

# Tigers could have several state qualifiers at SuperSectionals

## Tournament runs today, Saturday

By Chris Metcalf

For The Daily News

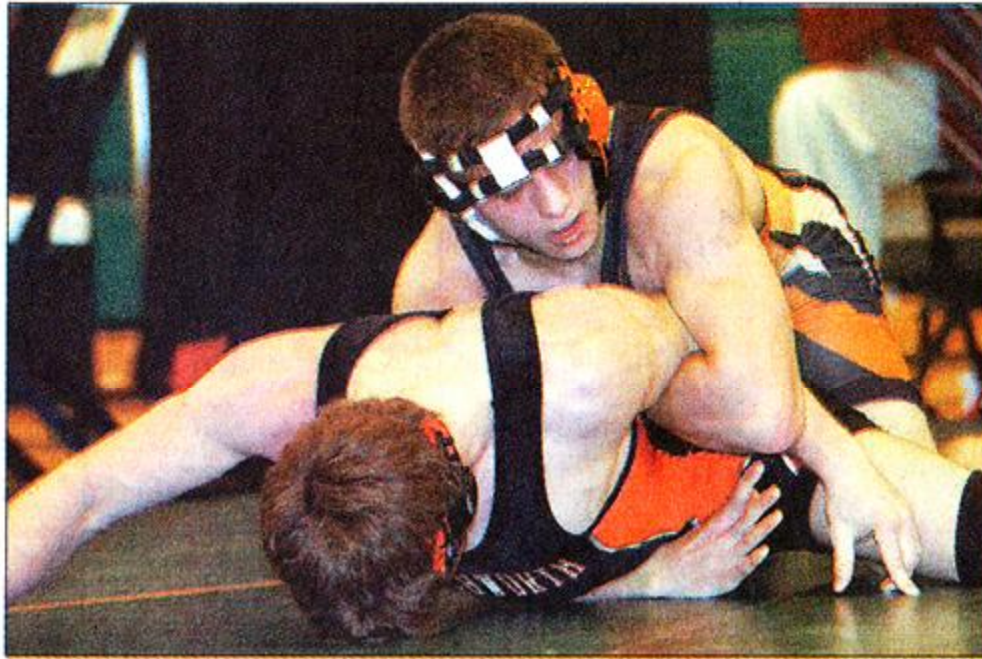
ROCHESTER — Warsaw coach Rob Hirsch is hoping to take a few other names besides “Paddock” with him when state wrestling rolls around in two weeks.

For the past two years, Hirsch has stamped his ticket to the state meet with both Ian and Paul Paddock, with each bringing home a state title in 2005, and Ian placing third and Paul second a year ago.

This year coach Hirsch thinks four or five of his Tigers have a shot.

“I like several of our kids’ chances,” said Hirsch, whose Tigers captured the Class B title last week. “Obviously, both Paul and Ian have great chances, and Billy Romasser will be tough to beat. Dakota (Stackhouse) has been wrestling very well. I think those four will be tough to beat. Don’t count out Zak (Griffith) either, he can do it. This is the time of year that these kids work so hard for. We’re ready.”

It won’t take Hirsch a long time to



Michael Johnson/For The Daily News

**SUPER AGAIN?:** Warsaw senior Paul Paddock, top, is the top seed and a heavy favorite to win the 160-pound title at this weekend’s Super-Sectional wrestling tournament at RIT.

find out as SuperSectionals start at 3 today at RIT’s Gordon Fieldhouse.

Championship finals will go off at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Ian and Paul Paddock have more than just similar bloodlines in common — they are each unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in Division II.

Ian, a sophomore will be the top seed at 119 pounds, where he will face Alexander’s Dylan Shea in today’s opening round. The obvious championship matchup should pit Ian against Attica’s Dylan Dabolt, the No. 2 seed.

Paul, a senior, is the top seed at 160 pounds and will take on Attica’s Tom

Raines in today’s first round. Paul should battle Addison’s Chris Snow in the semifinals before taking on either Letchworth’s Al Fagan or Waterloo’s Josh Mateo in his title bout.

Both Paddocks are heavy favorites.

Two other Warsaw wrestlers also have legitimate shots at winning.

Stackhouse, an eighth-grader, is the top seed at 96 pounds while Romasser, a senior, is top-seeded in the 215-pound division.

Stackhouse and Romasser are each seeking their first state trip.

Stackhouse will probably meet Lyndonville’s Brooks Broyle in today’s quarterfinals before taking on either Attica’s Troy Colton or Bath’s Kyle Conrad in the semifinals.

If Stackhouse makes the finals, his opponent should be either Holley’s Quinton Murphy, the No. 3 seed, or Sodus’ Lance Zerniak, the No. 2 seed.

Romasser takes on Genesee Valley’s Devin Garfield in today’s pre-quarterfinals and will meet the winner of the match between Midlakes’ Trent Jones and Bolivar-Richburg’s Justin Taylor in the round of eight.

Romasser will most likely meet No. 4 seed Mike Quinn of Mynderse in the

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semifinals and No. 2 seed Joel Ford of Red Creek in the title round. Ford has lost just once this season.

"Billy has worked as hard as anyone for this state berth," Hirsch said. "Making the state team, especially because it's his last year, would be really fitting for him. Billy's a true competitor, and I expect him to have a great tournament."

Griffith is another Warsaw wrestler with a chance to make the big dance.

The 152-pound freshman is seeded No. 4 and should cruise into the semifinals, where he should meet top-seeded Cody Hutcheson of Bath.

Hutcheson, a sophomore, beat Griffith 6-2 in the finals of the LCAA tournament in a match that was much tighter than the final score.

Letchworth also has several wrestlers with state meet potential.

Chris Nevinger (103), Bucky Hendrickson (112), Mike Nevinger (130), Westen Weaver (135), Matt Hendrickson (189) and Cam Barber (275) all pose a threat come Saturday.

Mike Nevinger's much-anticipated matchup against Pembroke's Sam Damthongmivanh is expected to happen in the finals.

Other local wrestlers with a chance to win Section 5 championships include Tim Banks (Holley, 112 pounds); Chad Condi-dorio (Le Roy, 125); Matt Sanders (Holley, 135); Justin Widrig (Holley, 140); Mike Hackett (Pavilion, 140); Andrew Sapienza (Byron-Bergen, 152); Nate Schiedel (Caledonia-Mumford, 171); Key McPherson (Holley, 189); and Demetrius Mendes (Holley, 275).

The SuperSectionals will start today with a Division II preliminary round. The D-I and D-II quarterfinals will follow at 5:30 p.m.

Semifinals for each division will take place at noon Saturday. Consolation finals for each division will start at 5 p.m., with championship finals beginning at 6 p.m.

The winners in each weight class qualify for the New York State Wrestling Championships at the Times Union Center in Albany March 2-3.

This year, however, at-large entries will also make the state tournament.

In the past, 13 wrestlers made the cut for states. With the at-large entries, a full bracket of 16 wrestlers will now compete for a state title.

The at-large entries will be based on a points system with wins and losses, as well as past sectional and state meet history, playing a factor.

A wrestler has to finish either second or third in his section to qualify for an at-large berth.

"I like the new at-large format," NYSPHSAA wrestling chairman Don DeBadts said. "It gives the state meet a truer test than before. Now you might have two studs from the same section in your weight class instead of just one. It is going to put 120 wrestlers into the tournament. I think people will really like the new format."