

# 1976 Niagara Frontier League All-Star Wrestlers

## Champion Niagara-Wheatfield places six men

League champion Niagara-Wheatfield dominated the 1976 Niagara Frontier League's All-Star Wrestling Team, taking one-third of the available berths on the "dream team."

The Falcons, who chalked up a brilliant 13-1 seasonal record, led the way with six grapplers being selected. The Falcons' only loss came at the hands of the Tonawanda, whose Red Warriors had five players named all-league. Kenmore East placed four wrestlers on the team. Both Tonawanda and Ken-East had 12-2 records.

Dick Meckes' LaSalle Explorers had two members on the listing while Lockport rounded out the selections with a single pick. Kenmore West, North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls and Lewiston-Porter were not represented with an all-star berth.

In four weight classes, the closeness of competition caused a deadlock in the balloting among the league's athletic directors.

**ROCK MILLER (TONAWANDA)** — This pesky first-year man was impressive, especially in the rough going. The 93-pound class is seldom wrestled for points, but when it was or when it came to tournaments, Rock was at his best.

In the NFL meet, he edged Ken-East's Dale Paolucci 4-2 to win the tourney crown. He was seeded second behind Paolucci. In the Section VI Division III championships, Miller took a second place finish as he lost to Williamsville North's Gerry Stirling 8-7 in the finals.



Miller  
... 93 pounder

**DALE PAOLUCCI (KEN-EAST)** — Posted a 7-0 93-pound record before being beaten by



Paolucci  
... 93 pounder

**GEORGE REED (LOCKPORT)** — The only member of the Lions to make the all-league team. Reed was one of the reasons why Lockport was considered the NFL "sleeper" in 1976.

Reed was a runner-up in the NFL meet when he lost to Pine 7-2 in the finals. He was also a second-place finisher in the Section VI Division II tourney.



Reed  
... 105 pounder



Pine  
... 105 pounder

**GUY MILLER (TONAWANDA)** — Just a sophomore, Miller already has three Section VI Division III tournament crowns under his belt. As an eighth grader he won the event at 88-pounds, followed with a victory at 98-pounds as a freshman and then won the event in 1976 at the 112-pound class.

Guy led the Red Warriors in take-downs with 19. It was Miller's victory in the last match

**SCOTT PINE (KEN-EAST)** — Finished the NFL regular season without a loss. However, despite the fine performance, he had to settle for a tie in the all-star voting with Lockport's George Reed.

Scott, who wrestles under his father Skip Pine at East, has lettered for the past three seasons. He has one more year left on the East crew.

Pine won the 105-pound crown at the Amherst Invitational tournament before taking the NFL meet where he beat Reed in the finals. Scott was also a victor in the Section VI Division I tourney.

that gave THS its victory over Niagara-Wheatfield this past season.



Miller  
... 112 pounder

**TIM MCARDLE (KEN-EAST)** — A transfer from Cardinal



McArdle  
... 112 pounder

**JEFF TOTH (TONAWANDA)** — This Red Warrior senior found the going rough early in the season but came out on top at the end of the year. He was a 1975 selection at 112-pounds.

Toth, who was the top-seeded wrestler in the NFL meet, lived up to expectations and beat Lockport's Art Galvis in the finals 3-2. He was also a winner in the Division III meet. In the state qualifier meet, Toth was impressive and picked up a third.

O'Hara, he quickly turned into one of the most feared 112-pounders just after the Christmas holidays.

Two years ago, McArdle won the All-Catholic meet in the 105-pound class. As a senior in '76, McArdle won the NFL meet with a narrow 6-3 decision over Miller. His efforts in the event won him the Outstanding Wrestler award as voted by the other wrestlers. He also finished the NFL regular season without a loss in the 112-pound bracket.

McArdle went on to take the 112-pound class in the Section VI Division I tourney.



Jeff Toth  
... 119 pounds

**JIM HEUER (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — Another all-star selection from the champion Falcons. Heuer picks up the 1976 126-pound spot that former teammate Bill Mowrey held in the 1975 balloting.

He was the top seed in the NFL meet and had no trouble in picking up the title, beating Ken-East's Manny Cacciari in the finals 17-2. Heuer was a runner-up in the Division III tourney.



Jim Heuer  
... 126 pounds

**DAN DOLL (TONAWANDA)** — Mr. Pin himself in the Frontier League. The sensational senior put together eight straight pins during the season and finished the year with 11.

Doll, who was selected by his teammates as the Most Valuable Senior and the Tonawanda High Varsity Club Outstanding Wrestler, also led the Warriors in three other categories. He had the most reversals (14), the most pin points (22) and the most team points (78).

Doll was a winner in the NFL meet and the Division III tournament before placing third in the state qualifier meet.



Dan Doll  
... 132 pounds

**SHAWN BUSH (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — The 180-pounder posted an unbeaten record in the NFL. He was also a fine baseball pitcher on N-W's sectional runner-up nine.

