

Laker grapplers preparing for upcoming SUNYACS

by Jackie Negri

The SUNY Wrestling Championship will be held at State University of New York at Buffalo, February 15th and 16th. This is the culminating event for SUNYAC wrestlers, as it is the national qualifier for the Division III championships.

Being the toughest conference in Division III wrestling, each athlete has been preparing and conditioning for this event all year. SUNY wrestlers from Albany, Binghamton, Brockport, Buffalo, Cortland, Oneonta, Oswego, and Potsdam will compete for three spots per weight class, along with three wild cards. The place winners will qualify for the Division III NCAA Championships to be hosted by Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

At 126, Laker Mike Coddington, last year's fourth place winner, returns to the mats after an elbow injury, has shown great improvement and will be a tough contender for Dave Averill of Albany.

All-American Pat Wittekind, at 134 pounds, has returned to the mats with added expertise and style. Although Scott Detore of Brockport is looking good, Wittekind, (placing third last season), has the ability to win his weight class.

At the 142 and 150 weight class, Lakers Joe Darling and T.J. Mincer will prove to be tough competition for defending champion Mike Truncale (Binghamton) and Andy Komerak (Buffalo).

Oswego's Darryl Wood, at 167 pounds, will have tough bouts against defending champion, Keith Caveyero (Binghamton), and Steve Klein (Buffalo) but has the skill and ability to be a national qualifier.

Binghamton's National and SUNYAC Champion Tom Pillari will be back on the mat to defend his title. Oswego's Kirk McDermitth (at 177 pounds) will be a tough contender along with Tom Jobin of SUNY Buffalo.

SUNYAC Champion, Mark Glickman, at heavyweight, has the ability to defend his title although he will find tough competition with Chris Mackin, of Binghamton.

Last year in the SUNYAC Conference the Great Lakers placed second in the tournament. They had four wrestlers who qualified for the Division III NCAA Tournament. Along with All-American Pat Wittekind and Mark Glickman, Oswego's Great Laker squad is more than likely to leave the SUNYAC Tournament with other national qualifiers.