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Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday

By DAVID EDSTROM

Sports editor

SALAMANCA—The 1996 Salamanca Invitational Wrestling Tournament looks to be an exciting event this Saturday, as 17 teams will compete in 14 different weight classes.

Weigh-ins will be from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. followed by a coaches meeting. At 10 a.m. wrestling will commence. There will be full wrestle backs. The semi-final matches will begin at about 2 p.m. on two mats. The consolation matches for third through sixth place will be wrestled at approximately 4:30 p.m. on three mats. The finals will start at about 6 p.m. on two mats.

Awards will be given for the top six places in each weight class, and team trophies will be given for the top four teams. Team points will be awarded in all weight classes with four or more entrants. An outstanding wrestler award will be voted on by the coaches after the finals.

Admission to this year's event will be two dollars for students and three dollars for adults.

Food will be available throughout the day, with breakfast, lunch and dinner menu's available. No eating or drinking will be permitted in the locker rooms or gymnasium.

This year's Salamanca Warriors squad features a balanced mix of veterans and youth.

Victor Arena (22-5, 91-pound) is having a stellar season.

Josh Gleason (3-11, 105-pound), Kenny Ledsome (3-13, 119-pound), and Jay Flannigan (2-16, 126-pound) are tough competitors despite their deceiving records.

Warriors' Al Clute (10-8, 132-pound), Adam Weitzel (8-5, 138-pound), and Andy Arena (12-10, 145-pound) anchor the middle slots in the rotation.

Jack Vail (15-10, 155-pound), Brad Earley (17-10, 167-pound), and Justin Wilson (8-13, heavyweight), round out the higher weight classes.

Salamanca's Chris Pavia (145-pound) and Al Slaughaupt (heavyweight) have seen limited action, but are an intricate part of the Warriors success.

Cass Nolet (14-8, 177-pound) will not participate in this year's tourney, due to an ankle injury.

"All these kids will gain much needed experience in Saturday's tourney. We're looking forward to it," stated Salamanca Head Coach Rich Morton.

The tournament seeding took place on Thursday afternoon in Salamanca. Here's a preview of all seventeen teams competing.

Albion Purple Eagles— Coach: Keith Piccirilli, Record: 9-3

Seeded wrestlers: Tim Uderitz (16-2, #1 seed, 91-lbs.), Pat Fitzsimmons (11-8, #2 seed, 98-lbs.), Derrick Hildreth (13-6, #2 seed, 119-lbs.), Jonah Driscoll (6-7, #4 seed, 145-lbs.), Eric Banister (17-4, #3 seed, 167-lbs.), Andre Callicutt (14-8, #1 seed, 177-lbs.), Jerome Kramer (11-7, #2 seed, 215-lbs.).

Piccirilli's comments: "Salamanca has always treated us well. I went to school with Rich (Morton) and he puts on a great tournament," stated coach Keith Piccirilli. "We would like to be able to place high. The kids have really been coming on strong lately."

Allegany-Limestone Gators— Coach: Chris Moore, Record: 4-5

Seeded wrestlers: Chris Carlson (11-9, #4 seed, 105-lbs.), Frank Anastasia (19-1, #1 seed, 167-lbs.), Jim Stady (13-9, #2 seed, 177-lbs.), Mike Olkosky (8-6, #2 seed, 250-lbs.).

Moore's comments: "We've been placing high in several big tournaments this season. We're a young team, and hopefully we will continue to fare well."

Bolivar-Richburg Wolverines— Coach: Mike Dunsmar, Record: n/a

Seeded wrestlers: Codie Bissell (28-4, #1 seed, 119-lbs.), Ray Oberst (20-9, #2 seed, 132-lbs.), Chris Blauvelt (20-8, #2 seed, 145-lbs.).

Dunsmar's comments: Unavailable for comment.

Campbell-Sovona Panthers— Coach: Dom Scolaro, Record: 2-6

Seeded wrestlers: Joe Scolaro (16-3, #3 seed, 91-lbs.), Brian Spaulding (8-7, #4 seed, 98-lbs.).

Scolaro's comments: "We're looking to have a good time. The kids are really anxious to compete against new teams. We're still devolving as a team, and we can improve by competing in this tourney."

Cassadaga Valley Cougars— Coach: Richard Segal, Record: 1-8

Notable wrestler: John Miller (16-10, not seeded, 105-lbs.).

Segal's comments: "We are looking forward to competing. We're going to gain a lot of experience, and I'm hoping our kids can pick up some wins."

Fredonia Hillbillies— Coach: Alex Conti, Record: 3-4

Seeded wrestlers: Bob Parker (20-6, #1 seed, 112-lbs.), Steve Dando (14-8, #3 seed, 155-lbs.).

Conti's comments: "We're young, but we've been working hard all season. We have 30 kids in our program, and we place some in every tourney."

