

John Marshall Rates As OVAC Mat Favorite

John Marshall's Monarchs will be favored to advance their first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling championship this weekend when they play hosts to the notable annual conference tournament at Moundsville Fieldhouse.

Among the top six seeds in each weight class for the Friday and Saturday eliminations, the Monarchs have 11 boys. That's four more than any other school as Brooke, Steubenville Martins Ferry and St. John's Central's defending champions have seven each.

Warwood, Brilliant and Oak Glen are in with five seeds apiece, compared to four for Winterville and Weirton; three each for Barnesville and Bellaire; two apiece for Linsly Institute, Wheeling High, River and Bridgeport; and one each for Wheeling Central and Triadelphia.

However, John Marshall boasts the top-seeded grappler in only one weight class while Brooke has three and St. John's two.

Top seeded, on the basis of records against conference com-

petition were Robbie Stephens, Barnesville (10-0), at 98 pounds; Art Jones, Bellaire (9-0, at 105 pounds; Dan Doyle, Wheeling Central (11-1) at 112 pounds; Greg Lawrence, Brilliant (7-0) at 119; Doug Mason, Brooke (18-0), at 126; Mike Mavromatis, Steubenville (8-0), at 132; John Nichols, Brooke (16-2), at 138; John Vdovjak, Warwood (10-0), at 145; Bob Strawn, John Marshall (13-1), at 167; Rick Link, St. John's (7-0) at 175; Mike Donahue, St. John's (6-0), at 185; and Wally Pesuit, Winterville (8-0), heavyweight. Accompanying records are for matches only against conference foes.

Despite the absence of Bridgeport's unbeaten 133-pound star, Dave LaMotte, due to a leg injury, there will be four 1971 individual titlists in the tournament. They are Jones, who has moved up from 98 to 105 pounds; Oak Glen's Harry "Skip" Williams, who won at 112 last year but is now third seeded at 119; Tate and Link.

In addition, there will be five 1971 runners-up participating. They are John Marshall's Ken Reynolds, seeded No. 3 at 105;

Mike Billic, Bridgeport, seeded No. 2 at 107; Wally Pesuit, and Winterville, 175-pounder Keith Saltzman, seeded second.

In all, there will be 283 wrestlers from 25 schools in the tourney, which begins at 2 p.m. on Friday. Quarter-finals will be at 7 on Friday night, semi-finals at 1 p.m. Saturday, with consolations at 3 and both championship and consolation finals at 7.

Six places will be scored in the tournament. Four mats will be in use.

George Walley, athletic director at John Marshall, and Bill Hinegar, head coach of the Monarchs, are co-directors of the tournament.

The 14 seeds in each weight class follow:

OVAC's Junior High Mat Tournament Opens

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference junior high wrestling tournament opens at the Moundsville Fieldhouse this evening. Action starts at 6 p.m..

The tourney has drawn 286 grapplers from 25 schools. They will compete in 14 weight classes.

Sixty-two preliminary matches will be followed by second-round and quarter-final bouts. Semi-finals and consolations will be on Saturday, starting at noon. Championship matches and consolation finals will be at 7 p.m.

Buchanan, of Winterville, will appear in the role of defending champion. However, Moundsville Junior High, with four top-seeded entries, is the tourney favorite.

Other schools entered are Barnesville Frosh, Barnesville Junior High, Bellaire, Bridgeport, Bridge St., Brooke, Cameron, Steubenville Frosh, Madison, Steubenville Harding, Martins Ferry Frosh, Mingo, Martins Ferry Junior High, Moundsville, Ritchie, River, St. John's Frosh, Sherrard, Triadelphia, Warwood, Weirton Frosh, Woodsdale, Weirton Junior High, and Union.

Only one individual champ of 1971 is returning. He's Duke Hanlin, of Madison, winner at 78 pounds last year but now wrestling at 98 pounds.

J. Marshall Captures Conference Mat Title

Bellaire's Jones Top Wrestler in Tourney

BY BILL VAN HORNE
News-Register Sports Editor

John Marshall High won its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling championship Saturday night before a roaring, tourney-record crowd at the Moundsville Field-house.

With action completed in 10 of the 13 weight classes, the Monarchs were deadlocked with up-river rivals Weirton and Brooke each with 80 points. But the Red Riders and Bruins were blanked the rest of the way while Bill Hinegardner's squad picked up 10 big points to tuck away the title.

John Marshall had been the pre-tourney favorite, with 11 seeded grapplers, but apprehension set in among Monarch fans Saturday afternoon when only one of their matmen survived the semi-finals. However, the hosts bounced back strong in the consolation bracket to close in on Brooke and Weirton and then cleaned up in the higher weights at the night session to gain its coveted triumph.

John Marshall had only one individual titlist, Jim Meeker, the all-state football player who took honors at 185 pounds. It was Meeker's pin of Weirton's Jim Sellitti that clinched the team championship for the Monarchs, although it had been Scott Lehasky, promoted to the starting lineup for this tourney, who put them ahead when he copped fifth-place honors at 175. Heavyweight Dave Crow's pin in the third-place consolation simply iced the cake.

While Brooke and Weirton, with their 80 points apiece, shared the runnerup trophy — 10 points in arrear of J. Marshall — St. John's Central's defending titlists finished fourth with 68½ points. Then came a surprisingly-strong Warwood team, with 68, followed by Steubenville 65½; Martins Ferry, 65; Wintersville, 56½; Barnesville, 55; Bellaire, 43; Oak Glen, 39; Brilliant, 36½; Wheeling Central, 25; River, 24; Linsly Institute, 16; Wheeling, 15; Bridgeport, 13; Mingo 10; Union Local, 6; Cameron 4, and Triadelphia 2.

Selected for the Dave Bierkorte Memorial Award as the outstanding wrestler in the tourney was Bellaire's crowd-pleasing mite, Art Jones, who scored three pins in four matches. Champion at 98 pounds last year, Jones moved up to 105 this year to grab another title. He is unbeaten in 12 starts this season.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

98 pounds — Robbs Stephens (Barnes.) dec. Lance Tarr (War.), 15-0.

105 pounds — Art Jones (Bell.) pinned Joe Cammer (Brill.), 4:22.

112 pounds — Dan Doyle (Whg.C.) dec. Ed West (J.M.), 8-2.

119 pounds — Harry "Skip" Williams (O.G.) dec. Greg Lawrence (Brill.), 2-1.

126 pounds — Doug Mason (Brooke) dec. Alex Lyons (Weir.), 5-4.

132 pounds — Mike Mavromatis (Steub.) dec. Dave Kosky (St.J.), 1-0.

138 pounds — Dick Nichols (Brooke) dec. George Speights (River), 10-3.

145 pounds — John Vdovjak (War.) dec. Pat Lupinetti (Brooke), 2-0, ovt.

155 pounds — Rick Spencer (Steub.) dec. Nick Tate (Brooke), 5-2.

167 pounds — Frank Ferguson (Barnes.) dec. Eric Frankovich (Weir.), 6-1.

175 pounds — Rick Link (St.J.) dec. Keith Saltzman (Wint.), 8-0.

185 pounds — Jim Meeker (J.M.) pinned Jim Sellitti (Weir.), 3:51.

Heavyweight — Wally Pesult (Wint.) pinned Ted Gillette (Weir.), 4:29.