momentum plays a big factor in tournaments. A fortunate victory early in the day builds confidence, which plays a big factor later on."

Oswego's best chance lies with sophomore Tenk Agyeman, ranked 5th in the nation at 133 pounds. Brockport's Dan Roberts, who defeated Agyeman earlier in the season, stands in Agyeman's way.

Other Laker wrestlers such as sophomore Chris DeMichiel at 157, sophomore Jeremy Calkins at 285 and freshman Brian Millich at 197 will have to deal with Brockport's dominance. Brockport defeated Oswego 39-3 back on Jan. 22.

"Brockport has guys who know the system and know what it takes to win at this level," Howard said. "Brockport has a good tradition of wrestling. They condition year round. It's important there."

Ithaca stands at #14 in the coaches' poll. The bombers defeated Oswego 25-10 back on Dec. 11.

"Ithaca did a good job of tying up our wrists and adding on the points in the third period," Howard said.

Cortland comes in ranked 15th in the Coaches' Poll. They defeated Oswego State 24-16 on Jan. 29.

Oneonta enters the tournament ranked 27th in the Coaches' Poll. The Red Dragons defeated Oswego 26-18 back on Feb. 1.

"Oneonta has turned their program around over the past couple of years," Howard said. "However, they still are not at the same level as Brockport and Ithaca."

The Winn brothers lead Oneonta, Greg at 125 pounds and Dustin at 149 pounds.

Rounding out the list is RIT. The Tigers beat Oswego State 20-19 back on Nov. 13. Senior Pat North currently ranks 3rd at 165 pounds.

Wrestlers work for months in preparation for Saturday. Their ambition will result in either pure jubilation or bitter frustration. An end to their season or one more shot at glory.