

1970 State...

Wrestling Tourney In Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — Maple Heights' bid for a fifth straight state scholastic wrestling championship faces a big threat this weekend from Toledo St. Francis at the Cleveland Arena.

St. Francis Coach Dick Leffler has guided eight of his wrestlers past sectional and district competition into the final field of 192 wrestlers in the state high school tournament.

Maple Heights Coach Mike Milkovich has seven boys in the finals, which are made up of the champions and runners-up in 12 weight categories from the state's eight districts.

Only four other schools appear to have enough entries to have a shot at the team title. Columbus DeSales and Clayton Northmont

each have four boys entered and Willoughby South and Medina Highland have three each.

The finalists represent the best of 18,000 wrestlers from 471 schools and will be participating before capacity crowds of 9,000 at each of four sessions in the Arena.

The tournament begins at noon Friday with other sessions at 7:30 p.m. Friday, semi-finals at 1 p.m. Saturday and finals at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Four 1969 state champions, all from the Cleveland area, are back to defend their titles. They are Ron Angello of Garfield Heights, who won the 103-pound category last year and is in the 98-pound division this year, 115-pound Paul Schonauer of Euclid, 137 - pound Dennis O'Neil of

Orange, and 155 - pound Cliff Dukes of North Royalton.

Two area wrestlers are slated to participate in the two-day event. Dennis Billow, who placed second in last week's district tournament, will represent Fremont Ross at 145 pounds. It will be his first trip to the state meet.

Port Clinton's Mark Belknap (123) will be making his second trip. Belknap was third in last week's district competition.

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Scoring Race

By MARK CARLSON

N-M Sports Editor

CLEVELAND — By 10 p.m. Saturday Ohio may have a new state wrestling champion.

Toledo St. Francis was making a strong bid to unseat favored Maple Heights in the two-day event being held at the Cleveland Arena.

Coach Doc Leffler's Knights held a one-point (9-8) advantage in the team race after the first two rounds Friday. Maple Heights, which has won four straight titles and five of the last seven crowns, was in second with eight points.

But, St. Francis still had four grapplers remaining in the championship bracket. Maple Heights had only three.

Two area westers made the trip to the arena. One—Port Clinton's Mark Belknap—survived the first two rounds. Ross high school's Dennis Billow was beaten by Reading's Kevin Fletcher, 7-1, in the opening round.

In his first match, Belknap, who was in the state tourney last year, disposed of Nordonia's Jeff Malusky, 5-4. Belknap trailed Vernon Carter, Columbus East, 4-1, in the quarterfinals but rallied for a 6-5 victory.

Belknap was slated to meet Huron's Drew Gundlach in a semi-final match this afternoon. The two are old foes and close friends. Gundlach beat Belknap by one point in a triangular match earlier this season.

Belknap and Gundlach are both 128-pound entries from the Northwest District. But, the other entry from the district, Sandusky's Calvin Lewis, was

beaten in the quarterfinals by Vandalia Butler's Gary Shaeff, 22-1.

Lewis was beaten only one other time this season. Gundlach took a referee's decision in the district finals at Toledo Whitmer high school last week.

Northwest District had 12 wrestlers survive the first two rounds. Included on the list are Myron Shapiro (98, Toledo Rogers), Robert Bethany (130, Toledo Scott), John Zychowicz (137, Toledo St. Francis), Thelma Towner (137, Sandusky Senior), Dan Caywood (155, Toledo Rogers), Bill Reinbolt (165, Toledo St. Francis), Dale Epperson (165, Toledo Rogers), David Wolfe (175, Toledo Northwood), Mike Oldham (175, Toledo St. Francis), Tim Irvine (185, Toledo St. Francis), Don Hayes (heavyweight, Toledo Scott) and John Jacquot (heavyweight, Toledo Whitmer).

Nine wrestlers from the Northwest district were beaten in the quarterfinals. But they had the opportunity to wrestle in the consolation bracket today if the grappler who beat them advanced into the finals. Several first round losers also had the opportunity to wrestle in the consolation bracket.

Four defending state champions won their way into the semifinals. They are Dennis O'Neil, Orange, 137 pounds; Ron Angelo, Garfield Heights, 98 pounds; Paul Schonauer, Euclid, 115 pounds, and Cliff Dukes, North Royalton, 155 pounds.

Toledo Rogers was providing the big surprise in the team race. Rogers, with six points and three semi-finalists, was given an outside chance to win the team title.

Rogers doesn't have as good a chance as St. Francis and Maple Heights because it has only the three semifinalists who can score points in the final two rounds. The other two schools have wrestlers who could score in the consolation rounds.

Rogers brought only three wrestlers here—all three were district champions, however.

Nine other schools were tied for fourth with four points.

reMARK(s): The only bout involving grapplers from the northwest district this afternoon pitted Belknap opposite Lewis. A total of 96 bouts were wrestled on three mats Friday afternoon. Three mats handled 46 bouts in the evening. The afternoon session started at noon and ended at 5:05 o'clock. The evening session was scheduled to get underway at 7 p.m. but was delayed a half hour. Tonight's finals will get underway at 7:30 p.m. Billow didn't wrestle in the consolations. Fletcher was beaten 13-4 by Douglas Nemeckay, Richmond Heights, in the quarterfinals. Bruce Wilson, Toledo DeVilbiss, who beat Billow in the district finals last week, lost to Joe Streb, New Philadelphia, in the quarterfinals. Wilson is the son of the head wrestling coach at Toledo University. Nine officials were assigned to the tournament by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

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