

# Ridge Grapplers Edge Alexander in Opener; Face Rough Schedule in Early Season Slate

By CORY CLARK

After spotting the Alexander squad a quick ten points, Webster's matmen fought back to gain a 22-18 triumph in the first meet of the young mat season Wednesday, November 28, on Alexander's mats.

Starting the season off with a win has been a Webster tradition in the last three years of Varsity wrestling. Last year West's squad fell to the Ridgemen, and it was Alexander's turn this year. Early last season, Alexander's squad traveled to Webster and whipped the Ridgemen 21-16. The revenge was sweet, but it was a hotly contested meet. The Websterites didn't clinch until the last contest was finished. The Blue and Gold squad had to win the last three matches to take the victory; if any of these three wrestlers lost a decision it would have taken two Ridge pins to tie the meet, and if Alexander managed to collect five points for a pin in any of these matches the Ridgemen would have been roundly beaten.

The 1956-57 season is scheduled to be a really tough one for the Ridgemen. In addition to wrestling all the powerful city schools, Webster will face powerhouses like Geneva, Spencerport Seneca Falls, and the Batavia State School for the Blind. The State School will face the Ridgemen Saturday, December 8, in what appears to be a very close meet. The Blue and Gold squad whipped the Batavia 26-16 last year and took a 10-0 identical score the year before, but only because the State School had to forfeit several weight classes. Last year they forfeited 20 points to Webster, then collected 16 points to Webster's 6 in actual matches. This year they are rumored to be filled out in all weights except one, and as a result the Blue and Gold team can expect a really rugged match.

Though the schedule this year is still tentative, the Ridgemen may face 16 or more foes this season.

Ridgemen run into what appears to be a tremendous Charlotte team, where the Blue and Gold will be definite underdogs. Next comes Jefferson, beaten badly by Webster last year and aching for revenge. Spencerport, undefeated last year and back intact this year, looms up next on the schedule. The Orientals from East High School will be the next foe, and as a perennially fine team always appears on the Oriental mats, the Ridgemen will have to scramble to keep up with the city boys. Tough Edison Tech, still smarting after a terrific upset two years ago when Webster's green squad finished with two straight pins to edge the Techmen 25-24, will be next, followed by Monroe's potentially fine team. Ben Franklin follows, victors over Webster two years hence in a one-sided battle.

Brookport follows in what should be an easy triumph for the Ridgemen, then the Blue and Gold squad runs into powerful Madison High. Matches with Rush-Henrietta and Seneca Falls follow, then Wayne Central appears for the fifth time in Webster wrestling history. The Ridgemen have yet to take the boys from Wayne County, and this year might be the break. Geneva, two-time victors over Webster last year, come next, and Medina rounds out the schedule to date. The Medinans were massacred by Webster last year, and will have to improve a great deal if they hope to match the Ridge

squad. There may be several meets added to this schedule, or some subtracted, but in any case it will be the fullest wrestling season in WCS history.

## Ridgemen Experienced

The Ridgemen are loaded with experienced performers this year, especially in the heavier weights. Ernie Tack, a junior, is back in the unlimited class after two fine years of wrestling hence. Bill Tolf can go 175, and Cory Clark can go either 165 or 175. Rev Munson, co-captain this year, will be a 'rock' at either 154 or 165, and co-captain Ron Holtz can go either 145 or 156. Both co-captains were outstanding grapplers for the Webster squad last year, and promise to be again this year. Rev. Ron, Cory and Bill are all seniors in their last year of Varsity wrestling.

In the middle weights, Dave Bilek can go either 138 or 145, and Pete Lansing ranges the 130s, wrestling either 133 or 138. Richie Hogan, another junior, can go 127 or 133, and Roy Hiller, a sophomore, will be a fixture at either 120 or 127. Bill Kehrig, a junior who led the Ridgemen in almost every department last year and compiled an 11-2 record, will alternate between 112 and 120. The two 'green' men, Jerry Heiniger at 112 and John Elter, an 86-pounder who wrestles in the 95-pound class or at 103, complete Webster's probable starting team this year.

Many experienced performers will fill in the weights, with Junior Barry Swift a comer at 156 or lighter and Alan Henderson, hero of the sensational Seneca Falls match last year, at heavy-weight. A squad of almost thirty reported for the first practice, and the first 15 will make up the 'A' team in a new system this year. The second-string squad will be called the 'B' team, have their own practices and meets, and mingle sparingly with the starters.

