
Maroons to Sponsor Mat Tournament Wednesday

Eight Schools to Compete All Day at ACC Gymnasium

The Sixth Annual Auburn High Invitational Wrestling Tournament will be held all day Wednesday at the Auburn Community College gymnasium.

Eight schools will compete for the championship trophy with preliminary events scheduled to start at 11 a.m. Semifinals are slated for 3 p.m. and bouts for third place will be held at 6:30 p.m. The finals will take to the mats at 8 p.m.

Geneva High Panthers will be on hand to defend last year's crown along with such well balanced teams as Rome Free Academy, East Rochester, Baldwinsville and the host Maroons. All five clubs are rated strong contenders.

Other teams in the tourney with individual stars are Mynderse Academy of Seneca Falls, West Genesee and Oneida.

A breakdown of the five top teams in the tourney are:

GENEVA
Four outstanding Geneva wrestlers give Geneva confidence that the Panthers will be able to retain their hard won Auburn Invitational Wrestling Tournament championship at Auburn Community College on Wednesday. Fresh from a tournament victory in the Wayne-Finger Lakes Tournament which involved participants from eleven schools the Panthers are confident they can win in Auburn.

Outstanding wrestler in the 1963 Auburn tournament, Dave Van Gordon is back to see if he can be the first wrestler to win this coveted trophy a second time. Dave added to this honor by winning all of his 24 matches in 1963-64 and emerged as the Section V champion in the 154 lb. class. To date this year he has won five matches. Joining Dave as champion in the 1963 Auburn Tournament was Peter Achilles, who won the 97 lb. class a year ago. Peter has moved up to the 105 lb. class this year and has an unbeaten record, winning 21-1 last year and is 5-0 for the present season.

Another Geneva wrestler with an outstanding record is Carl Marchese, the 122 lb. class competitor, whose 18 wins and 4 losses last year, brought him the league championship in his class and whose record is 3-2 this year. Carl has moved from the 112 lb. class to the 122 lb. class.

Donald Jones, the Geneva heavyweight, had 13 wins and 4 losses last year and is 4-1 so far this year. Wayne Klue, co-captain with Dave Van Gordon, also gives Geneva added strength with an excellent record in the 167 lb. class. Jones finished fourth in the Section V tournament last year. Louis Gillotti is another who is undefeated to date—with 5 wins to his credit in the 97 lb. class.

Despite their fine record of a year ago the Auburn Maroons gave the Geneva matmen a convincing 27-14 shellacking and feel they have an excellent chance against them in tournament competition. Coach Joe Morrisette of the Geneva squad, has a splendid six year record of 68 wins and 15 losses.

BALDWINSVILLE
Baldwinsville's Bees will rate as tournament darkhorse in their bid for their first Auburn Invitational Tournament championship. The Onondaga County team has a new coach this year in the person of Leo Johnson—a product of the Amityville, L. I. High School team and Cortland College.

Coach Johnson moved to Baldwinsville after four years of successful coaching at East Syracuse-Minoa Central School. Starting at the very bottom in his former assignment Leo brought his lads from nowhere to a second place finish in the NYSPHSAA Section 3 tournament a year ago.

His fine coaching lead his boys to their very best efforts and have resulted in establishing a coaching record of 49 wins, 10 losses and 2 ties in his four years at the helm.

Baldwinsville finished in second place in the Onondaga County League last year and was one of the two teams defeating the Maroons of Auburn decisively in 1963-64 season—the other team being Leo Johnson's team at East Syracuse-Minoa.

Whether he can take the Bees to the league championship in one year remains to be seen and his success in the Auburn tournament might be used as a measuring stick towards league honors.

The Bees strongest scoring effort should come from Brandy Litterbrant, third in this fine family of wrestlers; Steve Morgan who was a second place winner here last year; Jack Butler, whose five wins to date this season have all been on pins; Gene Powers ace in 135 lb. class; Ed Hatten, third here last year with three wins already this year in the 147 lb. class and Cal Wright who is undefeated this year in the 156 lb. class. Al LaFrance, heavyweight, Bill Schrader, 105 lb. class, and Ralph Atwater, 97 pounder.

EAST ROCHESTER
The Brown Bombers from East Rochester will return to Auburn on Wednesday in an effort to win their second tournament wrestling championship after a year's leave from Auburn competition.