Bush was picked the best bet to win the NFL meet and lived up to expectations with a 6-2 win over Tonawanda's Bruce Wilson in the finals. He was also a runner-up in the Division



Shawn Bush  
... 180 pounds



Pat Pittman  
... 138 pounds

**BILL CATERISANO (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — One of the strongest and most under-rated wrestlers in the NFL. Caterisano, a junior, shares all-league honors at 145-pounds with Tonawanda's Mike Hartel.

Caterisano entered the NFL meet with an unbeaten record but lost to Ken-East's Bob Root in the semifinals. He bounced back and ended up third. He did go on to win the Division III event.

**PAT PITTMAN (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — For the second straight year, "Chick" has been named all-NFL in the 138-pound class.

He posted an unbeaten NFL regular season this past year finishing up a fine two-year career on the Falcon varsity unit. During the two seasons, he did not suffer a regular season defeat.

"Chick" won the NFL tournament with a 7-1 lashing of East's Ken Cramer. Pittman was also a winner in the Division III event.



Caterisano  
... 145 pounder

**MIKE HARTEL (TONAWANDA)** — A injury late in the season kept the Red Warrior senior out of any post-season tournaments. This was unfortunate for the

Red Warriors as Hartel was improving with each match.

Mike did win the NFL meet at 145-pounds with the injury but after that, a doctor's order kept Mike from taking part in any more wrestling.

At the George Miller Memorial Awards Dinner honoring the Red Warrior wrestlers, Tonawanda coach Glenn Bateman named Hartel the Most Valuable Wrestler on the team. Up to the time of his injury, he was leading the Warriors in several wrestling categories.



Hartel  
... 145 pounder

**RUSS KOK (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — The N-W senior was the third seeded wrestler in the NFL meet but knocked off the first and second seeds and went on to win the NFL title in the annual league meet.

Russ led the Falcons in the most individual team points and was a runner-up in the Division III tournaments.



Russ Kok  
... 155 pounds



Duane Hunt  
... 167 pounds

**GREG KERR (KEN-EAST)** — Without a doubt the best 215-pounder in the loop. Greg was another of the many unbeaten NFL matmen.

Kerr, who until this season was an average wrestler, came into his own when he outpointed highly regarded Paul Bartlett 7-4 to win the NFL meet. In the Division I tournament, Kerr took a second as he lost in the finals to Maryvale's Mike Murray 5-2.

**DUANE HUNT (LASALLE)** — As a sophomore, Hunt picks up his second consecutive selection on the all-league team. Last year Hunt was the circuit's top 177-pounder.

Hunt started the season at the 177-pound bracket but moved down for tournament wrestling. He won the NFL meet at 167-pounds before finishing below par at third in the Division II championships.



Kerr  
... 215 pounder

**JIM WINKFIELD (LASALLE)** — This hulk of a young man was an outstanding football

player for LaSalle High. He was so good that he was named to several all-league teams. However, when the football season ended and wrestling began, Winkfield was still a star, this time on the wrestling mats.

He was an NFL meet winner before taking the Division II event. In the state qualifier meet he won a trip to Syracuse by taking the 250-pound class.

Winkfield plans to attend Canisius College in the fall.



Winkfield  
... Heavyweight

**JOHN DeLORENZO (NIAG-WHEAT.)** — One of four repeat selections from the 1975 all-league team. John was picked by his teammates as the Most Valuable Wrestler on the championship Niagara-Wheatfield team.

DeLorenzo also won the NFL meet for the second straight year before taking the Section VI Division III tournament. In the state qualifier meet, John gained a berth on the Section VI team by winning the 98-pound class. Despite not

doing well in the New York State meet, John picked up valuable experience as a junior.



DeLorenzo  
... 98 pounds

## Holler tops Eldredge

Bob Holler, Kurt Kowalski and Mike Montaldi had two hits apiece as Holler Insurance nipped the Eldredge Club 3-2 in Tonawanda National Little League Major Division action at Dalke Field.

Dave Brenon had two home runs for the losers.

### HACKETT 15 WESTERN 2

Phile Kruger and Rob Horan combined to toss a four-hitter as Hackett Co. rolled to an easy win at Dalke.

Bob Grant and Dave

Lilly banged out two hits apiece while Jeff Swan led the losers with a two-run single.

**HOLLER 9, PARSON'S 1** Holler Insurance rode the four-hit pitching of Bob Siembida to an easy win over Parson's Drugs.

Siembida helped his own cause with three hits, including a three-run homer. Kowalski, Holler and Montaldi also had three hits while Mike Klinger, Jim Adams and Rich Shank added two apiece to pace the winner's 22-hit attack.

## Seven-Eleven wins 9-6

Seven-Eleven scored nine runs in the early frames and then held on to nip Turtle Optician, 9-6 in North Tonawanda American Little League Major Division action at Ramsay Field.

Barry Davignon, Ray Burgler and Sean Gray

provided the early inning fireworks while Kevin Anger made a fine defensive catch to prevent Turtle from scoring three runs.

Ron Keaton led Turtle's five run fifth inning with a bases loaded double.

