

# Sports

## SLU cagers to tour Poland next summer

The St. Lawrence University basketball team has been invited to participate in a tour of Poland this summer by the Polish Students' Organization.

Paul Evans' SLU basketball team, which will open its 1975-76 season Monday, will play several games in Poland as well as gain a valuable opportunity to meet the people and see the sights of that country.

Zbigniew Dembowski, the Polish Consul General in New York, said in a letter to Evans, "Enculturation's Friendship Program has opened new bridges of communication and understanding through sports between our two countries. I applaud this marvellous program and your participation in this unique experience.

"We concur with the judgment of the Athletic Committee that St. Lawrence University is an excellent representative of the American people. We eagerly anticipate your arrival and look forward to the enthusiastic reception that we know awaits you."

The trip will cost the team \$600 per man, which will be raised through donations from fans and friends of the team as well as through various fund-raising affairs instituted by the basketball team.

Evans greeted the announcement of the invitation with pleasure saying, "Not only will our players be able to see a foreign country, but they will also be able to experience good basketball on an international level. It is a great boost for our program and for the university as a whole."

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# NEW GRANTS

## Amato to direct Bear mat fortunes

Potsdam State head wrestling coach, Neil Johnson, has built up a potentially powerful squad this year, but Johnson, who will take a leave to work on a dissertation second semester, will be turning the coaching duties over to Rhode Island native Dave Amato.

Johnson said he had no anxiety about entrusting his team to Amato, noting "Dave has the right combination of qualities to make him a successful coach. He's an outstanding wrestler and teacher whose personality and contagious enthusiasm cause him to be

well-liked by the team members."

At 23 years of age, Amato sees his youth as an asset rather than a detriment to his ability to coach at the college level. He commented that he is still close enough to the wrestlers and the college scene to be able to relate to them.

A two-time State and New England High School Champion at Rhode Island's Warwick High School, Amato received his B.S. at the University of Massachusetts, where he is currently a master's degree candidate.

## Sandstoners impressive

Veteran head coach Joe Daniels is looking forward to this year's mat season.

With good reason, his Sandstoner wrestlers are in good shape to capture their third league and sectional titles in four years.

Last year the grapplers won the NAC, Section X, and the Middlebury Invitational Tournament.

This year they should do as well.

The varsity includes Ed Wixted, last year's Section X tournament runner-up; Mike Guyette, the Ogdensburg Tournament champion; Larry Johnston, who took a fourth in the sectionals; Steve Greene, who took a second in the sectionals; Bob Guyette, who took a third in the sectionals; and Ron Shatraw, of whom Daniels says "he's ready to have a good year."

Middlebury runner-up Mark Merritt is also back for this season's campaign, joined by Alan Trerise, whom Daniels notes is the hardest worker on the team;

sectional champ Mike Cole; Steve Watson, who took a fourth in the sectionals; Roger McDonald, who held a third at last season's sectionals; Tinker Russell, a two time JV champion; Scott Mason, who also copped a JV crown last year; talented sophomore Bob Davis; sectional runner-up Tony Fiacco; and Marty Schober, JV tournament champ.

The season opens Friday evening at home against Northern Adirondack Central. They are the defending Section VII champs and this shoot-out between two powers should prove the mettle of each for this season's campaign.

## Madrid hockey sale Saturday

The Madrid Pee Wee's Inc., will hold its annual Hockey Equipment Sale on Saturday, December 6, at the Madrid Library, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you have an item you would like to sell simply tag it with your name, phone number and price desired. Get it to the Library as close to 10 a.m. as you can, and we will try to sell it for you before 4 p.m. that same day.

If you are lacking any equipment, come in and see if we have what you need.

As an undergraduate, he wrestled four years, served as team captain in his senior year and twice became a New England University Wrestling Champion.

His background in coaching began as assistant coach at the University of Rhode Island in 1973 and 1974. He saw the team capture the Yankee Conference Championship and tie twice for the New England Conference Title.

Last year, Amato went back to Warwick High School, and as assistant coach, helped guide that team to the sectional and State championships.

Johnson will be turning over a team which won eight and lost three dual meets last year, while placing third in New York State and fourth in the NCAA Division III standings.

Amato hopes to help the team achieve its maximum potential during a difficult 1975-76 schedule, through a regimen of hard work and discipline.

A basic philosophy that Johnson and Amato share is the concept that winning is important and stems from team unit. They also believe that a good coach gets to know his team members in a very personal way. It takes more than just supervising a practice. They agree that a good coach willingly help each team member in all phases of his college life.

A "tightly packed schedule and excellent opposition" are in store for this year's team, Johnson noted, adding that he is optimistic about Potsdam's chances to gain a top spot in the State University Conference and the State and to place among the top 10 college division teams in the country. Amato shares his outlook.

Although three All-Americans lost through graduation will be sorely missed, there still exists the nucleus of another typically strong Potsdam squad.

There are nine returning lettermen, led by All-American and national runner-up Tony Peraza, who lost the national championship on a disputed call last spring in Cleveland.

Peraza, a senior from Longwood, N.Y., is expected to pick up where he

left off last season. But oddly, he might just wrestle his toughest matches in practice against teammate Keith Lyndaker who has been out of school for two years.

An All State performer on the 1972-73 squad, Lyndaker returns after serving a two-year assignment as an orderly in a Syracuse hospital to fulfill terms of his conscientious objector status.

His best weight class is 150 pounds, which is the same as Peraza's, and the two will battle it out each week to determine who will get that class in the next match. The loser will probably move up to the next heavier weight, but the battle could go on for the entire season.

In addition to these two, Terry Atwater and Stephen Carr, both All-State performers last season at 126 pounds and 167 pounds respectively, are back along with a third All-Stater from last year's squad, Mike Niziol.

Johnson considers Niziol who wrestles in the same weight class as Atwater, as one of the most aggressive and probably the best "take-down" wrestler on the squad.

But what will determine the ultimate success of this team will be the performances that Amato will be able to get out of the freshmen and transfers—especially in the 118-pound, 190-pound and unlimited classes. There are no established veterans returning at these weights, so they will have to be filled by new men.

Johnson always had the knack of coming up with a few aces from the ranks of the unknown, and perhaps the youthful Dave Amato will have inherited the knack along with the job.

Potsdam's wrestling season will begin with a home dual meet against Brockport State on December 3.

On Saturday, December 6, Potsdam State will host the annual Northern New Invitational Tournament. This year the Bears will be pitted against the wrestling teams from Clarkson College, St. Lawrence University, Colgate University, Cortland State, Genesee State, Oswego State and Mansfield State.