Gowanda Panthers— Coach: Mark Leous, Record: 3-6

Seeded wrestlers: Mike Jordan (20-8, #2 seed, 112-lbs.), Dave Hojnacki (17-3, #3 seed, 126-lbs.), Howie Jordan (19-2, #2 seed, 138-lbs.), Josh Carnrite (19-1, #1 seed, 155-lbs.), Justin Winfield (17-4, #2 seed, 167-lbs.).

Leous' comments: "We have five solid wrestlers that we're counting on to come through and do a good job for us. We're hoping to place fairly high as a team."

Lackawana Steelers— Coach: Kevin Espinosa, Record: 0-8

Seeded wrestler: Carmello Lopez (12-6, #4 seed, 132-lbs.).

Espinosa's comments: "We've lost several meets this year by only a few points. The team is in contention for every meet, and the kids are really trying hard."

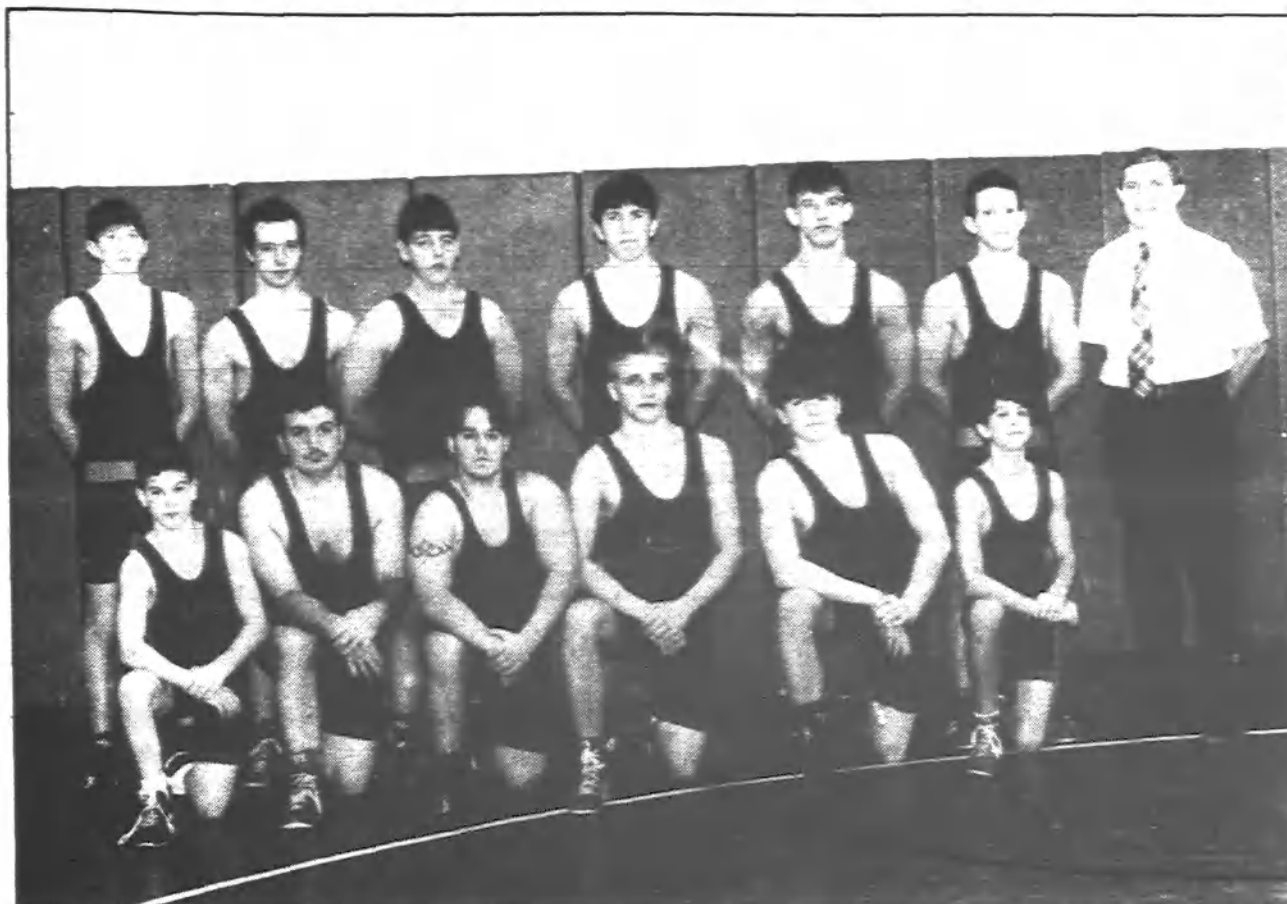
Olean Huskies— Coach: Jim Myers, Record: 2-5

Seeded wrestlers: C.J. Collins (13-10, #1 seed, 98-lbs.), Mark Reynolds (14-7, #1 seed, 105-lbs.), Shane Simpson (14-7, #3 seed, 119-lbs.), Eric Hoffman (14-6, #3 seed, 177-lbs.), Andrew Fidurko (10-8, #1 seed, 250-lbs.).

