High School Wrestling Roundup

Pioneer, Olean: Super Streaks

By STEVE SCHUELEIN

In 1969, Olean High School began varsity wrestling and Pioneer Central School of Arcade moved west from Section

Things have not been the same since on the Western New York mats of Section VI.

The two schools have dominated wrestling to such a point that Pioneer will put a 63-match winning streak on the line and Olean will risk a 33-duel skein this week when most WNY schools begin competition.

Pioneer Coach Dick Post senses his streak may be in jeopardy. Olean's streak appears safe through the 1980s unless Coach Mike Foster can sneak Lehigh onto the schedule.

. . . PIONEER, a Division IV member of the Erie County Interscholastic Conference, has been unbeaten in duels since losses to Niagara-Wheatfield and Rochester Eastridge in 1972-73.

Post's mat powers won the school division of the intersectionals in 1974 and shared the top spot with Spencerport in 1975.

Keith Stearns, a junior at Oklahoma, and two-time winner Kyle Grunwald, a freshman at Louisiana State.

"The streak will get broken this year," said Post, in his eighth year as head coach. "Only 26 kids are out, the least I've had coaching here. And Williamsville North, Iroquois, Lancaster, Depew and Baldwinsville will all be tough."

Post lost five seniors to graduation, including Grunwald, but seven returning regulars should provide enough of a nucleus for the Panthers to remain a power in the ECIC.

Pioneer appears strongest in the lightmiddleweight area, where senior Tom Bennett, who qualified for the intersectionals last year, is back at 119 pounds, senior Dan Mason returns at 112 and junior David Sanders is at 126. Sophomore Steve Arnold, an intersectional qualifier as an eighth-grader 2 years ago, is also back but may have trouble finding a spot in the 112-119 area.

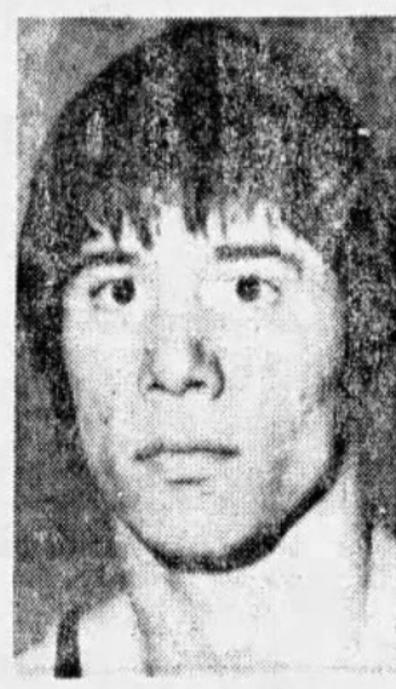
Other returning regulars are Lee Friend at 91, Jeff Pettit at 132, Mike Wagner at 138 and Jim Devin at 155.

Pioneer opens Friday against Cleveland Hill.

Section VI intersectional lineup last year and finished third in the school competition, should be even stronger this year at the top of the WNY heap.

Foster, who piloted the Olean football team to its first unbeaten season since 1951 this fall, Intersectional champs include should do much better than won-8 lost-0 on the mats.

> The Southern Tier Division I power regains three of the four wrestlers it sent to the 1977 intersectionals: senior Chris Leichtweis, state runner-up at 145 last year, who will go 145 or 155; sophomore Clar Anderson, third at 91 and up to 105; and senior Kevin Forrest, the football star who will go 126 or 132. Leichtweis and Anderson won



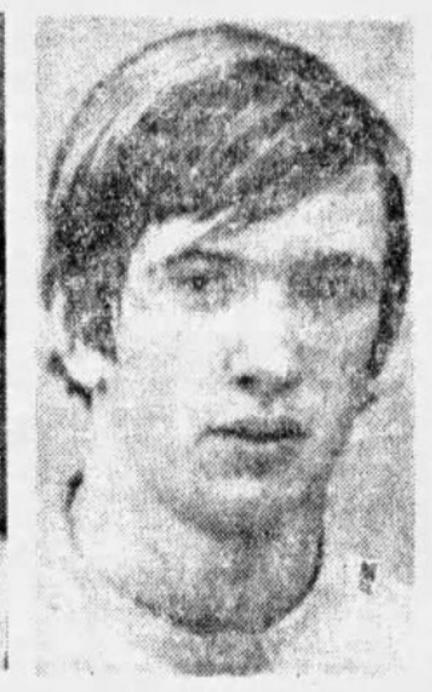
CHRIS LEICHTWEIS **Olean middleweight**

* * Foster, 31, is a 1969 St. Bona-SWEET HOME, won-11 lost-1 and Lockport. venture graduate who never wrestled in college or nearby tied-1 last year under Joe Shiff-. . **BILL BRECHUE** has taken in- let, returns a strong four-man Hinsdale High School. He Olean lost only three regulars over for the Rev. Lehr Barkennucleus in Cedric Hinton (177), stalled wrestling at Olean in quest at DeSales of Lockport, B⁻ Vogel (155), Paul Reed 1969. After a couple of learning (132) and John McHugh (105). defending champion in the years, Olean went 10-2-1 in wins, Msgr. Martin Association. McHugh, a former National losses and ties and has been a All-Catholic and Smith League Junior AAU competitor, finished burgeoning state power ever winner DeSales has two returnsixth in the intersectionals at 98 ing league champions in Ed Olean opens at home Saturlast year. Orchard Park and Williams- States (145) and Dan Yousett day against Niagara-Wheatfield. Leichtweis, Forrest, Simpson ville East may be the two most (98)

