

SPORTS

Grapplers flock to Salamanca for annual tournament 12-team field should give area wrestling fans a great showing

by DAVID EDSTROM
Sports Editor

SALAMANCA— This year's Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament will bring some of Western New York's top wrestlers to the area, as they will have the chance to compete against a slew of up-and-coming grapplers in today's events.

Three wrestlers making the trek to Salamanca have just one loss on the season while the Warriors' Arena brothers have just two losses apiece.

Albion's Tim Uderitz comes in to today's event boasting an impressive 18-1 record in the 96-pound class, while Silver Creek's Ron Kavanaugh comes in with a 14-1 record in the 112-pound class. Two-time Salamanca Tournament champion Dan Aaron (7-1) of Rocky Grove, Pa. will look for the triplacate, as he should see some stiff competition in the 130-pound class.

Salamanca's Victor Arena who sports an impressive 19-2 record will be vying for another shot at the 96-pound title. Arena's only two losses of the season came against Albion's Uderitz (4-0 at the N.C.C. Tournament) and against Maple Grove's Seth Lind (10-3 decision on Thursday night). Uderitz is currently ranked #1 in W.N.Y. in the 96-pound class, while Lind is #1 in W.N.Y. in the 103-pound class.

Warriors' Andy Arena (6-2) who has been hampered with a nagging bone spur injury is coming off a 6-4 decision against Maple Grove's Paul Price. The top two spots in the 152-pound class are Bolivar-Richburg's Donnie Moore (22-10) who is seeded first and Andy Arena

who's second.

With Kavanaugh in the 112-pound class is Olean's Shane Simpson (#1 seed, 18-5) and Westfield's Garret Hicks (#3 seed, 12-4), while Hicks' teammate Alan Pagano is the top-seeded grappler in the 125-pound weight class. Pagano (18-3) is coming off a first-place finish in the Gowanda Tournament.

Pine Valley's Dennis Stein is the favorite in the 135-pound class as he comes into today's matches with a 22-4 record. The 140-pound class features three wrestlers (Bolivar-Richburg's Ben Hinman, Salamanca's Al Clute, Albion's Bob Dysard) who each have a legitimate shot at the top prize.

Oswayo Valley's Bob Goodliff (#1 seed) is the favorite to win the 145-pound class, although he should get a challenge from Pine Valley's Bryan Smith (20-5) or Salamanca's Jim Emborsky (16-7).

One of the most exciting matches of the day could come if Allegany-Limestone's Jim Stady (19-3 as of 1/29) meets Albion's Andre Callicutt (17-4) in the 189-pound championship.

The 160-pound class is a toss-up between five wrestlers while the 103-pound class is cluttered as well.

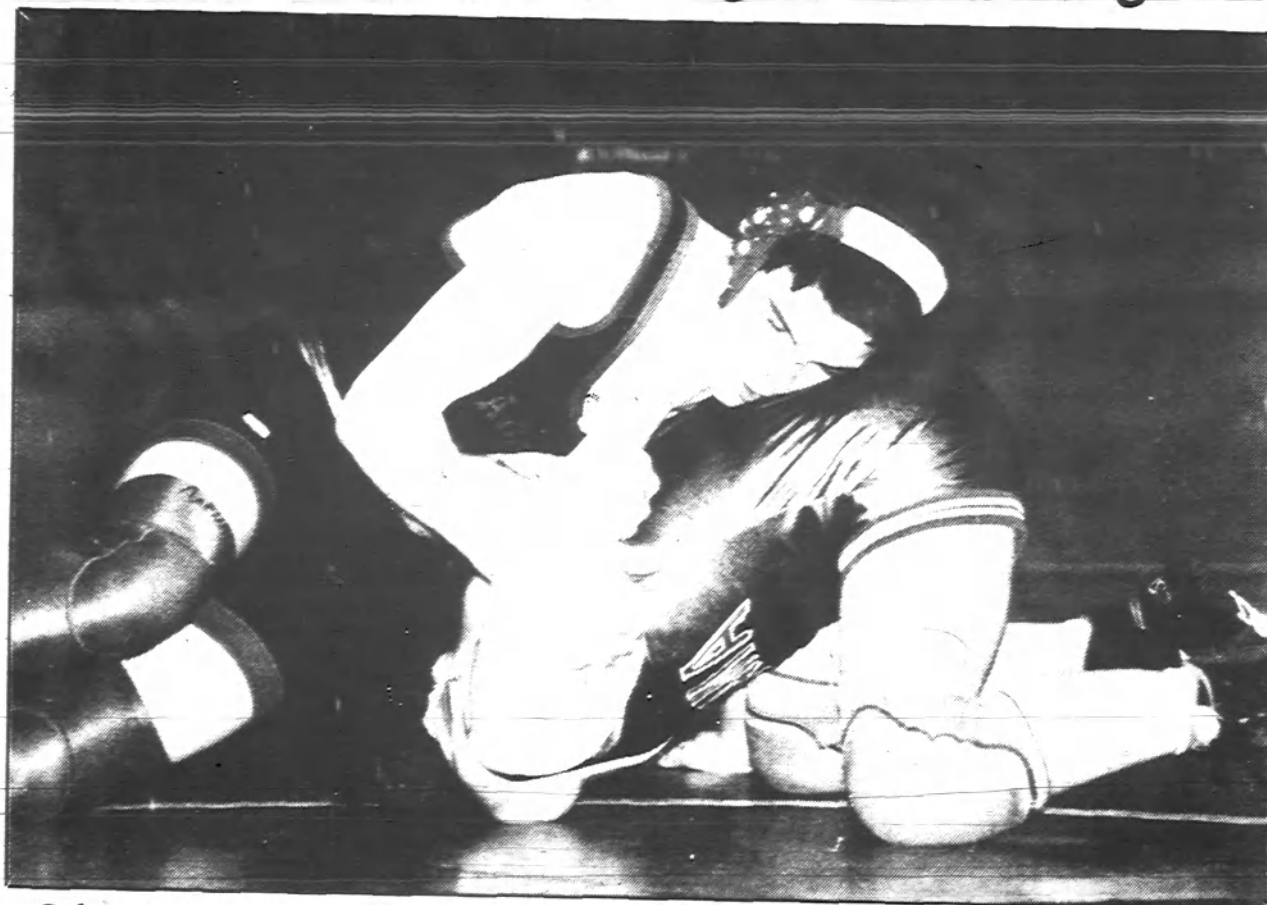
Other favorites in the tournament include: Allegany-Limestone's Brian Hemphill (119-pound); Salamanca's Brad Earley (171-pound); Albion's Jerome Kramer (220-pound); and Allegany-Limestone's Mike Oikowsky (275-pound).

