

# Mat domination by Tonawanda

By ED SLOWINSKI  
NEWS Sports Writer

Another name for Saturday's Niagara Frontier League Wrestling Tournament could have been Tonawanda High School vs. the NFL All-Stars.

The host Warriors showed their outstanding balance and placed nine wrestlers in the finals with six of those winning championships. Tonawanda also had two-third place finishers and a pair of fourth-place showings.

There is no team score kept in the NFL Tournament but if there was, Tonawanda would have easily captured the title. Lewiston-Porter was closest to THS with four wrestlers in the finals.

The Warriors have won the NFL regular season title for the past three seasons and are riding a 44 dual meet unbeaten streak.

Tonawanda's Dan Gore (112) posted an overwhelming win in the finals and upped his record to 16-0 on the year. Teammate Ken Young (215) also won by a decision in the finals and increased his slate to 12-0. Tonawanda's other unbeaten wrestler, Paul Poeller (250) won by a narrow decision in the championship to up his record to 8-0.

Other Warriors with individual titles were Jim Kowalczyk (91), Mark Fernandez (138) and Bruce Carr (155).

Kenmore East had a pair of wrestlers finish the season unbeaten. Gary Cacciatore (98) won by a pin in the finals and capped a 15-0 record with the NFL crown. Shawn Pine (126) nipped Tonawanda's Rock Miller 2-0 in the finals to finish the season with a 15-0-1 showing.

Lewiston-Porter had two wrestlers among the undefeated elite. Both were pushed to the limit by Tonawanda wrestlers before bagging the titles.

Kurt Silvestro (132) came up with six points in the third period to

edge Darryl Smith 6-4, and finish the season with a 12-0 mark. Chuck Dillon (167) was awarded three points in the final period and went on to nip Steve Behrns 3-1 and cap a 14-0 record.

Lew-Port also had another winner in Doug Pryce. The 177-pounder ripped Lester Ellis of LaSalle in the finals 13-2.

Top-seeded Chris Moree of Ken-East was impressive in the tourney and captured the 119-pound crown with a 20-6 drubbing of Lockport's Mike Mullen. Moree had two pins going into the championship bout.

Kenmore West's Dave Travis held off a rally by Niagara-Wheatfield's Dave Ziemendorf and posted an 8-7 win to bag the 105-pound title.

Ed Harris of Niagara Falls posted three decisive wins and captured the 145-pound crown. He was named the tourney's Outstanding Wrestler, as selected by the league coaches in cooperation with The NEWS.

The top two finishers from each weight class will advance to the Section VI Qualifier Tournament Friday and Saturday at Sweet Home. The NFL will also send four wild card wrestlers to the tourney. The names of the wild card wrestlers have not been released.

Five wrestlers from Niagara-Wheatfield were ineligible for the tournament as they wrestled in more than the state limit of 18 matches. The Falcons were involved in a triangular meet at Medina against the host Mustangs and Olean in mid-December. The state wrestling interpreter ruled that the meet counted as two matches, pushing the five wrestlers over the limit.

Two of the wrestlers, Don and Joe Maggard, were top-seeded in the 105 and 138-pound weight classes respectively. Mike DeMeo (177) was

seeded third while Dan Roeser (119) and Mark Jackson (155) were unseeded.

N-W coach Armand "Ace" Cacciatore was fuming over the decision and almost pulled his team from the tourney.

"If I would have gone on my emotions, the team would not have been there," Cacciatore said. "The other kids on the team deserved a chance to compete."

## Orange play Bona

CENTERVILLE, Mass. (UPI) — Berths for this week's three Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I basketball tournaments have been announced. They include the expected Syracuse-St. Bonaventure match-up in New York.

In the combined Southern-Upstate region, St. Bonaventure, 19-7, faces Syracuse, 23-2, in the opening round at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Rochester War Memorial Auditorium. Georgetown (22-4) will meet Old Dominion (21-5) at Richmond, Va., University the same day. The site of the Saturday 2 p.m. championship game will be either the University of Maryland or the Hampton (Va.) Coliseum.

St. Bona won the Little Three title Saturday with a suspenseful 97-90 double overtime win over Canisius.

And, Niagara toppled Siena 76-63 to complete a 6-20 season.

## Griffs defeated

Freshman Dia LaBella and sophomore Mary Jo Lorello contributed 23 points apiece as Hofstra defeated Canisius 76-69 in the New York state AIAW Division II Basketball Tournament Championship.

LaBella, a 5-6 guard from Oyster Bay, was named the Sunday tourney's MVP.