

1978 Buckeye Conference...

BC tournament at Ross Saturday

Elyria has the inside track but it promises to be an all-out race for the runnerup spot in the Buckeye Conference Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Ross High School.

"You have to pick Elyria as the favorite," Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler theorized. "They may be stronger than last year."

The Pioneers scored 162½ points a year ago to edge surprising Mansfield by six and one-half points. Pre-tournament favorite Sandusky was third and Ross came home in fourth spot.

Ross will be hosting the tourney for the second time in a three-year span. Two years ago at Ross, the Little Giants finished second after grabbing a surprising lead going into the finals. Sandusky eventually won that title.

After picking Elyria as the likely champ, the Ross coach dropped down into the race for second.

"I think we are as tough a contender as anybody," he said. "Lorain, Mansfield, and us will make it a hot race."

"Sandusky has a young team but I can remember my first year at Ross when Sandusky finished dead last in the conference tournament and then came back to win the sectional two weeks later."

Ross will have one returning champion back — 155-pounder Clarence Parks. He is one of two champions that Ross had a year ago — Jesse Heidelberg was the other, winning the 105-pound title.

Voggenthaler said that his team has the best shots for individual titles at heavyweight, 155, and 126. The 126-pound division should be the strongest in the tourney.

"That's going to be a real barnburner," Voggie described the 126-pound division.

He rates Ross's Paul "Tex" Miller, Steve Camella of Sandusky, and Jock Murray of Elyria as being about even.

"The seeding will have a lot to do with that division," he offered.

Ross heavyweight Troy Amor, a junior, is 10-3 with nine of the wins via the "pinning" route. Parks will be gunning for his second straight 155-pound title. He is 2-0 with two pins at that weight after dropping down from 167 three weeks ago. Parks had a 5-3 mark at the higher weight.

Miller carries a 9-1 mark at 126. He started the season at 132 and was 0-1. The draw was the Camella.

"I think our strength lies in that we can place a lot of kids," Voggenthaler said. "We have wrestled in two very tough tournaments and have done well."

"We have also had good workouts this week," he said and then added that the blizzard helped serve as a conditioning drill for his team.

"Eight or nine of them were called out to help shovel out Riley school and that was a good workout for them."

Wrestling will begin at noon Saturday at Ross with the championship finals and consolation finals slated for a 7 p.m. start.

Buckeye wrestling today

Ross is the host school today for the Buckeye Conference Wrestling Tournament.

The eight-team tournament is regarded as one of the better league or conference wrestling get-togethers in northwest Ohio. Ross will host Elyria, the defending champ, Sandusky, Mansfield, Lorain, Admiral King, Marion Harding, and Findlay.

Wrestling will begin at noon today with the finals slated for 7 p.m. tonight in the Ross High School gym.

Ross Coach Al Voggenthaler announced a tentative lineup for his Little Giants. Following is that lineup for the 13 weight divisions with won/lost mark, and number of pins:

98—Gilbert Palocous, 3-2;
105—Jim Krock, 1-5 with one pin;
112—Ted Merrill, 3-5 with one pin;
119—Mike Pena, 1-1;
126—Paul "Tex" Miller, 9-1 with three pins;
132—Andre Parks, 5-4 with one pin;
138—John Pena, 1-3 with one pin;
145—Dave Campbell, 3-3 with one pin;
155—Clarence Parks, 2-0 with two pins;
167—Chuck Tiller, 1-1;
175—Tim Donnerbach, 3-4 with two pins;
185—Chuck Binkley, 5-5 with one pin;
Heavyweight—Troy Amor, 10-3 with nine pins.

Clarence Parks is the defending champion at 155 for Ross. He is one of four returning champions. John McNulty, 132, and Bobby Fleck, 138, will be back for Elyria and Larry Adley, 185, returns for Mansfield.

Elyria is favored to win the tournament but the battle for the runnerup spot is expected to be wide open. Ross, Lorain, and Mansfield are expected to be in that battle.

The Little Giants finished fourth in the 1977 tourney after a second place finish in the 1976 tourney.

