

Salamanca Invitational Tournament begins today

By DAN SERNOFFSKY
Press Sports Editor

The tournament gets underway this afternoon as 17 teams arrive in Salamanca for the sixth annual Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

The tournament, regarded as the top wrestling tournament in Western New York, will start at 5 p.m. tonight in the Salamanca High School gym, with both the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds slated to be held. Action will then resume at 10:45 a.m. Saturday morning with the wrestlebacks and finals, continuing through 1:30 p.m., followed by a break for supper.

Consolation rounds, for third place, will start at 6:45 p.m., followed by the championship round at 8 p.m.

For the third straight year, the tourney is expected to be a showdown between Pioneer and Olean, the numbers one and two ranked teams in Western New York and the third and tenth ranked teams in the state. But while those two teams have been getting the lion's share of the publicity, a number of other teams will figure into the final standings, and with the addition of wrestlebacks this season, the 1976 Salamanca Invitational could become a repeat of the 1972 tournament, a tourney

which saw two teams, Portville and Pioneer, tie for the team title while three other teams finished within ten points of the top.

Of the 17 teams entered in this year's tournament, 15 were the first 15 finishers in last year's 21 team field, with last year's tournament won by Pioneer with a record 111-7 points while Olean finished second with 77.

A total of 221 wrestlers will be competing in the tournament this year, with five of those wrestlers returning champions. Pioneer's Doug Tingue and Doug Keenen, Maple Grove's Seth Becker, Medina's Tim Feltz, and Olean's Bruce Meyers, winner of the outstanding wrestler award in last year's tourney.

Including those five, this year's tournament will have 19 defending sectional champions in the field, as well as team champions in six of the eight divisions in last year's sectional competition.

Coming into the tournament, team champions from eight other tournaments this year will be represented, with 66 individual champs competing, including two wrestlers who won outstanding wrestler honors in previous tournaments this season. Salamanca's Tom Ciolek, outstanding wrestler at the Lake Shore

tournament, and Portville's Mike Faulkner, outstanding wrestler in the Tri-County tournament.

The seeding for this year's tournament was handled by tourney director George Whitcher, who pointed out that again the caliber of wrestlers coming into the tournament is an outstanding one.

Out of the 221 wrestlers entered, 101, nearly half, have records showing three or fewer losses, with ten wrestlers unbeaten, 30 with one loss, 35 with two losses and 26 with three losses.

In the seeding, defending champ Pioneer won four top seeds, with Olean and Warsaw each getting three top seeded wrestlers. Two Maple Grove wrestlers were seeded first, with the remaining first seeds going to Portville and Southwestern.

Seven of the 14 top seeds are unbeaten. Olean's Ricky Gould at 98 pounds, Olean's Steve Tripodi at 119, Pioneer's Kyle Grunwald at 126, Warsaw's Warren Bush at 145, Maple Grove's Tim Prince at 155, Warsaw's Vern Price at 177, and Portville's Dave Nease at heavyweight.

Other top seeded wrestlers include Maple Grove's Bari Hallberg at 91 pounds with a 14-2 record, Keenen, at 105 with a 12-1 mark, Olean's Dave Crean at 112 with a 14-1 record, Tingue at 132 with a 12-1 record, Southwestern's Jon Swan at 138 with a 13-1 record, Olean's Dave Simon at 177 with a 14-2 record, and Warsaw's John Patt with a 7-1 record at unlimited.

For the first time, team points will be awarded in both the 91 pound weight class and the 250 pound, or unlimited, weight class.

In all, Pioneer wound up with eight seeded wrestlers, with Olean getting seven, Maple Grove seven, Warsaw six and Portville five, counting seeds through fourth. Olean, however, claimed four

second seeds, the most of any team, with Pioneer getting one second seed, one third seed and one fourth seed. Williamsville North landed three second seeds in the tourney.

Only two Salamanca wrestlers received seeds in the tournament, with Tom Ciolek landing a number seven seed at 138 pounds while Joe Roosa was seeded eighth at 177 pounds.

The top four seeds in each weight class for the Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament followed by school and record:

91 pounds: Bari Hallberg, MG, 14-2; Steve Arnold, Pio., 12-0; Jerry Stirling, Wm. N., 12-2; John McHugh, S.H., 11-3.