OLEAN, which dominated the state AAU junior competition to earn berths in the national freestyle tourney this summer. from its lineup. Eric Simpson (119), Andy Taylor (112), Steve Pancio (132), Bill Thomas (138), Kirk Stephen (167), Rick Fie (177), George Pancio (126) and Joe Silluzio (112) provide awe- since. some depth.

Pioneer and Olean do not meet and Steve Pancio are the only in duels but are both scheduled seniors on a 40-man roster. The Olean dynasty may only be in in the Salamanca tournament Jan. 27-28. Olean finished first, its infancy. "It's a positive attitude Pioneer second in that tourney

last year. thing," said Foster, who has seven of his football players in the wrestling lineup. "We have the standings remain unchanged ... at Salamanca or in Section a lot of good athletes who be-VI. lieve in themselves."



JOHN MeHUGH Sweet Home star



number of changes. New member Jamestown is in Division I, Lake Shore has moved up to Division II and Williamsville North and South have dropped to Division III.

New coaches include John Grieser at West Seneca West in Division I. Joe Rotundo at Clarence in Division II, Rick Kosiorek at Williamsville South in Division III and Larry Wheeler at Cleveland Hill in Division IV.

Depew, Iroquois and Williamsville North are expected to give Pioneer its sternest competition in III-IV.

more balanced race. Defending LaSalle. champion Lancaster, won-12 lost-1 in duels last year, defending sectional Division I champion Sweet Home, Clarence, Or-East all expect to be strong.

improved teams in the league Second-year OP Coach Tony by Turner - has defending Policare has 10 returning letter- league champion Fred Ruocco men, including National-Junior at 91 pounds. Few would be surprised to see AAU champ Tony Damiani at 167 heading a powerful heavyweight crew.

> group of returnees at the lower in the Niagara-Orleans League. and middle weights and has been bolstered by four able by a point for the league title,

> the mystery team, won-6 lost-8 Houghtaling for Coach Ed Fitz-

THE ECIC has undergone a last year in an independent schedule mostly from the strong Erie, Pa., area. Football star Dan Moran, a 235-pound unlimited standout, is back after comin last year's peting intersectionals.

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TONAWANDA, defending champion in the Niagara-Frontier League, is a heavy favorite to repeat. Glenn Bateman has most of his lineup back from last year, including standout Guy Miller.

New coaches in the league include Mike McAvoy at Lockport, Bill Wessels at Niagara Division I-II should offer a Fails and Pat Cerminara at

The league has split into a Niagara Division of Niagara Falls, Niagara-Wheatfield, Lewiston-Porter and LaSalle chard Park and Williamsville and the Frontier Division of Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Kenmore East, Kenmore West

Defending Burke League winafter .500 finishes last year. ner O'Hara - upset Saturday

. .

DEFENDING champion New-

fane, runner-up Albion and Roy Guarino has a strong Medina are leading contenders Newfane, which edged Albion transfers at Williamsville East. has three good returnees in Bob New member Jamestown is Talladay, Steve Perry and Tom

simmons. Paul Harvey has moved from Starpoint to Albion. Mike Windhorst has taken over at Starpoint.

ALTHOUGH Olean again is virtually conceded the throne in the Southern Tier, Division I schools Falconer and Maple Grove - defending sectional Division VI and VII champions, respectively - are also strong.

New coaches are Terry Leja at Dunkirk and Al Bean at Eisenhower, Pa.

In Division II, Silver Creek won the league title in duels, Randolph took the league tourney and Panama won the sectional Division VIII crown last year.

New coaches are Greg Bridges at Panama, Wayne Vollentine at Fredonia and Kim Wefing at Frewsburg.

The league has scrapped its Christmas tourney and will go with divisional tourneys at the end of the year.

PORTVILLE will defend its title in the Tri-County League although Wellsville is expected to furnish strong competition.

TOURNAMENTS include the Tri-County Dec. 17 at Cuba, Sweet Home Dec. 29-30, Maryvale and Falconer Jan. 20-21. and Salamanca Jan. 27-28.

Paradiso Paces North Collins In Title Game

SHERMAN - North Collins Central School won the Sherman basketball tournament Saturday evening, led by Dan Paradiso, as the Eagles stopped Sherman, 46-42.

Paradiso, a 6-foot 1-inch senior forward, scored 24 points and pulled down 18 rebounds as the Eagles, down 10-9 at the quarter, scored the first goal of the second quarter and never looked back.

"They started pressuring and came back. I got close." sighed Coach Paul Cummings, who also pointed to the work of guard Dave Gier, with 8 points. 6 assists and 4 steals.

In the consolation game, For-