

Comets, Bombers to Rule County East Again

It will be a typical battle for top spot in the Monroe County Wrestling League Eastern Division this year. Perennial favorites Rush-Henrietta and East Rochester have strong, well-balanced teams and look like the powers again.

The Comets, under the tutelage of Gordon Gilfilean, finished first in the East last year with an 8-0 mark. The team has 1970-71 County champions Warren Stumpf and Dale Nupp back plus Mike Maddock who finished fifth in the county last year.

Stumpf, who wrestled in the 132-pound weight class last season, will move up to 138. He finished with an 8-0 record last year and was ranked fourth in the state. His career record at R-H is 20-1.

Nupp, a county champ at 126 pounds last year, will take over Stumpf's spot at 132. The able senior won eight straight matches without a loss before taking top honors in the counties.

Mike Maddock and Bob Cucci placed fifth in their respective weight classes last year. Maddock will occupy the 105-pound slot and Cucci, who also was undefeated in his junior year, will wrestle at 145.

Carl Nielson and Dave Hept, both of whom placed in the Monroe County finals last season, are also returning for the Comets. Nielson will handle the 112-pound position and Hept will wrestle heavyweight.

"I have great hopes for these boys," said Gilfilean. "This is a once-in-a-life-time type of club."

The Comets lost only two wrestlers from last year's starting lineup — Tom Korn and Quentin Gordon.

East Rochester, coached by Don Quinn, lost its only match

of the 1970-71 season to Rush-Henrietta, 20-18. Quinn, who owns an impressive 184-7-1 record in his 13 years as varsity coach at ER, is looking forward to a neck-and-neck race with the Comets.

"It should be a good battle," said Quinn. "R-H has some tough kids and I could have one of my better teams."

Keith Cotroneo and Ron Whitcomb, both seniors, were unbeaten for the Bombers last season.

Cotroneo, who finished at 13-0, will join Arman Mariannetti, a junior who ended last year with a 10-3 mark, to give

ER a reliable winning combination in the 126 and 119-pound weight classes, respectively.

Je Marion, a 175-pounder who finished second in the county last year with a 10-2 record, will add strength to the upper weights.

Other returnees include senior Dan Duffey at the 132-pound spot, junior Bill Schick at the 155-pound position and senior Mark Young wrestling heavyweight. All three posted 9-4 records last year.

Sophomore Tim Duffey had an outstanding 10-3 finish and will occupy the 145-pound slot.

Quinn may rely on Jeff Ver-

zella, a sophomore, to fill the 98-pound class. Other promising youngsters are 112-pound Dominic Aloisio and 138-pound Jim Smith.

The return of county champions Dave and Jim Polsonelli and Ray Joseph could make Eastridge another top contender.

Both Polsonelli's are juniors, Dave wrestling in the 105 pound category and Jim in the 119-pound class. Jim was unbeaten in the 112 division last year.

Joseph captured the county crown in the unlimited division last season but will start this year as a heavyweight.

Senior co-captains Paul Nowack and Steve Volpe give the middle of the Lancers' lineup experience.

Eastridge finished in third place behind R-H and ER last year.

Brighton will be paced by junior Mike Behrend, who was runnerup to Rush-Henrietta's Dale Nupp in the 126-pound division, posting a 12-3 record. Behrend, a junior will handle the 132-pound class this year.

George Reynolds at 167 and Dave Carr at heavyweight will bolster the Barons' higher weights. The latter compiled a 12-3 mark in 1970-71.

Seniors Dave Dietrich and Carmen Rinaldis will strengthen the middle classes, wrestling at 138 and 145 pounds, respectively.

"I hope to improve over last year (7-7)," said Brighton coach Duncn Ververs. "Rush and East Rochester will be a dog-fight."

Returning juniors will keep Pete Logan's Fairport crew in contention. Seniors Rich Cleveland and Randy Williamson help make the middle weight classes solid. Cleveland, an All-County halfback



RON WHITCOMB
... 13-0 last year



MARK YOUNG
... ER heavyweight



Keith Cotroneo down, Bill Schick in referees position.

in football, will be at 165 while Williamson, 6-1 last season, takes the 145-pound post.

Three juniors, John DuMond at 105, Dave Stolt at 98 and Roger Pierce at 132, will anchor the lower weight divisions. They will be joined by 112-pound senior Mike Lahr, who finished at 5-5 last year.

Kevin Lennon, a 132-pound transfer from New Jersey, heads the list of promising youngsters.

"I think we'll do better this year," said Logan. "We lost a couple close ones last year."

Pittsford Coach Ed Farquhar will depend on co-captains Bill Lisi and Andy Snow to stabilize the Knights' lineup.

Snow, who placed sixth in the County Finals last year, will handle the 119-pound class and Lisi will occupy the 177-pound division. Both wrestlers are seniors.

Avery Kelsey, along with Lisi, make the upper weights the Knights' big advantage. Kelsey, a senior, will be at the heavyweight post.

Senior Mark Black, at 145 pounds, is a bright spot in Pittsford's middle weight

classes.

Webster has 10 lettermen returning and could give the highly-touted Eastern Division favorites some stiff competition.

Tom Van Hall, who placed fifth in last season's County Finals, will be at the 155-pound spot for the second straight year. A junior, Van Hall had a 9-2 record in the 1970-71 season.

Greg Greer, who had seven wins in eight matches last year, will wrestle in the 132-pound class. In the division following Greer, 138, will be Bob Whitbeck, a senior.

Mitch Smith, a junior, will fill the 98-pound slot. Smith posted a 9-3 mark last year.

"We'll be right up in there," promised Webster coach Jack Yengo. "We've got a good shot at third place."

Penfield is strong in the middle weights and should improve on last year's 1-7 mark.

Paul Stemmer, the third-ranked cross-country runner in the state, will handle the 119-pound spot. Junior Paul Suter, in his second year of wrestling, will start at the 112 position.