

Others May Also Be Contenders for W-FL Wrestling Crown —

Geneva, Mynderse, Wayne Rate as Top in Class A

The 1965-6 Wayne - Finger Lakes Conference Class A conference promises to be at least a two team race, quite possibly a three team tussle and there is always the chance that a few others will get into the swing of things.

At the outset, it appears that it will be a league like so many in the past with the defending champion Geneva High Panthers battling it out with the Mynderse Academy Blue Devils.

Wayne Central has a strong, veteran squad that can't be overlooked.

Waterloo is another club to contend with, though the Indians lost their season league opener to Wayne.

Perennial powerhouse Canandaigua may be in for some tough sledding at the start, but the Braves can't be counted out. They've got a new coach, but Weldon Canough, a four year veteran at Dansville, has seen the best in the league before and has more than held his own.

Penn Yan is another club that could well be in the thick of things. Coach Dave Currier has been around long enough to know the lay of the land and he's capable of molding veterans and rookies into a strong challenger.

Toughest job belongs to Tom Gray at Lyons. He's bringing a rookie team into the league for the first time. It's likely that the Lions will take their lumps this season but they'll learn and be a club to contend with in the seasons to come.

The season already is two matches old. And Wayne Central is sitting at the top of the heap with victories over Newark and Lyons.

Three league members kick off their league seasons tomorrow, including the top contenders. Geneva travels to Canandaigua for an 8 p. m. varsity match and Lyons gives Mynderse its first taste of league action this year.

Here's how the teams shape up:

GENEVA — This is expected to be Joe Morrisette's last team as Geneva High coach and it could be one of his best. The defending champions come on strong with nine lettermen returning.

The Panthers lost a couple of good ones in Dave Van Gordon, 154 pound sectional champion, and Wayne Klue, 165 pound conference title holder.

But the team has veterans in nine other positions, headed by Co-Capt. Pete Achilles, who now has won 45 of his 46 matches as a high school wrestler. Achilles is the defending 103 pound Section 5 and conference champion. He went undefeated all last season and has started off with four victories this season. Achilles' only loss was in the 1964 sectional finals to Harry Gersy of East High.

Last year, Achilles beat Gersy, 4-1 in the finals.

Also back are conference champion Louis Gillette, a junior, who won at 95 pounds last year; Karl Marchenese, senior co-captain, who was conference champion two years ago at 112, and Senior Don Jones, heavyweight runner up last year in the conference.

Other veterans include Steve Achilles, 120 pound sophomore; Jason Wiley, a 133 pound junior; Steve Cecere, 138 pound senior; Lionel Frank, 145 pound senior, and Brian Whittaker, 165 pound senior.

For tomorrow's opening match, Morrisette probably will start Laury Beinert at 95 pounds. Pete Achilles will wrestle at 112, Leroy Carter will be at 145 and Bob Vogt will be at 180.

Jim Thomas, a freshman, is expected to replace Gillette at 103 until the first of the year. Gillette is out with a pulled shoulder muscle.

Except for the 95, 180 and heavyweight classes, Morrisette has backup men in every class.

Along with Gillette and Thomas at 103 pounds is Joey Shabum. Phil Davis, who moved in at 120 pounds in the season opener against Groton, backs up Achilles at 112 pounds with Mike Szkolnik behind him.

Back of Steve Achilles are Bobby Marchenese, a freshman and Jack Bonnell, a junior. Jim Robins, a freshman, is backing up Karl Marchenese while Dan Singleton, a freshman, and Kevin Loucks are behind Wiley at 133.

Cecere's potential replacements are junior John Parrott and junior Chuck Rogers while Bob Burgess, a sophomore and Neil Teague, a freshman, stand ready to fill in for Frank.

Joe Venuti, a sophomore, is ready if Carter slips and Charlie Alesi, a sophomore, would move in for Whittaker.

The Panthers are one of the few teams with an unlimited weight wrestler. He's

301 pound Patsy DeVellis. Morrisette is assisted 'his season by Edge Duet, who appears to be heir-apparent next season.

MYNDERSE — When the Blue Devils open against Lyons tomorrow, for the most part, it will look like the Mynderse club of a year ago.

Devil Coach Abe Meyers finds himself with a pat hand of 11 returning veterans, most of them with more than a year's varsity experience.

Furthermore, Meyers figures this year's club as one of the best-balanced ever at Mynderse. "In the past," Meyers noted, "we were always better in the heavier weights. This year we're balanced from top to bottom."

Meyers feels that "There are several boys who are looking good at 95 pounds." Freshman Harris Rogers leads the list right now. The rest of the club is a veteran one.

At 103, Ben Uticone, a sophomore who started last year, returns and junior Jim Rogers is back for his third year at 112. Junior Lee Burchim is at 120 and Al Hurd, a senior with three years experience is at 127.

Paul Stratton, a junior is set at 145 and Nick Galina, a three-year veteran is back at 145. Steve Ritter and Doug Werth, both juniors, are listed at 154. Then, seniors Jack Stubbs and Aage Hansen come under the 165-pound category. All four are seasoned veterans and to some coaches, this may seem to be a conflict. However, Meyers doesn't see like that.

