

Quinn Says Brighton, Irondequoit Better

Coach Don Quinn has moved from the gridiron to the wrestling mats. And he says this season's Bomber matmen have several weak points in the weight classes and that makes Brighton and Irondequoit favored to win the Monroe County Eastern Division crown.

But don't believe the smooth-talking Irishman. If you ask the Brighton coach or the Irondequoit coach, they scream, "Who's he kidding?"

East Rochester opens its season on Saturday afternoon at Sutherland. There should be no sweat for the Bombers in this one.

But Quinn, who at the beginning of the football season said "the winner of the County East Division will lose at least one game," guided his club to an undefeated 8-0 record, added a non-loop victory over Cardinal Mooney and then put cream on the cake by gaining the Section 5 Class AA crown by downing Corning West. That made it a 10-0 year.

East Rochester has a wealth of material back and lost only one major member of last year's mat team that won the County East and shared the overall Monroe County laurels with Hilton Western Division champ, in a tie match. He is Joe Baldo, who was the hero of a number of close ER triumphs in the final scrap and the big one came at Fairport when he was the master of the Red Raider gem of the heavyweights, Dan Enright.

Quinn has his peerless 167-pounder, John Zito, back for the fourth straight season. Zito was a New York State tournament finalist last season and has his goal aimed at the championship this time around.

When Zito winds up his brilliant athletic season at ER in June (that is enhanced by his student marks and membership in the National Honor Society), he has a number of full ride scholarships awaiting him.



TOP GRAPPLER — East Rochester High School wrestling coach Don Quinn and prize 119-pounder, Romeo Battazzi.

It isn't only Zito who will make the Bombers strong as iron. Quinn admits he may have some problems in the lighter weights, but that hardly seems likely with veteran members like Mike Brien at 112 pounds, who nabbed Section 5's 98 pound laurels last season.

Also moving full time with the Bombers is Romeo Battazzi, who as a soph won the

Sectional 112 pound ribbons, but is fashioned into 119 pounds this campaign on the mats.

Quinn is leaving it up to the midweek squad wrestle-offs to determine who carries the Bomber colors in the team matches.

In the 167 pound class, besides Zito, there are Kevin Kronenberger and Drew McGregor itching for some of the action. It may come only infrequently if Zito shows up with a bad cold or moves up into a 177 pound class where he is also strong.

With Baldo gone, the heavyweight wrestler will no doubt be Rick Sidor, toughened by a hard football season where he played both offense and defense on the Bomber grid team and a senior. He is being pressed by junior Billy Condon.

Senior Bruce Kier and Reggie Reid are the 146 pound standard bearers and Dennis Essom is in the 155 pound cast.

At the opening 98 pound division, Quinn will have to go for either sophomores Paul Della Pietra and Don Fornataro or freshmen Tom Pagano, John Walczyk, or John Morabito.

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Quinn counted 41 out of wrestling, with the freshmen tabbing 13. That bode well for future good wrestling teams. Sophomores number 11, and only four are juniors, the seniors with 10 will carry the brunt of the team power. They include Greg Bonacchi, 138 pounder.

Juniors also list 132 pounder Dave Alongi.

Other sops are 132 pounders Dan Capiello and Dan Morey; Mike McIntosh

and Curtis Doreen at 119; Scott McIntosh and Joe Walczyk at 126; Mike Coursen at 138; Sam Marshall at 167 and Joe Santucci, heavyweight.

The frosh class is represented also by 105 pounders Pat Zito and Rick Tambasco, 112 pounders Frank Argento and Ron Metzger; Herman Schojan at 126, Harland Beckwith and Dale Coursen at 119; Graig Venette at 132; Larry Battazzi at 145, John Kyle at 155 and Dave Bellinger at 177. Three eighth-graders are making strong bids for positions and are likely to be members of Jim Tortorici's junior varsity lineup.

They are, besides John Morabito, John Sweeney at 126 and Rick Prince at 132.

The Bomber varsity schedule calls for a pair of four-team matches. The first is Dec. 16, here with ER hosting Gates Chili, Wayne Central and McQuaid. Twin mats will open action at 6:30 and 8:00. The second is Feb. 3 at Olean with Buffalo Sweet Home and Canandaigua comprising the warriors.

In other matches, ER hosts Webster Schroeder Dec. 20 and Irondequoit Dec. 23.

The Bombers will compete in the Monroe County tournament at Greece Athena, Dec. 29 and 30; take on Brighton here Jan. 6 and Canandaigua on the 10th. Mendon is here Jan. 11. Jan. 12-13, ER is entered in the Buffalo Sweet Home Tourney and Jan. 19-20 in the Canandaigua Tournament at Finger Lakes Community College.

Fairport is here Jan. 27; the Bombers move into Eastridge Feb. 3; are at Sperry on the 9th and at Penfield on the 15th.

But Watch Out for ER

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