For the first time, Coach Robert Terbusch is installing the 'challenge' system of wrestling eliminations, with any member of the 'B' squad eligible to challenge a member of the 'A' team to secure a starting position. In this system, the 'B' team wrestler has to beat the 'A' boy once if he hasn't yet wrestled a Varsity match, and twice if he has. Last year and in preceding years, the simple eliminations system has been used.

## Bad Start Overcome

At first, it looked like a bad day for the Ridgemen at Alexander as the hosts started off with two fast pins to rack up a score of 10-0. In the 103-pound clash, Webster's John Elter could not handle Alexander's Bruce Thrifthauser as the Alexandrian racked up a takedown and a near fall in the first period and an escape in the second before he pinned John almost midway in the second period. Thrifthauser was much taller and heavier than the Webster boy, and nobody felt too let-down yet.

Jerry Heiniger, Webster's 112-pounder, took on Alexander's Paul Glor, a Sectional champ, in the next match, and was pinned for his trouble in the second period. Glor, a blond bomber who was one of the two grapplers to decision Billy Kehrig last year,

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## Webster Grid Season Reviewed, Outstanding in Statistics

by Cory Clark

Webster's 7-1-0 season record for '56 makes it tops in many, many years for WCS. Certainly comes all the way, Webster's glory this season extended over statistics as well as actual scores. There is no question that 1956 was one of the finest seasons in Webster history, and probably the Ridgemen of '56 could have beaten any previous Ridge squad. Just being co-champs wasn't enough for these boys; they had to overwhelm all their opponents and really look like a championship team.

Statistics prove the story this year. So often statistics lie, because they don't take into account such abstract details such as team spirit, drive, and stamina. But a great statistical edge shows the definite superiority of any team, and this year the Ridgemen 'had it'.

Congratulations go to Coach Oscar Cochl for a fine job coaching another championship squad, and Assistant Coach Colt Conant for his instrumental part in training the backfield and conditioning the team. No lineman will forget Athletic Director Herb Hatt's rugged pre-season drills, either.

## Six Seniors Honored

Some 23 seniors saw the team of their pride and joy go out winning, and they went out with it. Loaded with material this year, the Ridgemen always came through to utilize it. Six seniors were mentioned for the All-Star County team, with Dick Kleinhammer, Curt Higley, and Cory Clark getting first-team berths. Tackle Jerry Feek made the second team, and Dave Sweet and Art Mundy received honorable mention. The backfield all retire into Webster history with the exception of a few juniors. Lost is one of the greatest backs in CWC history, Dick Kleinhammer, at left halfback. Ron Seitz, Neil VanHorn, well-known for real slam-bang runs, and fullback Rev Munson. Quarterbacks Neil Sweezey, Carl Newton, and Ray Barresse retire from the high school gridiron to complete the backfield losses.

On the line, Center Curt Higley will no longer lead the Ridgemen to victory, and his alternate, Bob O'Neill, will also graduate. Guards Cory Clark, Bill Tolf, Bill Gray, Darwin Dorr and Alan Bartholomew will be lost thru graduation. Tackles Art Mundy, Jerry Feek, and Jim Erklenz will no longer ballast the line. Ends lost are Dave Sweet, Terry Burnett, Dave McKenna, and Jim Cooper.

## Terrific Offense

Just how overpowering the Ridgemen were in team strength and spirit this year is reflected in the scoring totals. While the Ridgemen were racking up 215 points with a crunching, almost unstoppable offense, the rock-ribbed defense was among the best in the conference, allowing opponents a total of 61 points. Averaging 25.9 points per game, the Ridgemen swept past opponents, who averaged a paltry 7.6 points per game. In total offense, the Ridgemen had a plurality of more than 1000 yards; reflected in the astounding figures of 2373 for Webster to 1348 for opponents. Webster game average was 296.8; opponents averaged 168.5.

Webster's rushing offense this year was overpowering. The 1921 yards gained rushing eclipses opponent's 844 with great ease, and the Ridgemen racked up a rushing average of 240.1 against opponent's average of 105.5. Opponents outdid the Ridgemen in passing, 504 yards on 90 tries, 30 completions, against Webster's 452 on 62 tries, 22 completions. Average gains in passing each game was 63 for opponents, 56.5 for the Ridgemen.

