FRANK DeANGELIS —
"MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER"

By Neil Kerr

One year ago, 138-pound junior Frank DeAngelis of Spencerport—5 was voted as the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" at the conclusion of the 12th annual New York State Intersectional Tournament here. No junior had ever earned that prestigious award before.

This weekend, 138-pound senior Frank DeAngelis of Spencerport—5 returns to the Onondaga County War Memorial, bringing with him a varsity career record of 98-1 as he shoots for a second straight title.

Two-time State wrestling champions are rare. In fact, only 14 athletes have won Intersectional titles two straight years since the State Tournament originated in 1963. Only one wrestler — 119-pound Dan Hunt of West Genesee—3 last year — has been a three-time State king.

Can DeAngelis repeat?

"Frank knows there will be a lot of pressure in Syracuse," observed Spencerport coach Walt Tieke last week. "But he's ready."

Early last month, DeAngelis suffered stretched liagments while competing in the Monroe County Tournament and was sidelined for two matches. But since his return Frank has been working overtime to prepare for another Intersectional crown. Said Tieke: "Last Saturday, when Frank won the Section Five Tournament, he looked better than he has all year."

In Rochester, DeAngelis was voted as the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" last Saturday as he won a third straight Section Five 138-pound title, and moved to within two wins of the century plateau. (Frank's only varsity defeat occurred against Bellmore Kennedy's two-time State champion, Steve Hunte, two years ago in the semifinals of the Intersectional Tournament at Utica. The Score was 16-9.

In Syracuse, standing between DeAngelis and a potential final career record of 102-1 is an outstanding field of rugged 138-pounders from across the state. In his opening Friday bout, Frank will oppose Jeff Nicholson (24-4) of Woodlands—1.

The remainder of the 138-pound Intersectional class consists of:

three-time Section Ten champion Kelly Geary (22-1) of Ogdensbu three-time Section Seven king Bruce Bonville (24-2-1, 66-6-1 career) Peru—7, unbeaten Scott Arnel (26-0) — who was named "Most O standing" at the Section Eight tourney, two-time Section Nine ki Mike Harris (24-1) of Newburgh Free Academy, unbeaten Mike Ka naugh (30-0) of Voorheesville—2, Joe Ventaloro (25-2-1) of perenn Long Island power Brentwood Ross—11, muscular John Clark (29-3) Sandy Creek—3, Gene Tundo (27-1) of Frontier—6 and Karl Ehnth (26-5-1) of Vestal—4.

If DeAngelis managed to conquer that field, he'll join a list of pa two-time Intersectional kings which includes: John Harris (Hem stead—8) in 1963-64, Ken Melchior (Lindenhurst—11) in 1964-6 Claude Poole (Ithaca—4) in 1965-66, John Sorochinsky (Union-Enc cott—4) in 1965-66, Alan Stock (Mepham—8) in 1966-67, Jim Dav (Mount Vernon—1) in 1966-67, and Randy Payne (Sidney—4) 1968-69.

Rounding out the lineup of previous repeat champs are Lee Klepp (Suffern—9) in 1968-69, John Cuyler (Elmira Free Academy—4) 1970-71, Joe Goldsmith (Ramapo—9) in 1971-72, Bob Antonac (Brentwood—11) in 1971-72, Steve Hunte (Bellmore Kennedy—8) i 1972-73, Tom Capone (Watertown—3) in 1972-73, and Mark Mysny (Vestal—4) in 1973-74.

Besides DeAngelis, two other defending State champs in action her this weekend will be junior Jeff Thomas of Huntington—11 at 11 pounds and senior Dan Lang of Baldwinsville—3 at 250. Thomas cap tured the New York State 98-pound crown as a sophomore while Lan also won at 250 as a junior a year ago.

MAT NOTES — DeAngelis, as a freshman, was 17-0 on the JV tear and 2-0 with the varsity; as a sophomore 36-1; as a junior 32-0; an 28-0 this year. Frank has won 61 consecutive bouts and his Spencerpor "Rangers" team has lost only one dual meet (by one point) during th last three seasons. Even if DeAngelis gets 101 wins, he will fall short o the state career-wins record of 110, set last year by Mike Arnold o Pioneer—6. Both Dan Hunt and Randy Payne finished with 107 caree victories.