

# ★ E. Rochester favored in AHS mat tourney

Defending champion East Rochester appears to be the team to beat in the 12th annual Auburn Invitational Wrestling Tournament Tuesday at the new high school but the competition will be extremely tough.

From all indications, the outcome could depend on just how the coaches of the eight fine high school teams entered, juggle their personnel into which weight classifications.

Last year's tourney was plagued by a bad snowstorm which resulted in two teams — Watkinson and Corning East — being unable to participate. However, Athletic Director Henry Vetter and Auburn High Coach Dick Jones hopes the weatherman cooperates this year.

Corning East, which was invited last year for the first time but were snowbound, will try again. Two other newcomers this year will be Scotia-Glenville, a usual wrestling power in the Albany area, and East-Syracuse-Minoa, a very strong team out of Onondaga County.

In addition, such returnees as Rush-Henrietta, Mynderse Academy, Geneva and Auburn will be competing for the title.

ES-M appears to be the strongest contender but again the match-ups will be very interesting. For example, one of the best wrestlers on the strong Spartan squad is Norb Sitnik who has been competing at 128 lbs. However, the weight class for the

tournament is 128 pounds and entered from East Rochester is Keith Contranco who was the runnerup in the 123 lb. class last year. Also in this weight class is Jack Welch of Corning East, a strong grappler.

This type of problem will confront every mentor in signing up his squad. Each coach has submitted his entry form to Vetter listing his choice in each of the 12 weight classes plus an alternate.

At least four champions of last year will be on hand, including Auburn's own Willie Henry Humphrey who copped the heavyweight class. Perhaps his biggest opposition could come from George Powers of Scotia-Glenville who was second in the Suburban Council championships last year and third in Section II in 1970. He compiled 16 wins in the 1969-70 season and nine of them were by pins.

Not to be overlooked is Rick Hannon of Mynderse who has been progressing very well this season and Mike Young of East Rochester who is 3-0 this season.

Two of the defending champions will be from Geneva but one of them is not listed as the top man in his weight class this year. Jim Welsh will be back to defend his 98 lb. crown won last year while John Szkolnik, who won the 107 lb. title in 1969, is listed as the alternate at 114 lbs. for the Panthers this season.

Also returning is Dick O'Lena of East Rochester who won the 155 lb. title last

year and is up to the 167 lb. bracket for this tournament.

Coach Don Quinn at East Rochester has two other outstanding wrestlers who must be regarded as strong contenders including Sam Tortorici at 114 lbs. and Ron Whitcomb at 157 lbs.

Tortorici won a second place in the Auburn tournament two years ago but could not compete last season. He follows the footsteps of his brother, Jim, who was the outstanding wrestler of the 1967 tournament and is now co-captain of the Cortland State squad.

Contranco wound up with a 13-1 record last year and is 2-0 this year while O'Lena is also 2-0 this season after having a 14-1 log last season.

Welsh is an outstanding wrestler and compiled a great 26-1 record last season. It appears Szkolnik has lost his starting position to Welsh's brother, Bill, but again juggling is a strong possibility for Panther skipper Bill Brooks.

Humphrey is still upset about his draw last week with Jim Roascrans of West Genesee and will be out to go all the way again.

Other AHS hopefuls have to be Joe Alberti in the 107 lb. bracket and Steve McCormick at either 140 or 147 lbs.

East Syracuse-Minoa comes to town with four champions from last year's Onondaga County League tournament. In

addition to Sitnik they are John Padney at 121 lbs., Ed Garaca at 140 and Boniko Mangovski at 170 lbs. Sitnik had a 25-1 log last season, losing in the finals of the sectionals. He is 2-0 this season, not allowing an opponent to score even a point.

Mangovski, who has been slightly injured this season, will face stern competition from Mark Jones of Scotia-Glenville who compiled a 17-4-1 mark two years ago and was 1-0 last year until being forced to the sidelines with an injury. George Capacci of Mynderse is also a strong contender in this division.

Corning East has a fine 114 pounder in Dave Fulmar than at 121 lbs. will come in with Mickey Blerwiler. Another strong grappler for the southern tier squad is Chuck Beyer at 157 lbs. He already holds a close 9-7 decision over tough Ed Barto of Mynderse this season.

Action on the mats will begin at 10 a.m. with those interested being able to watch two contests at once with two mats being used. The semifinals will start at 2 p.m. Real tight matches are expected in the consolations and the finals slated to get underway at 5:30 p.m.

## Snowmobile racing



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