Myers' comments: "We want to improve on last year's performance. I think we should place this year as a team. I do see several of our wrestlers placing high in this tournament, but I'm not too sure that we have the depth to take the team title."

Oswayo Valley, Penn. Green Waves— Coach: Denny Keech, Record: n/a

Seeded wrestlers: Joe Lundy (9-5, #4 seed, 112-lbs.), Bob Goodliff (12-1, #1 seed, 132-lbs.), Mike



The 1995-96 edition of Salamanca Warrior Wrestling features (front, from left): Victor Arena, Al Slaughaupt, co-captain Cass Nolet, Jack Vail, Adam Weitzel and Josh Gleason; (back, from left): Kenny Ledsome, Chris Pavia, Justin Wilson, Brad Earley, co-captain Andy Arena, Al Clute and head coach Rich Morton. Missing from photo is 126-pounder Jay Flannigan.

(Press photo by Mike Sharbaugh)

Colton (8-4, #3 seed, 145-lbs.), D.J. Lambrecht (12-2, #2 seed, 155-lbs.), Eric Fuller (5-3, #3 seed, 215-lbs.).

Keech's comments: "It's a pretty tough tourney. We have a couple of wrestlers that should place high." "Our weight classes differ in Pennsylvania, so it's hard to move the kids around in their respective class."

Panama Panthers— Coach: Larry Harrington, Record: 3-4

Notable wrestlers: Chad Burch (8-6, not seeded, 138-lbs.), Trevor Swanson (11-6, not seeded, 145-lbs.).

Harrington's comments: "We're incredibly young. Most of our kids are seventh, eighth, and ninth graders." "I hope that our kids get quality mat time so they will gain experience."

Pine Valley Panthers— Coach: Rex Brown, Record: 0-9

Seeded wrestlers: Dennis Stein (19-6, #2 seed, 126-lbs.), Bryan Smith (20-8, #3 seed, 138-lbs.), Rob Green (15-6, #4 seed, 177-lbs.).

Brown's comments: "As a team, we probably won't place high, since we are only bringing eight wrestlers. I'd be happy to see three or four of them place individually."

Randolph Cardinals— Coach: Jim Williams, Record: n/a

Seeded wrestler: Andrew Philblad (20-4, #2 seed, 105-lbs.).

Williams' comments: Unavailable for comment.

Rocky Grove, Penn. Orioles— Coach: Curt Bindas, Record: 2-7

Seeded wrestlers: Dan Aaron (13-1, #1 seed, 126-

lbs.), Mike Carter (4-2, #4 seed, 215-lbs.).

Bindas' comments: "We won the tournament last year, but this year we won't have many wrestlers competing to battle for the team title. I'm not sure what to expect, since we never compete against these teams. It should be a good tourney though."

Salamanca Warriors— Coach: Rich Morton, Record: 5-4

Seeded wrestlers: Victor Arena (22-5, #2 seed, 91-lbs.), Al Clute (11-8, #3 seed, 132-lbs.), Adam Weitzel (8-5, #4 seed, 138-lbs.), Jack Vail (15-10, #4 seed, 155-lbs.), Brad Earley (17-10, #4 seed, 167-lbs.).

Morton's comments: "We have a good chance to place high overall. I'm looking for our veterans to shine along with our younger kids to pick up a few wins. It's going to be a very good all-around competition."

Silver Creek Black Knights— Coach: Brian Wiison, Record: 5-1

Seeded wrestlers: Ryan Marvin (15-2, #4 seed, 91-lbs.), Ron Kavanaugh (12-3, #3 seed, 98-lbs.), Gene O'Connor (12-7, #3 seed, 112-lbs.), Scott Manning (13-6, #4 seed, 126-lbs.), Fred Hallett (record n/a, #1 seed, 215-lbs.), Todd Fryberger (record n/a, #3 seed, 250-lbs.).

Wilson's comments: "If the kids go out and do their best, I'm happy. If they win or lose, I'm not concerned, as long as they try hard."

Westfield Wolverines— Coach: Richard Marotto, Record: 2-4

Seeded wrestlers: J.J. Gillian (10-9, #3 seed, 105-lbs.), Alan Pagano (11-7, #4 seed, 119-lbs.), Alex Clutter (20-3, #1 seed, 138-lbs.), Brad Smith (14-2, #2 seed, 145-lbs.).

Marotto's comments: Unavailable for comment.