

SUNY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The matmen now look toward the SUNY Championships which are held this year at Cortland on Saturday, February 27th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The consolations will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the finals at 8:00 p.m. According to Coach Jim Howard, the Dragons are the defending champions as you recall they edged the Lakers 17-72 last year. And this year, Cortland has beaten our matmen twice, 17-15 and 21-15.

The Laker defending champions are All-American Wally Jaskot, two-time SUNY Champ with a record of 14-3 this season and looks good to repeat as champion of the 118 class again. Tommy Fitch also a two-time SUNY Champ ready to repeat after his outstanding performance against Stroudsburgh and is now 4-2 on the season, however, both of Fitch's losses are at the 177 class and did never look tough at 158 the other evening. Fitch could be very hard pressed by Doug Hartman, last year's 150 lb. champ, and Ralph Pazzo with a record now of 8-5-3. He'll be out to revenge his loss to Brockport's Dan Buckheit earlier in the year.

Other Lakers who will be real tough are, Tommy Ball with a record of 10-4-2 who will be running for Ron Tortorici from Cortland, who was the runner-up to John Walter last year. Tortorici has beaten Ball 5-4 and 4-2 in previous meetings. An upset here would really push the Lakers forward. Then there's Carl Carrozza with a record of 8-9 beaten only by Pete Schmidt of Brockport 3-1 in the conference, however, he has beaten Cortland's Jim Davey 7-2 and 8-0. And Davey has beaten Schmidt. Ernie Williams 11-3-2 and a 17-4-2 overall, including a 3rd place finish in this year's Wilkes Open. This is an outstanding soph record, one that will stand for a long time. However, Ernie will have to upset defending champion Stan Rogers, who he beat 3-2 in an earlier dual meet. And for big John Simmonds, now 10-5, he must beat defending champion Ken Chlacter, Cortland, who has pinned John twice. Maybe John is ready after his big victory 8-6 over East Stroudsburgh's heavy red Compean.