"All four are pretty close," Meyers notes. "We split them up and spread them out. Ev-

ery week we wrestle off to decide who goes where." Stubbs, for instance, might wrestle at 180, while sophomore Bill Simpson, listed at 180, will go heavyweight. "It's always nice to be able to shuffle around if anyone gets hurt," says Meyers.

Junior Bill Reigel, with two years of JV experience and a couple of varsity matches, heads the list at 133 pounds. Also looking good there is Sam Scibona, a junior with no previous experience.

WAYNE — "It's a well-balanced club," said Coach Ron Miller, and most of the other league coaches agree. Eight starters from last year are back and this would make any coach happy.

To make things even brighter, this year anyway, five of the eight veterans are seniors and the other three juniors. Two juniors and a pair of freshmen round out Miller's starting club.

Senior veterans back are Bob Vittaro (103-pound class), Dan Doyle (138), Mike Cass (145), Dick Abrams (154), and heavyweight Charlie Dotson.

Junior Veterans are Dale Hill (120), Mark Herman (127) and Darwin Bushart (heavyweight).

The 95 and 112-pound jobs are being handled by freshmen Tim Dippell and Dan Moak, respectively. Juniors Dan Racine and M. C. Lewis, both up from last year's JV club, will be at 133 and 180, respectively.

CANANDAIGUA — The Braves have an almost new team to go along with new coach Weldon Canough, a veteran of four seasons at Dansville. Canough replaces John Palmer as Canandaigua coach.

Five wrestlers return from last season's team but none were full time starters.

Returnees are Rich Erb, 120 pound senior; Phil LaDue, 112 pound senior; and John Sanders, 165 pound senior. Bill Winslow, 103 pound junior, and Al Tiberio, 180 pound sophomore.

"We've got a lot of good kids, but this is a building year and could be rough. The Braves opened by beating Victor, 33-10, but then lost to Phelps, 33-11.

All positions still are set but Canough's lineup probably will go something like this:

Either Billy Frantel, a junior, or Ron Palmer, a sophomore, will be at 95 pounds with Dave Hadsell, a sophomore at 103. LaDue is out with a bad arm and his 112 spot will go to either Tom Rutledge, a junior, or Ron Wyffels, a sophomore.

Erb is at 120 with Brian Aikey, a freshman of Bob Bradshaw a sophomore at 127. Bob Schrobak, a senior, Don Cook, a senior, Ken Lyons, a sophomore, Bruce West, a senior; Sanders; Tiberio and Freshman Jim Hunt will fill the 133 to heavyweight positions.

Rounding out the squad are Jeff Brown, 112 pound junior; Mike McWilliams, 137 pound sophomore; Jeff Armstrong, 145 pound senior; Bill Lieheid, 154 pound junior; Bruce Trumbell, 165 pound sophomore, and Bob Hughner, 180 pound junior.

PENN YAN — Mustang Coach Dave Currier figures "the ones with experience look good — the others are a little green, but coming along." With this in mind, Currier feels that "We should improve as the season progresses."

Leading the list of five re-

turning veterans is senior Bill LaRock who won the W-FL 180-pound championship last year and then lost in the Section 5 finals.

Bob Mulberger, who lost to Geneva's Dave VanGordon in the league finals at 154 pounds last year, is back and moves up to 165 this year.

Rounding out the list of veterans are Dick LaRock (junior, 120), Paul Parkman (junior, 133) and Ron Fritz (senior, 138).

Sophomore Roy Hurd and junior Daryl Jones, both up from the JV, won starting berths at 103 and 127, respectively, while junior John Butcher and sophomore Mike Stutzker will be switching at 145 and 154.

Currier feels he has "three good ones" to wrestle at 95 pounds. Leading the list at the moment is Kurt Hinkle, a sophomore, but freshmen Steve Marchionda and Richard Lasler are showing a lot of promise.

Junior Cliff Hitchens and sophomore Tom Ledgerwood are both listed at 103 pounds as are Ron Houghtaling and Charlie Russell, both juniors, as heavyweights. The Mustangs will be one of the few clubs with an unlimited wrestler. That is Ward Lampman, a 270-pound junior out for the first time.

Currier has also been pleased with the progress of several others. They are Chris Baker (sophomore, 127-33), Dan Givette and Ron Fitzpatrick, both sophomores, and Rick Jensen, a junior, all three at 154 and Leo Ka Han (senior, 145-54).

WATERLOO — Coach Gary Ruberti feels that "If we can stay healthy and keep everyone together we should be able to hold our own."

The Indians won their first

three non-league matches this season" and Ruberti noted that "we looked real good." Then, Wednesday, "we looked terrible," losing to Wayne, 34-13, in a league match. "I don't think we will look that bad again this season," said Ruberti.