Albion Purple Eagles

Head coach: Keith Piccirilli
Current record: 9-3

Team colors: Purple/White

Seeded wrestlers: 96: #1 Tim



Salamanca's Victor Arena (top) will vie for the 96-pound title as he will be up against some tough competition in Albion's Tim Uderitz (18-1) and Allegany-Limestone's Josh Crisafulli (15-6).

(Press photo by David Edstrom)

Uderitz (18-1); 103: #1 Pat Fitzsimmons (13-9); 130: #2 Eric Flugel (15-5); 135: #3 B.J. Aina (16-8); 140: #3 Bob Dysard (10-11); 160: #2 Jason Leigey (10-7); 189: #2 Andre Callicutt (17-4); 220: #1 Jerome Kramer (11-4).

Piccirilli's comments: "We've got very good seeds in this year's tournament and hopefully we'll be able to make a run at the team title."

"We won the Salamanca Tournament last season, as the kids really enjoy coming down to there. Tim (Uderitz) and (Vic) Arena should meet again in the finals, so it should be another tough battle. They may meet a couple of times before the end of the year also."

Allegany-Limestone Gators

Head coach: Chris Moore
Current Record: (n/a)

Team colors: Forest Green/White/Black

Seeded wrestlers: 96: #3 Josh Crisafulli (15-6); 119: #1 Brian Hemphill (15-5); 125: #4 Nolan Crisafulli (8-8); 130: #6 Mike Hagen (11-10); 145: #5 Nate Rhiehle (10-10); 152: #4 Robert Truman (10-10); 189: #1 Jim Stady (19-3); 220: #3 Dave Straub



JACK VAIL
#3 SEED 160-POUND

(11-2).

Moore's comments: Moore unavailable for comment.

Bolivar-Richburg Wolverines

Head coach: Ron Stabley

Current record: 2-6

Team colors: Red/White/Black

Seeded wrestlers: 96: #5 Gary McDowell (14-13); 130: #5 Lee Beach (18-11); 135: #4 Josh Hinman (17-11); 140: #1 Ben Hinman (15-12); 152: #1 Donnie Moore (22-10); 220: #2 Jeremiah Blue (15-12).

Stabley's comments: "We've been here (Salamanca) for several years now, and we enjoy competing against some opponents we've never seen before."

"In our last tournament we competed in (Hornell) 7 of our 11 wrestlers placed. We're looking at trying to be able to peak at this time of year. Our only downfall is that we wrestle well but have to forfeit in too many weight classes."

Olean High Huskies

Head coach: Ron Shoup

Current record: 1-6

Team colors: Red/Gold

Seeded wrestlers: 112: #1 Shane



JIM EMBORSKY
#3 SEED 145-POUND

Simpson (18-5); 119: #2 Eric Chaffee (17-6); 135: #2 Nate Baker (16-9); 220: #4 Andrew Fidurko (10-8).

