

— Geneva vs. Mynderse —

Finagling Expected in the Big Mat Test

Behind the scenes of high school wrestling there is a lot of finagling and juggling going on and it is a foregone conclusion that this fine art of finagling will be at its peak on Friday night at Seneca Falls.

The finaglers will be Geneva High Coach Elmer Leach and Mynderse Academy mentor Pete DeBottis. Both want this final match of the league season to be undisputed Wayne-Finger Lakes championship for Mynderse. It would mean a title tie for Geneva which has won the crown in its only years of the league's existence.

The finagling comes as each event of the 12 match program is announced. It turns out to be a first class chess match as long as there is a chance to win the title.

Here's how it will work on Friday night. As each event is announced, DeBottis, as the home coach, must name his wrestler first for the event. It is then up to Leach to find someone who can make the weight and who can beat his opponent.

It also means that a coach may sacrifice a weight class in order to avoid putting one good man against an opponent he feels is better than his boy.

For example, if Leach had a 127 pounder who he felt was better than his own 133 pounder but not as good as the 127 pounder from Mynderse, he might sacrifice a less able 127 pounder in expectation of having a better chance to at least win the 133 pound event.

Because these coaches are finaglers, it is possible that some of the top wrestlers from these two schools will not meet on Friday.

However, it is unlikely that even finaglers will be able to avoid big and exciting battles in the final three matches. There each school has most of its two wrestlers. Geneva has Dick Post, Dick Atkinson, Jay Covert, Ken Braun and Dick Moore to choose from in the top three events. Mynderse pretty much goes with Heiti Kotkas, Bob Buchwald and Irv Dunham.

The meet may hinge on the lighter weights where the contestants appear fairly evenly

matched. Mynderse is considered having a slim edge in the middle-weights while Geneva is believed a little stronger in the heavy weights.

Leach, who has the unusual feeling of being underdog for this match, doesn't think "this will be a runaway for either team. If we can get lucky in a couple of weights and the others come through, we'll give them a rough time."

DeBottis, who admits that "this is all I've thought about for the last 10 or 12 days," figures it will "be a match well worth seeing."

DeBottis expects that Leach,

with a deeper squad, will be doing more finagling than himself. "I have 12 boys and while I can shift a few of them around, it will be the same 12 going that have kept us going all season."

One key decision will come early in the match when Leach has to decide whether to send his ace light weight, Pete Blum against Mynderse's undefeated Floyd Seigfreid. Both alternate mostly between the 120 and 127 pound events.

Finagling may have a lot to do with the outcome, but in this battle "for all the marbles," will be decided as always, by the wrestlers.

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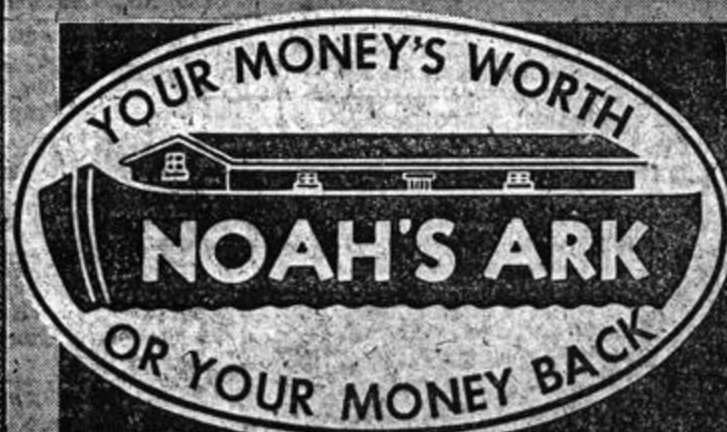
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