

Hobart Matmen Face Alfred Foe in Opener

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Democrat and Chronicle
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GENEVA, Feb. 15—Hobart's wrestling team opens its season Wednesday evening in the college gym against favored Alfred.

Coached by Ray Demuth, one-time Cortland Teachers College luminary, the Genevans will be fielding a well-balanced although inexperienced mat aggregation. The locals have been working out in the gym since mid-November, and appear to be in tip-top condition.

Hobart's experiment with the mat sport proved highly successful last year, the Demuth men winning both exhibitions against Hamilton. Athletic director Francis L. (Babe) Kraus recommended an intercollegiate schedule for this year.

A number of those who showed promise in 1958 have returned and make up the backbone of this season's team. They include Billy Hanwitt of Scarsdale, 157-pound class; Burt Klinger of Brooklyn, 167 pounds; Sandy Engel of New York City, 177 pounds, and heavyweight Johnny Metcalf of Concord, Mass.

Demuth said he will choose his starters from the following: 123 pounds—Donald Koleman, a junior, 130 pounds—Johnny Sterling, a freshman,

137 pounds—Fred Hartman, a freshman, 147 pounds—Steve Hoare, a yearling from nearby Watkins Glen and Butch Thornley, also a freshman.

157 pounds—Craig Cummings, a freshman, Bill Hanwitt and Pete Tinsley, both juniors, 167 pounds—Senior Burt Klinger and sophomore Dave Wagner, a native of Niagara Falls, 177 pounds—Sandy Engel, a senior. Heavyweight—Senior Johnny Metcalf.

Matches this season include two meets with the University of Rochester, Oswego Teachers College and the Ithaca College Junior Varsity.

As it has with so many other sports at Hobart in recent years, scholastic difficulties have also proved costly to the wrestling squad.

"If I could just have the boys on my team who are ineligible, I think we'd stand a good chance for a winning season," Demuth said wistfully. "There are two state champions right now in school who are ineligible to wrestle."


Almost every member of the wrestling squad has had high school mat experience with the possible exception of Wagner. Hartman learned his grappling ABC's in prep school.

A large turnout is expected for Wednesday's opening meet which is scheduled for 8 p.m. Admission is free, and the public is welcome.

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