

Showdown For County Title At Fairport Saturday Night

Over 3,000 wrestling fans are expected to jam the Fairport High School gym on Saturday night to watch the showdown match that will decide the champion of the Monroe County Eastern Division.

In one corner will be the undefeated Red Raiders of Fairport, the defending champs.

In the other corner, equally undefeated in loop action, Coach Don Quinn's Bombers.

Take your pick. It will be close and the final decision may not come until the final scrap. That will pit ER's strong Joe Baldo and Fairport's equally strong Dan Enright in the 215 pound class.

But that scrap may be overshadowed by the 167 pound event. That one brings together the Red Raiders' Bob Kyff and Quinn's superman, junior John Zito.

Zito is 22-0 in competition this season and among his victims is Kyff. It happened in the Monroe County tournament in late December. Zito was a 3-2 overtime winner. In two previous matches last season, Kyff beat Zito 5-1.

Baldo has lost but two of his 20 matches this season, and most of his victories came by way of pins. Coach Quinn says, "If Baldo wrestles smart, he can beat Enright."

Enright at this stage is showing a 19-0 record. He is a powerful matman who policed the crack Fairport champion football team on the defense last season.

But it won't be Zito, Baldo, Kyff, and Enright hogging all the spotlight when the matches get under way at 8:30. There is a preliminary card between the rival school junior varsity teams starting at 6:30 that should warm up the fans.

In the main events, a match in the 116 bracket puts Quinn's improving Romeo Battazzi against Fairport's crack "Chuck" Tortorello with Battazzi reaping 16 wins in 19 scraps and Tortorello, 16-1.

Both clubs know they'll have to put some wins on the score board in the middle-weight tilts to improve their chances at a County crown that Fairport won last year and ER the year before.

East Rochester warms up for the major collision with a match here tonight (Thursday) against Sutherland at 7 p.m. The Bombers should take the league scrap by a wide margin.

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Quinn's club waged mat war with two state ranked mat teams here last Saturday



Dave Prong

night, winning over Buffalo Sweet Home 25-23 and losing to Olean, 30-19. The night before, the Bombers topped visiting Rush Sperry in a loop tiff, 36-15.

Zito moved to 177 in tapping three more wins. Mike Brien, Quinn's 98 pounder bagged a trio of victories and so did 138 pounder Bruce Kier.

Brien started with a 2-0 decision over Sperry's Doug Miller; scored a wide 18-5 nod over Olean's Bruce Taylor and finished with a 4:20 pin over Weber Ruffin of Sweet Home.

Kier decisioned Len Tompkins of Sperry, 5-3; Jeff Thomas of Olean, 6-5 and Sweet Home's Greg Gallory, 13-1.

Zito pinned Sperry's Eric Frudenvoll at 5:30; wiped out Olean's Billy Fye, 18-0 and Joe Adler of Sweet Home, 14-0.

Baldo allowed Sweet Home's Bob Divine to nab a one point escape in the second period and that won the struggle. He pinned Rick Camp of Sperry in 3:28 and decisioned Olean's Joe Darron, 11-3.

In other results of the Sperry matches: Curtis Doreen (105) pinned Jeff Thomas in 1:51; Battazzi lost to Chris Makis at 112, 6-2; Mike Kuhn (119) was a 2-0 winner over Todd Burns; Dave Yacona (126) was pinned by one of the state's top wrestlers, Don St. James in 2:22; Jeff Kier (132) decisioned Eyan Carmichael, 4-1; Dennis Essom (145) pinned Greg Madison in 3:40; Dave Prong (155) bowed to Kevin Mooney, 4-1 and Kevin Maynard (167) lost a 7-2 decision to Ralph Hopkins.

In other Olean scraps: Doreen (105) was a 6-5 loser to Craig Anderson; Anderson placed third in the state tourney last year at 98 pounds; Battazzi (112) lost to Andy Taylor, 4-2; Mike McAuliffe (119) bowed to Bill Simpson, 11-0; Jeff Kier (126) was a 2-1 loser to Kevin



Mike McAuliffe

Forrest; Bob Pancio; Dennis Essom (145) dropped a 14-1 nod to Bob Parks; Dave Prong (155) was topped by defending state champion Bob Lerchtweis, 8-0 and Kevin Kronenberger (167) was pinned by Bill Stephen in a fast 1:37.

Doreen ran into another state defending champion in the Sweet Home clash. He was Mike McHugh, who wrestled at 91 pounds last year. McHugh pounded Doreen for an 18-1 beating.

Battazzi rebounded for a 5-3 decision over Mike Wilkins; Mike Kuhn won a 5-3 verdict over Tolnay Rao; Yacona was a 8-5 loser to George Ruffin; Marianetti was pinned in 3:33 by Reed Caulfield; Essom was just beat by Bob Vogel, 7-6; Kronenberger at 115 won over Bob McNamara, 4-0 and Maynard lost to Joe Banas, 3-1.