

1977 State...

Thirteen area wrestlers battle in state tourney

The Ohio High School State Wrestling Tournament gets under way at noon Friday with the preliminary rounds in Classes AAA and AA at St. John's Arena on The Ohio State University campus.

The Class A state show will begin at 7 p.m. Friday in Rike Center on the Otterbein College campus in Westerville.

There will be 13 Fremont area wrestlers in the three high school classifications in the state meet.

Jessie Heidelberg and Jim Smith of Ross and Bill Weaver of Bellevue will be shooting for the state crowns in the big school wrestling. All three are in their second consecutive state tournament.

Heidelberg, 23-1, will be aiming for the 105-pound title. He was 1-2 in state competition last year, and like Smith, was handicapped in the state show by the flu. The Ross lightweight's first opponent will be Mick Gercak of Norton.

Gercak, 21-2, lost to Heidelberg in the Medina Tournament earlier this season.

Heavyweight Smith, 21-7, will lock up with unbeaten, 25-0, Kevin Czinger of Cleveland St. Ignatius in his first match.

Weaver, 119, sports an 18-2 mark going into the state meet. His first round opponent is Dave Wenger of Copley who is 25-1.

In the AA competition, 98-pound Phil Weirich of Oak Harbor will put his 18-3 record on the line against Steve Bradley, 11-0, over Twinsburg Chamberlain. Another Rocket, 155-pound Mike Carman, 20-1, will wrestle Keith Foxx, 10-0, of Akron Coventry in his preliminary match. Foxx was second in the state at 155 a year ago.

The third Rocket in the state meet is Allan Lipstraw, 18-3-1. He will go against defending state champ Phil Anglim, 36-0, of Columbus Waterson in his first bout.

Two Genoa wrestlers, Mark Mancinotti and Alfredo Lozoya made the state show. Mancinotti, 23-2, will challenge Jerry Dempsey, 21-0, of New Richmond in the first round. Lozoya, 25-2 and making his second state meet appearance, will battle Tony Eramo of Columbus Bishop Hartley in his first match. Eramo is 15-5.

The quarterfinal round of the AAA and AA state tournaments will be at 7 p.m. Friday. The championship semifinals and consolation will begin at noon on Saturday with the championship rounds at 7 p.m.

At Rike Center, five Fremont St. Joe wrestlers will represent the area in Class A. Tom Guyer (112), Lynn McKinney (132), Jim McKinney (138), Jim Meyer (155), and Mike Jay (heavyweight) will carry the Crimson Streaks' banner into the small school chase for state honors.

Guyer and Lynn McKinney are in their second state meet and both are juniors. Guyer was fourth a year ago.

The Crimson Streaks' 112-pounder, 19-1 for the season, will go against Bob Pastor, 17-3, of Newbury in the first round. Lynn McKinney, 18-2, will battle Andy Ohman, 16-6, of Newbury.

Lynn's brother, Jim, 17-4, will be up against 21-1 Gary Kline of Ashland Mapleton in his initial skirmish.

Mark Lowe, 24-0, of Summit Station Licking Heights, will be Meyer's first opponent. Meyer, a senior, is 19-1 this season.

Jay will put his 20-1 record up against Chuck Malensek of Orwell Grand Valley in the first heavyweight bout. Malensek is 17-3.

The semifinal round of the Class A tourney will begin at noon Saturday with the championship and consolation finals beginning at 7 p.m. the same day.