Coach Don Quinn's 1961 team won the Auburn tournament on their first try, with an excellent display of team depth and the top score for team effort in the five years the tournament has been conducted—totaling 88 points.

One of the outstanding teams in Section V East Rochester will be joined by two additional Section V teams, Geneva and Mynderse Academy of Seneca Falls in their tournament bid.

Coach Quinn's team participates in the Monroe County League of 16 schools and won the Monroe County Championship last year, and placed second in their league's wrestling activities.

Coach Quinn's record of 89 wins and 3 losses tops that of all coaches entering the Auburn Holiday tournament. With 10 lettermen on his 1964 squad, the East Rochester's delegation has to rate as one of the favorites for the championship.

ROME

Rome Free Academy will be participating in the Auburn tournament for the sixth time and will be trying hard to maintain their fine record of never scoring below fourth place. In four of their five tries the Black Knights have finished in second place—giving them the highest total achieved by the participating teams.

Coach Ed Weed will have two returning Auburn tournament champions in Larry Plunkett and Curtis Foulks. Plunkett has been an outstanding wrestler for Coach Weed and must rate as one of the finest to ever participate in the Auburn tournament as he has won a championship in each of the three years in which he competed, an honor no other wrestler has been able to accomplish.

In 1961 Larry won the 97 lb. class; in 1962 the 105 lb. class and last year he won in the 122 lb. class.

Foulks also gives Rome's undefeated 1964 team real strength. A very strong competitor, Curtis won the 165 lb. championship a year ago and must rule the favorite in his class again this year. Keith Kinna (105), Tom Thomas (122), Richard DePrespero (156) and Jack Zeock (heavywt.) are also undefeated wrestlers whose combined efforts could bring Rome their first Auburn tournament championship.

One of the unique facts about the fine Rome squads is that they were twice successful in winning the Section 3 NYSPHSAA Tournament during the past five years, yet were unable to win the Auburn tournament—a distinct tribute to the type of competition the local tournament presents.

Coach Weed's record of 14 years with the Rome matmen is 132 wins, 29 losses and 2 ties.

AUBURN

Auburn's Maroons are apt to be one of the contending teams for the team trophy in the tournament.

To date the Maroons have excelled in dual meet competition, defeating five opponents by decisive scores. Among the teams defeated are Canandaigua, Cazenovia, Cortland, Oneida and Fulton giving the Maroons very keen competition despite a convincing team score victory.

Whether the Maroons have the necessary individual quality to win the tournament will be the secret of Auburn's success in the tournament.

Mat officials say teams will need to have at least three or four very outstanding men—good enough to get to the finals with at least two winning victories. Since the winning wrestlers must each win three bouts the road to the championship is a difficult one.

Auburn's tournament scoring will depend basically on the success of its presently undefeated wrestlers—John Lattimore in the 105 lb. class; Carl Catalano in the 114 lb. class; Ron Ross in the 129 lb. class; Jay Robinson in the 140 lb. class; Fred Prentice in the 147 lb. class; Art Cross in the 154 lb. class and Dave Weinstein in the heavyweight class.

Each of these boys will find several outstanding wrestlers in their weight classes and will need to present their very best efforts to achieve a championship status coach Dick Jones said.

Other Auburn wrestlers who will be able to add to the team score are Bob Rareke or Bob Patten in the 97 lb. class; Fred Waters or Dick Beauchene in the 122 lb. class; Steve Weldon or Pete Stephenson in the 135 lb. class; with Dave Underwood in the 167 lb. class and Bob Sincerbeaux in the 182 lb. class.

Veteran wrestlers for the Maroon include Capt. Prentice, whose 14 win, 4 loss, 1 tie record in 1963-64 has been augmented by a 5-0 standing to date this year, and Cross, who had a 15-3-1 record last year and has a 5-0 rating this year.

Weinstein, Auburn's heavyweight, has shown considerable improvement since his draw match with the Cazenovia heavyweight, and he may be a surprise for the other contenders in his weight class.

Ross and Catalano also have had considerable experience and to cop the tournament championship. Lattimore, although only a sophomore has shown well this year and may be championship caliber.

Coach Jones's Maroons had a fine 1963-64 season, losing but two meets and were the only school to defeat three strong wrestling opponents—Rome, Geneva and Canandaigua.

Auburn lost its two Auburn Tournament Champions of 1963—Jack Hilbert and Dave Ruetsch through graduation.