

# Rochester Matmen Favored In Auburn Tourney Friday

Rush-Henrietta and East Rochester High Schools, the two schools who are expected to battle it out for the Monroe County High School wrestling championship this year, are co-favorites to win the ninth annual Auburn Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Auburn Community College Friday.

Rush-Henrietta's Comets won the Caledonia Christmas Tournament last week with six men earning individual championships and two others earning runnerup honors.

East Rochester is paced by its fine 122-pound representative, Jim Tortorici, who was undefeated with 15 wins last year and is 4-0 this year. He won the Section Five champ last year at the 122-lb. class.

The host Auburn High Maroons also have an outside chance but lack of overall strength could be a deciding factor.

## Toughest-Class

It appears the toughest of the 12 divisions will be at 135-pounds where there are six outstanding representatives.

Dick Beauchine of the Maroons won this division last year but will have a tough time repeating against such fine wrestlers as Terry Gates of Rush-Henrietta, fourth here last year and champ at Caledonia this year; Jim Leahbrook of Mynderse Academy who was 12-0 as a lawyer last season and is 4-0 so far this year; Jay Potter of East Rochester, 13-1 last year and 3-1 this year; Steve Achilles of Geneva, undefeated in three matches this year; and Ray Slate of Jordan-Elbridge, with four victories against no defeats so far this year.

Oneida has a topflight contender in the unlimited division in Mike Donegan who won the Section III title last year and also was the sectional discus champion. However, there is considerable strength in this bracket also.

Coach Gordon Gullen of R-H has to choose between two top-flight grapplers in Ed Stewart who has recorded a pin in seven seconds, said by the Amateur Wrestling News to be a national record for the fastest pin, and Jim Wells who was 11-0 last

year and is 6-0 this year, including the Caledonia Christmas championship.

Tom Rakowski, Rome Free Academy's outstanding football tackle, will take a 3-1 mark into the unlimited division.

In the 182-lb. bracket, Bill Simson of Mynderse, Joe Calanti of East Rochester and Marty Shearer of RFA are considered tops. Simson was 16-1 last year and is undefeated in four matches this year. Calanti was 8-2 last year but is also 4-0 this season, while Shearer won 13 of 21 matches last year and is 3-1 so far this year.

## 3 Undefeated

Three undefeated wrestlers this year enter the 167-lb. division including Jim Boyce of East Rochester with a 4-0 mark, Gary Spraker of Oneida with two wins and Art Primrose of Jordan-Elbridge with a 3-0 record. Roger Mandigo of Rush-Henrietta may compete in either this bracket or 156-pounds. He won the 167-lb. class at Caledonia.

Three other grapplers stand out in the 156-lb. division including Dave Walsh of Auburn, Mike Duffy of East Rochester was 2-0 last year and is 4-0 this year while John Evans of Rome is considered by rival coaches to be a real darkhorse.

The 147-lb. division boasts East Rochester's Dennis LaComba who was 14-0 last season and is undefeated in four matches this year. Auburn's Tom Blair is given an outside chance in this division by his Coach Dick Jones.

The Maroons captain Stan Rogers will be on hand to defend the 140-lb. crown he won in this tournament last year and brings an undefeated 8-0 mark into the meet, including the championship in the Indian River Tournament. Mike Underwood of Rush-Henrietta won the Caledonia Tournament at this weight while other threats include Mike Clark of Oneida, 4-1 this year; Ralph Byrne of Mynderse, 4-0 this year; and Frank Calabrese of East Rochester, 3-1 so far this season.

After the scramble in the 135-pound division, there are three grapplers listed as "possibles" in the 129-pound division including Cliff Wilson of Jordan-El-

bridge. Dick Grohauw of Rush-Henrietta and Bob Simmonds of Auburn. Simmonds is 8-1 this year and was fourth in the local tournament last year. Grohauw won this weight class in Caledonia while Wilson is undefeated this season.

Tortorici appears to be the odds on favorite at 122 with Hugh Reynolds of Rush-Henrietta and Dave DeFazio of Auburn considered to have an outside chance. Reynolds was runnerup in this bracket last in Auburn and has a 4-1-1 mark so far this year.

Beinert Laury of the Geneva Panthers, carrying a record of nine wins last year and three more this year without a loss, is Robin White of Oneida also bears the favorite at 114-lbs, while Robin White of Oneida also bears watching with his 11-0 record of last year.

Three undefeated grapplers this year will risk their marks in the 105-lb. division. William Conover of RFA is 4-0, Gene Lynch of Jordan-Elbridge is 4-0 and Allen Solomon of Rush-Henrietta is 6-0, including the championship at Caledonia.

## Humans Rated

A horse race is developing at the 97-lb. division with Fred Hermans of Auburn, who won his weight class at the Indian River tournament, considered a possible contender. Dale VanVechten of Rush-Henrietta is 4-2 so far this year and was runnerup at Caledonia. Tony Sabatine of Geneva, Mike Tompkins of Jordan-Elbridge and Emedio Sebastian of East Rochester are all undefeated so far this year. Sebastian and Tompkins are 4-0 on the year, while Sabatine is 8-0.

The representatives from all eight schools will weight in at 10 a.m. at ACC with the opening matches to begin at 10:30 on two mats in the ACC gymnasium. The consolation matches will begin about 1 p.m. and the semifinals and championship at 2 p.m.

The battles for third place will begin at 6:30 with two mats to be used. The finals will get underway at 8 p.m. and only one mat will be used for this.

Henry M. Vetter, Auburn athletic director, is director of the tournament.