Seven returning veterans bolster this year's club. Juniors Maynard Chilson and Bob Noone are set at 95 and 103 pounds, respectively, and sophomore Fred Pearce is back at 112.

An arm injury kept senior John Van Bergan out most of last season, but he is back this year and will be at 138.

Three juniors round out the list of veterans. They are Ed Zukowski (145), Chuck Brees (154) and Wayne Morey (180).

Two members of last year's JV club moved up to the varsity and nailed down starting spots. They are Bill Elliott (sophomore, 120) and Mike Dobbin, another sophomore set at 133.

Rounding out the present list of starters are Norm Schweitz, a sophomore who didn't come out last year (127); Jerry Skinner a freshman (165), and senior heavyweight, Art Hauf, out for the first time.

Ruberti is also waiting for two other lettermen to return. Junior Scott Stackus has his knee in a cast and will move in at 120 or 127 when he returns. Gary McLaughlin, a senior, is ineligible right now and if he returns will possibly move in at 127 or 133.

NEWARK — Jim Lewis, a graduate of Grove City College, Pa., starts his first year at Newark. Last year, he taught at Bloomfield Central School and the year before that was at Marion Central.

Lewis notes that "We should be strong in the middle, but

we're weak in the lighter and heavy classes."

Three returning veterans are listed as the "brightest spots so far," according to Lewis. They are Joe Lawrence (senior, 120), Larry Stevens (senior, 127) and Carl Fredrickson (senior, 138).

Freshman Tom Gray is "doing a fine job at 95" and sophomore Bill VanTyle is holding down the 103 spot.

Lewis noted that "until after Christmas we'll have to forfeit at 112." Junior Dean Lohman will fill the spot when he returns. Leonard DeWerd (senior, 133), Robert DeVey (junior, 145), Dave Smith (junior, 145) and Jeff Cebula (sophomore, 165) are the other lettermen back.

Rounding out the squad are Steve Vandemortel (junior, 180) and Frank Lagana, a 212-pound junior heavyweight.

LYONS — A new sport at Lyons, Coach Tom Gray notes that "We look forward to this season as a learning experience for ourselves, the school and the community."

Gray doesn't expect his Lions to be any sort of power this year, but he is definitely thinking of the future. This can best be seen after looking over the roster. Other than a small handful of juniors and seniors, the club is composed mostly of freshmen and sophomores.

Twenty-eight boys turned out for the sport this year, several of them being seventh and eighth graders. The JV club will not go against other schools very much this season since insurance doesn't cover those still in grade school. However, Gray notes, "These boys are showing a lot of interest, even if they have to settle for wrest-

ling with each other."

The Lions have taken their lumps in a couple of non-league matches this season, but Gray is already noticing improvement. Standouts so far, according to Gray, are Dan Olson (103, freshman), Dan Rockwell (95, freshman), Clyde Payton (145, junior), Ralph Hill (184, senior) and Tim Coye (138, senior).

Rounding out Gray's starting 12 are Stan Car (112, sophomore), Miguele Rodriguez (120, freshman) Lou Vardabash (133, senior), Bob Rabiudeash (133, senior), Dave Boice (165, sophomore), Rich Bartshievic (senior, 180) and Larry Wright (heavyweight freshman).

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It's Sports Award Time

AFL Rookie of Year: Joe Namath

NEW YORK (AP) — "That's real nice," said Joe Namath day by an Associated Press panel of 24 sports writers — when he was informed that he had been selected Rookie of the Year in the American Football League.

"You must have run out of candidates," And so, using the defense mechanism — the quick retort — that he has employed in accepting praise throughout the season while trying to avoid appearing immodest, the likeable \$400,000 quarterback of the New York Jets accepted his latest honors.

Namath was selected Thursday's first-year defensive end. "I thought he'd be right up there."

"No, I can't consider it a good year," said Namath in answer to a question. "We won four, lost eight, tied one. That's not good. If I had been doing good, we would have won more."

"I'll have to admit I got bugged by a lot of things. But I learned you have to devote your entire thinking to the game. You've got to get the other things out of your mind. Otherwise they only present problems."

Only three others received votes, running back Wendell Hayes of Denver and defensive back Kent McCloughan and linebacker Gus Olt, both of Oakland.

"Biggs didn't get any votes?" asked Namath, referring to teammate Verlon Biggs, the

122 yards against Denver and started on his way to his current total of 1,089 yards, only 10 short of the league record set by Clem Daniels of Oakland in 1963. The former Oregon State star has enjoyed four 100-yard-plus days and has the rushing title wrapped up with one game to go.

On opening day, Lowe ran for

Low, the running sensation of the American Football League, has been voted the Comeback Player of the Year for his ability to bounce back strong after injuries threatened his career.

Lowe sat out the entire 1962 season with a broken arm and won the comeback award by gaining 1,010 yards in 1963. Last

year he saw limited action due to a torn muscle in this right leg and his production dropped off to 513 yards and five touchdowns.

The injury jinx hit again this season when a torn muscle in his left leg forced him to miss the exhibition season of the San Diego Chargers.

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