First downs were hardly a Webster specialty, as the Ridgemen actually managed as few as six first downs in games they scored as many as 46 points. In the Irondequoit game the Ridgemen managed a record 406 yards in total offense, yet again they could calculate only six first downs. However, in the game against Fairport won by the Reds, 14-12, the Ridgemen had 15 first downs.

## Heads-up Ball

Fumbullitis has hit Webster pretty hard this season, with the Ridgemen fumbling 25 times to opponents 24. The Ridgemen, however, lost only 11 of those fumbles; opponents gave away 18. The Ridgemen played heads-up ball, evidenced in that and the fact they intercepted 21 of 90 passes, making it quite dangerous to throw against the Ridgemen. Seven Webster heaves were hauled down by the outside party, a tribute to the accuracy of Webster passers. The best example of heads-up ball was evidenced in the Webster-Brighton game which gave the co-championship to the Ridgemen. Webster fumbled twice and recovered both of them; Brighton lost all five fumbles. The Ridgemen threw six times, with not one going astray into waiting Baron hands; the Brighton

quarterback heaved nine passes and groaned as five of them found the wrong pair of hands.

If you couldn't pass against Webster, you certainly couldn't run. In one game, the LeRoy squad garnered a total of 10 yards rushing and two first downs. In the same game they tried 22 passes, completing six and having four find the wrong mark, one for a TD. East Rochester rushed for 62 while Webster totalled 316 rushing; Irondequoit rushed for 75 while the Ridgemen gained 287 on the ground. Lyons gained 80 rushing to Webster's 287. It was clearly proved during the season that when it came to rushing defense, the Ridgemen were tops.

## Only One 'Loaf'

In a brief review of the season, the Webster squad appeared to dominate all teams. In only one game did they loaf, that one against Newark. Kleinhammer's interception and subsequent TD pulled that one out for Webster, too. The Ridgemen led off the season with a 46-0 massacre of an outclassed Lyons eleven, scoring almost at will with either of three alternating teams. The Ridgemen had a yardage total of 367 to Lyons' 95 in that game. The Ridgemen dropped the next one to co-champion Fairport as Fullback Bill Rumpf ruined the Ridgemen with a last-minute, 55-yard dash after the Blue and Gold squad went ahead in the fourth quarter after a really tight battle. Both teams clamored for a rematch, but the general consensus of opinion was that the Reds got worse after a fast start, and the Ridgemen got better. For instance, the Reds lost to Brighton and narrowly beat Irondequoit.

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## "Jenny 5" Takes On All Teams In New Genesee Bowling Contest



"JENNY" and the "JENNY 5"

From left, Lou Raschlatore, Harold Weiner, Joe Koch, "Jenny", Marky Chafel and Johnny Quinzl.

All across the Empire State, there is one bowling team all other bowling teams want to beat the most and this is the "Jenny 5" Team, Champions of last year's New York State Tournament.

For this reason, the Genesee Brewing Company, sponsors of the "Jenny 5" are giving every kegling team in upstate New York a chance to meet and beat

are: Western New York State; Southwestern New York State; Southeastern New York State; Eastern New York State; Central

# Wrestling . . .

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racked up a 9-0 lead in a definitely one-sided match before flattening Jerry. At that point the hosts had their longest lead of the afternoon.

Bill Kehrig never quite pinned Alexander's Jimmy Richert in a 'take-charge' match, but he wound up on the right end of an 8-2 score for his first win of the season. Billy went out and snapped Richert to the mat, then narrowly missed pinning him in the first period as the clock ran out too soon. He quickly reversed his man in the second period and escaped after Richert reversed him, and held his man on the mat all through the third period.

Roy Hiller had a rough time against Elton Beecher, a man he beat by 7-4 last year, and lost by a 5-0 score. Beecher got the takedown late in the first period, held Roy down during the second, and reversed and collected a point for predicament in the third, accounting for the five points.

