

Heavies, 177 Pounders Should Provide Thrills

(This is the last in a series of three stories reviewing some of the top wrestlers in each weight expected to compete in the EIWA tourney set to begin today at Rec Hall. Today the review covers the 177-pound and heavyweight divisions.)

If the records of the 177-pound wrestlers from Pitt, Navy, Lehigh, and Penn State can give any pre-tourney hint of the caliber of competition that will enter that division, wrestling fans can expect some hotshot firework this weekend at Rec Hall.

Joe Solomon, defending 177-pound National Collegiate Athletic Association champion from Pitt, will be out to retain his title after scoring an impressive undefeated season with an 11-0 record. Joe Gattuso of Navy will be tabbed as a likely candidate to give Solomon his toughest competition.

Dave Gallaher, Lehigh's probable choice for 177 pounds, scored a 5-3 record, losing to Solomon, 5-3, Gattuso, 8-1, and Penn State's Joe Krufka, 3-0. Krufka registered a 5-2 slate in losing to Gattuso, 7-3, and Solomon, 5-4.

Yale will also be vying for 177-pound honors with John Kousi. Wrestling eight bouts, Kousi notched a 7-1 record, losing only to Lehigh's Gallaher by a fall.

Gattuso and Solomon, however, may be involved in a switch that will virtually clean out the 177-pound division. In three meets Solomon slid down one weight to wrestle at 167 where he won in each instance. Gattuso also was conditioned well enough to drop to that weight and win in three matches.

Because the Gattuso-Solomon

rivalry has been so intense in the past, Gattuso may weigh in at 167 if Solomon selects that weight instead of 177 pounds. If Solomon and Gattuso drop to 167 pounds, Navy will probably insert Ed Zabrychi, holder of a 4-0 streak for the Middies at 177.

When the three men considered the East's best entries in the heavyweight step up for their wrestling action this weekend, it will be like old home week for them.

Navy sits in the driver's seat with defending NCAA and EIWA champion, Pete Blair. Wrestling seven of Navy's eight matches, Blair was undefeated. He defeated Werner Seel of Lehigh, 4-3, and pinned Penn State's heavy, Bill Oberly.

Seel of Lehigh stacked up a 6-1-1 record. In addition to his

loss to Blair, he was tied by Oberly 5-5 when Lehigh had its seven-match victory streak broken at Rec Hall. Oberly scored a 5-1-1 slate, losing to Blair and tying Seel.

Princeton will have one of its most outstanding grapplers, Jim Macaleer in the heavyweight scrap. Macaleer was 4-2 at heavyweight, suffering one loss to Seel, 2-1. Macaleer defeated Dave Gallaher of Lehigh, 3-2 in the 191-pound class of the pre-season Wilkes Tourney.

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