Shoup's comments: "We've still got some quality kids despite losing some earlier in the season due to code of conduct violations. (Shane) Simpson, (Eric) Chaffee, (Nate) Baker and (Andrew) Fidurko all should vie for a chance at the top spot. Simpson now has 93 varsity wins"

"Everyone on our team has been working hard. Conditioning-wise I feel we're in the best shape we can be at this point. Anyone of our guys can go seven minutes if they have to as they've shown excellent endurance."

"We have a good nucleus of eighth-graders that are coming up which will help our program down the road."

Oswayo Valley, Pa. Green Wave

Head coach: Denny Keech

Current record: 1-9* (as of 1/29)

Team colors: Green/White

Seeded wrestlers: 125: #3 Joe Lundy (7-7); 145: #1 Bob Goodliff (14-2).

Keech's comments: "This is my fifth year coaching and we still have a lack of numbers here. At one point the school system was going to drop the wrestling program. But now, we're slowly rebuilding and using the talent we have to our advantage."

"We usually start out well in tournaments, but when the kids get put into the wrestlebacks they seem to drop like soldiers. If we can get at least an eighth place finish as a team I'll be pleased."

Panama Panthers

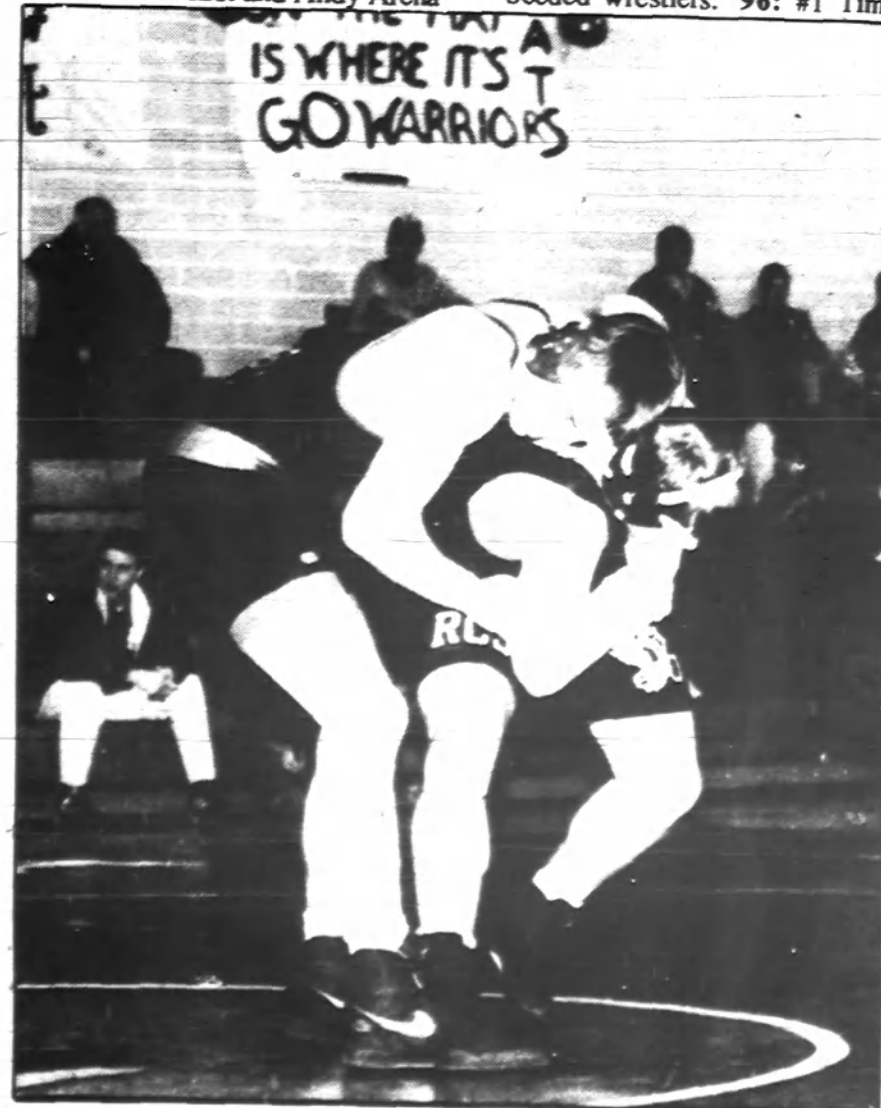
Head coach: Larry Harrington

Current record: 2-6

Team colors: Royal Blue/White

Seeded wrestlers: 125: #2 Ed Dallas (7-6); 130: #7 Jeremy Holabaugh (7-5); 189: #3 Byron Bauer (7-4).

Harrington's comments: "We're



Warriors' Andy Arena (152-pound), who has seen little action this year due to a bone spur injury will fill in the second-seed in today's Salamanca Wrestling Tournament. Bolivar-Richburg's Donnie Moore was selected as the top seed in the 155-pound class.

(Press photo by David Edstrom)

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