



Teike Calls R-H A Powerhouse.
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By Ray Buck

Teike Calls R-H A Powerhouse

Butch Teike has done everything expected of a 14-year-old freshman . . . and more, but his almost flawless record of 10-0-1 hangs in limbo as he prepares for the biggest match of his life. He perhaps will never again feel the same degree of eerie loneliness he is about to experience.

Butch, the son of Coach Walt Teike, typifies Spencerport's brilliance of youth that must stand up under the cruel pressure of Rush-Henrietta's superior experience on East-West Day — the County championship of wrestling — Saturday (8:30 p.m.) at RIT.

Teike is expected to be paired off against Dale Nupp, the defending County champion, at 135 pounds.

"Butch is going to be scared to death," says Coach Teike. "It's inevitable. Anytime a freshman has to go against a senior, he's got to be frightened.

"Nupp, besides, is the County champion. He has strength, speed and superior knowledge."

Walt Teike isn't allowing his wrestlers to get inflated heads over their 12-0 season, 8-0 in the County West. He cautions: Rush-Henrietta, 7-0 in the County East and 10-1 overall, is simply awesome.

"Potentially," he says of R-H, "they have a champion at every weight class. We feel like the Christians being led into the Roman Coliseum to face the Lions."

Teike, understandably, finds it difficult to separate himself as father and coach of young Butch. Impossible, in fact. He thinks aloud, "I wish he'd go out for swimming . . . I know he's in pain when he wrestles."

Butch underwent surgery on his right knee last September and must have an operation on his left knee once the season is over. Then he had his ear operated on during the season, so it's been continuous agony.

But wrestling has become Butch's life and like any father or any coach — Walt Teike proud of his 135-pounder. Would he really not a swimmer? No, he admits.

"Butch learned how to bridge when he was a small baby, really," says Coach Teike. "Then, one advantage, he liked me and would follow me around when I scouted other teams. He watched and thought and analyzed . . . and he probably knows more about wrestling now than I do."

Spencerport has been in the championship match of East-West Day the past two years and both times won, beating East Rochester in 1970 and Rush-Henrietta last February.

"This year's team, though, is its own team," says Coach Teike. "We will start possibly two freshmen, maybe three, and four sophomores. It's a completely different team."

Teike feels Rush-Henrietta, overall, is better balanced than either of those teams he beat the past two years and, "Good gosh," he says, "everybody knows ER was the best!"

Teike moans a bit about being the so-called home team that, under tournament rules, must wrestle at neutral RIT.

"Plus," he says, "we still have the disadvantage of declaring first. Rush is not only good, but deep. We can't play their juggling game.

"They'll just have to come and get us. If they beat us with our regular lineup, then okay, they're the champs."

Teike says 155-pound Ray Maier, who hurt his leg two weeks ago, is a doubtful starter.

But if the meet comes down to heavy-weight, it's a battle of unbeaten with R-H's Dave Hept going against Spencerport's Dave Baxter. Baxter beat Hept on East-West Day a year ago, 5-3.

"Hept has such an advantage," says Teike, maintaining his low-keyed outlook. "He weighs 218 pounds; Baxter weighs 184. Baxter's quickness is his biggest asset . . . but Hept isn't slow.

"And that pancake isn't Hept's only move, either. You worry about the pancake and he hits you with something else."