

Eight teams in Auburn mat tournament

Rush-Henrietta, Indian River favored

Rush-Henrietta was runnerup in the Auburn Christmas Wrestling Tournament last year, fourth in 1969, champions in 1967 and come back this year with eyes on copping their second local event.

Coached by Gordon Gilfillian, the green and gold come into the tournament with an undefeated dual meet record and the championship of the Caledonia-Mamford Christmas Tournament already under their belts this season.

They are a veteran team with 10 of 12 members seniors and the other two men having tremendous experience.

On the other hand, the host Auburn High Maroons are not expected to be a team threat but at least two of the locals have a good chance of copping individual championships.

Nottingham has officially entered the tournament to give a full complement of eight teams. Sharing the favorite role with R-H will be tough Indian River and Sandy Creek from the north country. Other teams entered are Mynderse Academy, East Syracuse-Minoa and Corning East.

The top prospects for Coach Dan Halstead's Maroons are Captain Joe Alberti at 121 and Steve McCormick at 157, the latter being the reigning champion in the tournament at 138 pounds.

Alberti is only 1-2 this season but was runnerup in the tournament at 107 pounds last year and was third in Class A of the Section III finals. McCormick is 3-0 this season, was also second in the Class A sectionals and runnerup in the league tournament.

Coach Halstead also feels 178 pounder Joe Bobinis could make the grade in the tournament. He is 2-1 thus far and has been improving rapidly. The first year mentor for the AHS matmen announced the remainder of his lineup Monday after the boys weighed in and there were wrestle-offs for a few spots.

Mike Flanigan will be the 97 pound rep and he is 1-2 on the campaign while Doug Casey at 107 is winless. Joe Netti will be tough in the 114 pound weight class but inexperience may hamper him.

At 128 Ned Murphy will be the Maroon and he is down from his usual 132 and could be tough. Dave DeLorenzo, only a freshman, will be making his first varsity appearance at 134 and again inexperience will be a drawback.

Mark Prentice, who has good potential, will be the 140 pound grappler and he is 1-1-1 thus far in the campaign. Scott McCormick will be at 147 while Bob Landis will again be in over his head at 167. Landis is a tough competitor but weighs only about 150 and gives away too many pounds in his weight class. Tim Clifford, a first-year grappler, will be the heavyweight.

Rush-Henrietta has one champion from last year returning and two second place finishers from the 1970 event.

Dave Hept won the tourney at 250 last year but is melted down to 215 this year and is 6-0 on the season. He won the Caledonia-Mamford tournament. Run-

nerups last year were Karl Nielsen at 119, Warren Stumpf at 138 and Bob Cucci at 145. In addition, Dale Nupp was third at 132 locally last year.

R-H came out of the C-M tourney with five individual champions plus a pair of seconds and two thirds. They have now won 18 straight league matches, plus a non-league opener against reigning Section V team champion Geneva 28-21.

Nielsen is having problems this year and is 0-2 in dual meets and 2-1 in tourneys, finishing third at C-M. Stumpf is 5-0 this year including the championship at C-M. He won the sectionals last year and finished fourth in the state with a tremendous showing. Cucci is also 5-0 this year and won the C-M event.

Nupp won the C-M tourney with ease and is 5-0 this season after being 12-0 in duals last year. He was runnerup in the sectionals. The other R-H champion at C-M

was Jim Weisenflo who is 6-0 this season after participating in gymnastics last year and finishing second in the state on the trampoline. Steve Wilson is the 177 pound representative and he lost to Rick Hannan of Mynderse Academy in the C-M finals in a close decision. With Hannan in the Auburn tourney, it could be a repeat unless Bobinis can upset the applecart.

R-H does not give up as after coming in second to East Rochester locally last year, went on to defeat the powerful ERMen 20-18 in a dual match for the Monroe County League championship. They hope to do the same at the Auburn High School Wednesday.

Action will start at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday with the consolation bouts at 1 and semifinals at 3 p.m. The consolation bouts will be right after the semis. The final action will begin at 6 p.m. for the third place bouts then the finals will be at 8 p.m.



Joe Alberti, AHS Captain



Joe Bobinis

NOLAN'S Semi-Annual

SALE BEGINS WED., DEC. 29 — 9:30 A.M.

ALL NEW