

# Falconer prospects are bright

FALCONER — Despite having a young team, the prospects are fairly bright for the Falconer Golden Falcons as they make their fourth appearance in the Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament this season.

The Falcons, regarded as being among the top teams in the Southern Tier, head into the tournament unbeaten in dual competition and with a pair of strong tournament performances behind them.

Falconer finished third in the Southern Tier Wrestling Conference tournament, then placed fourth in their own eight team Falconer Invitational early in January, with the Falcons boasting of three tournament champs on the roster.

Traditionally, Falconer has been one of the top teams in the tourney, posting a second place finish in their first appearance in 1973 and winning five weight class championships that year. In 1974, the Falcons wound up tied for fourth place, then plummeted in the standings last year, winding up 13th in a 21 team field.

This year, the Falcons will be attempting to get back on track and to finish again up near the top of the standings.

"The tournament is an outstanding one," Falconer coach Bill Davenport commented, "probably the best tournament, competition-wise, in Western New York. I think this year's tournament is going to be especially tough because of the kind of year Olean and Pioneer are having."

Pacing the Falcons will be three experienced wrestlers, all of whom competed in last year's Salamanca tournament and all of whom have placed well in the two tournaments the Falcons have competed in thus far.

Heading up the list is senior John Ognibene, a 134 pounder. Brother of former tourney winner Mike Ognibene, John comes into the tourney with only one loss, that suffered in the finals of the Southern



FALCON MATMEN — Members of the Falconer High School wrestling team for the 1976 Salamanca tournament include, front row: Mike Digirolamo, Ken Richir, Bob Betts, Dick Betts, Steve Moore. Second row: Dale Rahr,

George Seekings, John Ognibene, Mike Garvey, Brian Eccles. Back row: Dave Walker, Jim Pike, Dave Johnson, Rich Schulz, Rich Pavlock.

Tier Conference tourney. He won the Falconer tournament title. Co-captain of the Falcons, he placed fourth in last year's tournament and was a sectional winner last season, helping to pace the Falcons to a sectional title.

At heavyweight will be senior co-captain Jim Pike. Pike, who has one tie blemishing an otherwise unbeaten record, was the Southern Tier tourney champ at heavyweight, then dropped down to 179 pounds to win the Falconer tournament.

At 140 pounds will be sophomore Mike Garvey, a sectional champ last year and runner-up in both the Southern Tier and Falconer tournaments. In the conference tourney, he lost on a referee's decision in overtime.

The Falcons also have a tourney champ in Rich Pavlock, a senior wrestling at unlimited. Pavlock won the division I title in the conference tourney and claimed the Falconer tourney title.

The remainder of the Falcon line-up will include freshman Mike Digirolamo at 93 pounds, freshman Ken Richir at 100 pounds, sophomore Bob Betts at 107, sophomore Dick Betts at 114, sophomore Steve Moore at 121, sophomore Dale Rahr at 128, sophomore Dan Thomas at 147,

junior Brian Eccles at 157, sophomore Dave Walker at 169, and sophomore Rick Schulz at 179.

FALCONER HIGH SCHOOL

Falconer, New York  
 Nickname: Falcons  
 School colors: Blue and gold.  
 Conference: Southern Tier, Division I  
 Athletic director: William Rice.  
 Coach: Bill Davenport  
 Assistant coach: Jim Jacobson  
 Captains: John Ognibene, Jim Pike.

**Stearns second three time champ**  
 Pioneer's Keith Stearns became the second wrestler to win three Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament titles last season as he claimed the 157 pound championship. He won at 141 pounds as a sophomore and 147 pounds as a junior after having finished fourth in his first appearance in the Salamanca tournament as a freshman. The only other three time champion in tournament history was Pioneer's Mike Arnold, who won his third title in 1974.

Weight	Name	Year in school	Record
93	Mike Digirolamo	Freshman	2-1
100	Ken Richir	Freshman	2-0
107	Bob Betts	Sophomore	6-3
114	Dick Betts	Sophomore	2-0
121	Steve Moore	Sophomore	5-4
128	Dale Rahr	Sophomore	3-3
134	John Ognibene	Senior	11-1
140	Mike Garvey	Sophomore	10-2
147	Dan Thomas	Sophomore	0-1
157	Brian Eccles	Junior	8-3-1
169	Dave Walker	Sophomore	1-1
179	Rich Schulz	Sophomore	4-5
Hwt.	Jim Pike	Senior	12-0-1
Unl.	Rich Pavlock	Senior	5-1

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