## Groggery is unbeaten

The Groggery remained unbeaten by blasting Benny's 12-2 in North Tonawanda "B"

### ST. JOHNSBURG WINS

St. Johnsburg ran its record to 2-0 with a 10-4 win over the American Legion in Wheatfield Ponytail action.

Heidi Schuster had four hits and five runs batted in while Jean Moses had two hits and three RBI.

### GRATWICK IS WINNER

Richard Omahen had three hits to lead Gratwick Hose to a 16-9 North Tonawanda American Little League Senior Division win over Sikora Post at Ramsay Field.

### VANNER'S WIN 5-0

Bob Ehms rapped home runs in the fifth and sixth innings to back the three-hit shutout pitching of Tim Eldridge as Vanner's BSAC blanked Willowgrove, 5-0 in a Little League Senior Junior League game at Brighton.

### GA

Ehms drove in four runs for the winners.

## Short training session for Falls Pirate team

By BOB LOWE  
NEWS Sports Editor

As far as Manager Glenn Ezell is concerned, the Niagara Falls Pirates jammed their "spring training" program into this past Sunday and Monday at Hyde Park Stadium in the Falls.

The Baby Bucs, pride of their parent Pittsburgh Pirates, will launch the 1976 New York-Penn Baseball League campaign this evening in Batavia before returning home to duel the same team Wednesday evening.

Normally the Falls team has a week or 10 days to get acquainted and in shape at Pittsburgh's Pirate City in Bradenton, Fla., each June.

Murray Cook, the Pittsburgh club's assistant farm director who is in town for several days to help sort out the player personnel, said Monday night at Hyde Park that this has been a tougher grind than normal.

"The major league draft was held later than usual and we didn't sign many of the players until four or five days ago," he said.

Most of them, in fact, missed the entire training session at Pirate City. "We had to use guesswork, saying this one would go to Niagara Falls, this one can play for our farm club in Salem, that one for our farm in Bradenton. We're bound to make mistakes on assignments, but we

wasn't enough time to see the players."

Cook speaks for the entire Pittsburgh organization when he says they are highly pleased with the Falls Pirates each year.

Told that well over 30 ex-Falls Pirates are still in the Pittsburgh family, he mentioned that in another four or five years everyone in the majors wearing the Pittsburgh uniform will have gained experience in the Falls.

"That's true now of Salem and we've been down there some 10 or 12 years," he said.

"Each year we feel we have a great team for the Falls," Cook said. "But, there is no actual way of knowing, what with the way we have to select the players. We do know, however, that we have some excellent talent and even though they did not work together in training, they should be in shape."

The players checked in to Pirate City right from high school or college campuses and some direct to the Falls without a Florida stopover.

Manager Ezell, here for a second year with the Baby Bucs, arrived Saturday and spent most of a welcoming luncheon tossed by the club's board of directors meeting his players.

at Hyde Park Saturday night and their opening game pitcher, Rick Honeycutt, was impressive. Ironically, it was not on the mound, but in the batting cage as he time and again rifled shots over the fence or to the outer-reaches of the stadium.

He was 8-2 for the University of Tennessee and also a star first baseman.

Rick was one of the few who made it to Pirate City and impressed his manager with his pitching efforts. He also has been ear-marked as the club's designated hitter against righthanders.

Also joining the team in the Falls is Pittsburgh's No. 1 draft choice, James Parke, a 6-foot-4 righthander from Michigan.

Manager Ezell looks for anything and everything to happen in early action, especially with a shortstop and a second sacker who never worked together until they met at Hyde Park Stadium.

**LYLE TOPS**  
NEW YORK (UPI) — Relief pitcher Sparky Lyle, who allowed only four hits while working in all six New York Yankee wins last week, was named Monday the American League player of the week.

Lyle, who lowered his ERA to 1.77, pitched 10-2-3 innings in the six games and picked up four saves in New York's sweep of Minnesota and Chicago.

## VFW rally wins 13-8

The VFW came up with 10 runs in the fifth and sixth frames to pull out a 13-8 come-from-behind Tonawanda American Little League Senior Division win over Harold's Auto Tops at O'Hara.

Rick Mislin helped the VFW cause when he tossed three innings of shutout ball in relief after Harold's posted an 8-3 lead.

Mike Geschwender had two key hits in the rally.

## Pirates top Mets

The Pirates downed the Mets, 8-6, in North Tonawanda National Little League action over the week behind the pitching of Brian Rider. Cliff Wolf, Tom Krull and Andy Holesko each had two hits to pace the winners. McGowan had a home run and a triple for the losers.

## SPAULDING FIBRE ASTO'S 10 GASTOWN 1

Bob Slezega pitched a fine four-hitter while his teammates supplied him with 10 hits as the Astros bombed the Gastown Sportsmen Cards in North Tonawanda Senior League action at Payne Field.

## PRAY PAGES LIONS

Kyle Pray pitched a three-hitter, striking out nine as Mushroom beat the Lincoln Park Lions 25-2 in Town of Tonawanda Grasshopper action at Elmcoln Park.