Warriors young and inexperienced

A young team that has gotten its share of ups and downs so far this season marks the Salamanca Warriors as, for the seventh time, they take the task of being the host team in one of the toughest wrestling tournaments in Western New York State, the Salamanca Invitational.

The Warriors have been both up and down in their own tourney although they have never won it. Twice, they finished as high as third and twice they have finished just off the bottom.

Two years ago, Salamanca finished 19th out of 21 teams and then took a 14th last year out of 17 competing teams. This weekend, the tournament equals its highest field ever with 21 schools participating.

Iroquois was the initial winner in 1971 when the tournament began with eight teams. The next year, Portville and Pioneer tied for the top spot but the next three years saw Pioneer walk away with the title each time. Olean finally broke the stranglehold with a 10 point victory over Pioneer last year.

"We do have a very young squad with a lot of inexperience but all are improving," said Salamanca can tarry reyrows, and they can gain a lot more experience and knowledge from a tournament of this size and caliber.

"But being the host team is a real challenge," he went on, "and I know the team takes a lot of pride in hosting it and it definitely is a help to our own program because of the publicity it receives and the kind of wrestling that is done here.

"With this year's team," he continued, "it is going to be awfully tough but I think at least two of our wrestlers have a strong chance at placing in the tournament."

Those two, both freshmen, are Mike LoPresto at 107 pounds and Pete Lee at unlimited.

LoPresto enters competition with a 7-3 mark as he picked up four of those wins last weekend in the Maryvale Tournament in Cheektowaga. He was seeded fifth at Maryvale and immediately pulled off an upset in his first match as he won a 9-8 overtime decision against Corsi of Dunkirk who was a sectional champ last

LoPresto won another bout to advance to the semi-finals but lost his first match there. In the consolations, he won both of his matches by decisions to take third place.

Lee, now with a 10-3 record, was seeded second at Maryvale and took his first match with an 11-0 decision over Bill Holovics of North Tonwanda as the Warrior dominated.

From there, Lee recorded a pin in the semi-finals and then lost to John Lally of Clarence in the finals to take secondplace. Lally, well over six feeet tall, is the top ranked wrestler at unlimited in Western New York, was the defending Maryvale champ and also won in the Sweet Home tourney.

"Both have real good shots," said Reynolds. "Lee has been improving since the Southern Tier Invitational when he was beaten. LoPresto also has gained quite a bit of experience, as his record shows."

Salamanca is fielding just 12 wrestlers as they do not have

entries at 100 pounds or heavyweight. Part of that is due to an early season injury to Marty Redeye but he is expected to be back on the team at unlimited towards the end of the season. George Bryant, also on the injury list, won two of his three decisions, one by a pin, as he would be the Warriors' entry at 100.

So Reynolds and assistant coach Regis Vail have had to do a lot of substituting and they presently have six freshmen, four sophomoress and two juniors in the

The rest of the freshmen include Dave Brewer at 93 pounds with a 1-4 record, Todd Bullers at 128 with an 0-6 mark, Mike Budzinski at 140 and sporting an 0-4 slate and Dan Ciolek at 169 with a 2-6 record.

Sophomores are Randy Dry at 114 and 1-5-1, Andy Muzi at 121 and 1-4, Rick Smith at 134 and 2-4 and Bud Herrick at 179 at 1-7.

The two juniors are Doug Taylor at 147 and a 1-7 mark and Joe Feichter at 157 with an 0-2 record.

The youth of the Warrior team makes it difficult as most are in their first year of varsity competition and have been going against those who are seniors and junion two or three years.

"These ninth graders are gaining experience going against juniors and seniors," said Reynolds. "This is a tough year for most of them and they will have to learn not to get discouraged. They do have a better attitude than last

Weight



WARRIOR WRESTLERS — Members of the 1976-77 Salamanca Warrior wrestling team are, front row from left, Darryl Bowles, Andy Muzi, Randy Dry, Mike LoPresto, Dave Brewer, Dale Colton, Todd Bullers; second row, Ned Watson, Dave Phearsdorf, Lance

Oakes, Todd Dry, Chris LoPresto, Jamie Reynolds, George Bryant, Bill Waite, George Metzler; back row, Marty Redeye, Mike Budzinksi, Dan Ciolek, Joe Feichter, Rick Smith, Doug Taylor, Bud Herrick, Pete Lee. (Press Staff Photo)

good job for being so young."

Salamanca opened is schedule with wins over Fredonia and Gowanda but then have lost meets to Cassadaga Valley, Eisenhower, Bradford, Southwestern and Jamestown.

Record

93		Dave Brewer	Freshman	=	1-4
100					
107		Mike LoPresto	Freshman		7-3
114	17 *	Randy Dry	Sophomore		1-5-1
121		Andy Muzi	Sophomore		1-4
128	171	Todd Bullers	Freshman		0-6
134 *	_ FM =	Rick Smith	Sophomore	* _ = -	2-4
140		Mike Budzinski	Freshman		0-4
147		Doug Taylor	Junior		1-7
157		Joe Feichter	Junior		0-2
169		Dan Ciolek	Freshman		2-6
179		Bud Herrick	Sophomore		1-7
HWT				Υ,	
UNL		Pete Lee	Freshman		10-3

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throughout the tournament keeping charts, team standings and statistics as well as performing a pom-pon routine before the Saturday night finals. Team members are, front from left, co-captain Leslie Flint, Sally Boza, Shelly Hill, Ann Callen, and back row, Donna Colvin, co-captain Julie-Anne Ciolek, Ann Feichter and Debbie Skudlarek.

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