## Five Out of Six

At that point in the match Alexander held a 13-3 edge, but off the final Ridge rally in a afterwards the Ridgemen won tight match against Nelson Good. Five of six matches to take over Ron made the takedown late in the lead. Richie Hogan started out the first period and escaped in the Webster rally by quickly the second. The grapplers could be crushing Ted Rickford in charge no where on their feet again asteristic style. Rickford got the after the escape, so Ron held a takedown on Hogan's miscue, but 3-0 advantage going into the third

a split second later Richie reversed and final period. Ron held his ed and Ted was looking at the man to the mat, as usual, and lights. Rickford wiggled out of Webster pulled within four points the first pinning combination, but of the hosts with Holtz's 3-0 tri-Hogan came right back with a umph.

vice-like half-nelson combination that ended the match in 1:59 — just one second before the period ended.

Pete Lansing had little trouble with Norm Beecher in the 135-pound class, holding the advantage almost from the first whistle. The Webster boy instantly made the takedown and held the advantage throughout the first period, kept Beecher's tiring form on the mat all through the second period, and finished out by reversing with a far-side switch and riding his man out the last period. Pete's 4-0 triumph brought the team score up to 13-11, still in favor of Alexander, but the Ridge trap was closing.

Webster's stock sagged a little when Alexander's Dave Townsend recorded the last Alexander win of the meet by pinning Dave Bliek in 4:45 after taking a 4-0 lead. Townsend held the advantage most of the way before he ended the match, and the hosts took an 18-11 lead.

Co-captain Ron Holtz started out the final Ridge rally in a tight match against Nelson Good. Ron made the takedown late in the lead. Richie Hogan started out the first period and escaped in the Webster rally by quickly the second. The grapplers could be crushing Ted Rickford in charge no where on their feet again asteristic style. Rickford got the after the escape, so Ron held a takedown on Hogan's miscue, but 3-0 advantage going into the third

## Wise Position

The real break of the meet came when Rev Munson faced Alexander's Dennis Bialkowski in the 165-pound class. Neither man could take an advantage in the first period, and Rev wisely chose the top position for the second. Riding his man into the mat, Rev found his opportunity late in the second period and clamped on his half-nelson pinning combination, tightened it up, and the pin in 3:56 with four seconds remaining in the period gave Webster a slim lead of 19-18 after a long struggle from behind.

It wasn't quite all over, but the Ridgemen were on the way up and had the momentum characteristic of Webster teams all this year. Ernie Tack took on Stan Staba in the unlimited class, and the Webster heavyweight came up with a 4-0 triumph with a takedown in the first period and a reverse in the finale to ice the meet for Webster. Final team score was 22-18, the first win of the season for Webster.

Since most of the Ridgemen were wrestling in a heavier weight class than usual, the results of the meet are not surprising. With the December limit giving an extra pound in legal match weight to each classification, most of the Ridgemen will be able to wrestle

at a lighter weight class next time, improving their chances of winning considerably. They'll need the improved chances for Batavia State in what appears to be a really fine match.

## LINEUPS:

103 John Elter (Webster) vs Bruce Thrifthauser (Alexander). Thrifthauser won by a pin in 2:45.

112 Jerry Heineger (W) vs Paul Glor (A). Glor won by a pin in 2:35.

120 Billy Kehrig . . . 8 (W) vs 2 . . . Jimmy Richert (A).

127 Roy Hiller . . . 0 (W) vs 5 . . . Elton Beecher (A).

133 Richie Hogan (W) vs. Ted Rickford (A). Hogan won by a pin in 1:59.

138 Pete Lansing . . . 4 (W) vs 0 . . . Norm Beecher (A).

145 Dave Bliek (W) vs Dave Townsend (A). Townsend won by a pin in 4:45.

156 Ron Holtz . . . 3 (W) vs 0 . . . Nelson Good.

165 Rev Munson (W) vs Dennis Bialkowski (A). Munson won by a pin in 3:56.

Unl. Ernie Tack . . . 4 (W) vs 0 . . . Stan Staba .

## Exhibitions

Dave Robinson (W) vs Gene Bontriger (A). Robinson won by a pin in 5:59.

Barry Swift (W) vs Francis Phillips (A). Swift won by a pin in 3:54.

## W. Webster Auxiliary

The West Webster Firemen's Auxiliary will hold a Christmas party at Valley Echo on Wednesday, December 12. Reservations must be made with Norma Keuter, Webster 990-J. There will be a dollar gift exchange.

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