98 pounds: Ricky Gould, OI., 4-0; Jim Bender, Wm. N., 11-3; Dan Dahlbeck, MG, 6-1; Dan Mason, Pio., 9-3.

105 pounds: Doug Keenen, Pio., 12-1; Eric Simpson, OI., 8-1; Jerry Christopher, Port., 13-2-1; Clete Caskey, MG, 11-3-1.

112 pounds: Dave Crean, OI., 14-1; Mike Fuller, War., 10-1; Keith Floyd, Pio., 12-2; Seth Becker, MG, 12-2.

119 pounds: Steve Tripodi, OI., 15-0; Dave Tundo, Front., 11-2; Dan Woodfield, MG, 14-2; Tom Wood, LS, 12-2.

126 pounds: Kyle Grunwald, Pio., 14-0; Mark Malay, Iro., 12-1; Jerry Nugent, LS, 12-1; Paul Wilson, Med., 14-1.

132 pounds: Doug Tingue, Pio., 12-1; Chris Leichtweis, OI., 15-0; Glen Hackemer, War., 10-2; Larry Crisafulli, All., 12-3-1.

138 pounds: Jon Swan, SW, 13-1; Bruce Meyers, OI., 14-1; John Ognibene, Fal., 13-2; Greg Wefing, MG, 10-2.

145 pounds: Warren Bush, War., 14-0; Brian O'Connor, Wm. N., 13-1-1; Terry Miller, Port., 13-1; Tim Stevens, SW, 13-2.

155 pounds: Tim Prince, MG, 16-0; Greg D'Alba, Wm. N., 17-1-1; Bob Stone, Catt., 15-1; Tom Sutter, Port., 12-3.

167 pounds: Vern Price, War., 13-0; Ray Pikulski, OI., 17-1-1; Bill Nice, Med., 9-1; Dennis Marker, Front., 11-2.

177 pounds: Dave Simon, OI., 14-2; Mike Haberberger, Port., 12-3; Bruce Faulkner, All., 12-4; Ron Climenhaga, Iro., 9-4.

215 pounds: Dave Nease, Port., 15-0; Jim Burns, War., 12-1-1; Mike Steffan, Dunk., 9-1; Jeff Roselle, Catt., 12-3.

250 pounds: John Patt, War., 7-1; Rich Pavlock, Fal., 5-1; Karl Barna, Med., 5-5; Jim Stenander, SW, 0-0.

Salamanca Republican-Press

SPORTS



Oregon nips Oregon State in overtime thriller, 76-74

By KEN RAPPOPORT
AP Sports Writer

Whenever the Oregon State Beavers and Oregon Ducks get together, fur flies, tempers flare and emotions flame.

It was another of those intense, all-or-nothing games Thursday night, even if it was played for "fun."

In a game that meant nothing to the Pacific-8 Conference standings, but everything to hometown pride, Oregon pulled out a 76-74 overtime thriller over 16th-ranked Oregon.

"We just weren't ready to ply at the start," said Oregon Coach Dick Harter, whose team trailed 9-0 and 11-1 in the early going. "But the kids kept their composure in a very difficult situation."

Ron Lee, who helped the Ducks upset the Beavers in their last meeting just a week ago, scored 28 points and enhanced

his position as one of the best all-around guards in the country.

"I don't think that I've ever seen him play better," said Harter. "He made the big plays — he turned us around. I think Oregon State will agree now he is a great basketball player."

Both Harter and Coach Ralph Miller were not especially enchanted with having a non-conference game between the backyard rivals. They were openly critical, pointing out that it was hard enough competing in the rough Pac-8 race without adding a fourth game to their intense rivalry.

In other games involving ranked teams, No. 3 Nevada-Las Vegas beat Seattle 107-77 and Wichita State upset 20th-ranked West Texas State 63-55.

Oregon's Stu Jackson sank a pair of free throws with 59 seconds left in overtime to provide the Ducks with their upset victory. Oregon State, now 12-6 overall, had

This sporting life

A setback in sectionals



with Dan Sernoffsky

DESPITE REPEATED COMPLAINTS from the schools that will come out the losers and suggestions for improvements, the sectional basketball format