

Maryland Independent Schools State Tournament is on Tap for this Weekend

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Top Three Teams in Maryland Set to Battle for Superiority. McDonogh, Good Counsel, and John Carroll Head Strong Field.

The McDonogh School in Owings Mills is the site of this weekend's Maryland Independent Schools State Championships (MIS), also referred to as the Private School States.

McDonogh (#1 in the latest rankings by Maryland State Wrestling Association) is the favorite, but after a closer than expected finish at the MIAA Conference Tournament anything is possible. #2 Good Counsel and #3 John Carroll has a chance at pulling off the upset.

152 is arguably the toughest weight class in the tournament. There are six of the state's top ten wrestlers, including the top four grapplers.

#1 Logan Breitenbach (Spalding), #2 Toby Hague (McDonogh), #3 Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's), and #4 Max Smith (Charles E. Smith) occupy the top four seeds.

Breitenbach defeated Hague 1-0 in last week's MIAA finals. Hague beat Pappas in the semi-finals. Pappas and Smith have not met. Pappas won by decision 9-8 over John Carroll's Chris Almony (#9) in the third place bout at the MIAA Tournament. Almony beat Curley's Erik Meyer (#10) in the quarter finals, reversing a loss from the 2012 MIAA Tournament. Brooks Lucier (St. Paul's, honorable mention) was 6th at the MIAA Tournament defaulting with an injury.

138 features four of the top five grapplers in the state, and the top three in the weight. Nationally ranked Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara, #5 by Intermat) leads the pack, and looks to continue his unbeaten season. Bannister won a title at the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament in December, pinning Blair Academy's Mason Manville (#6 by Intermat) in the first period of the 138lb final.

Xavi Ramos (McDonogh, #2 by the MSWA) and David Mohler (Loyola, #3) will probably meet for the third time this year in the semi-finals. Ramos has won both meetings, one in a dual meet and the other in the MIAA Finals.

Mt. St. Joe's Seth Rowell (#5) sat out the MIAA Tournament with a knee injury, but is back for the MIS Tournament as the 4th seed. 5th seeded James McCord (Georgetown Prep, #9) is the other top ten wrestler at this weight.

The 6th-8th seeds are; #24 Artie Milner (John Carroll), #25 Gabe Pastirik (St. Mary's), and #27 Shane Wilson (DeMatha). Milner defeated Pastirik at the MIAA Tournament. Wilson has been coming on of late; he placed third at last weekend's St. Alban's Tournament. Wilson was a National Prep All-American last year at 113, but struggled early with the move up in weight.

Calvert Hall's Noah Koski (#30) is the alternate at this weight. One alternate per weight was chosen, after eight seeds were awarded, to take a seed in the event of an injury or a wrestler missing weight.

Another weight class with the top three in the state in the bracket is 126. Returning State Champion Jack Mutchnik (St. Paul's, #1) is followed by Zeke Salvo (Mt. St. Joe, #2), and Curley's Tyshawn Williams (#3). Salvo was a MPSSAA 3A/4A State Champion at 106 last year. Williams was a 2012 Nebraska State Champion. Mutchnik had a surprisingly easy win over Salvo 10-1 in the finals of the MIAA Tournament. The win was Mutchnik's third victory of the year over Salvo.

Salvo beat Williams 9-8 in the semi-finals to avenge an earlier loss in the finals of the Glenn Jones Charger Classic. The potential semi-finals matchup would be the rubber match between the two grapplers.

McDonogh's Sam Martino (#8) is the 4th seed. #18 Jhared Simmons (Good Counsel) is seeded 5th, and is someone to keep an eye on. Simmons just won the St. Alban's Tournament by defeating two time National Prep placer Jawan Jones (St. Benedict's, NJ) 8-2. Simmons has been on a late season tear, and is primed to do some damage at MIS.

Returning state placer Lewis Riggs (DeMatha, #21) is the 6th seed, John Carroll's Devin Davis (#22) the 7th. St. Mary's Ryken's Dylan Whittles was given the 8th seed.

Joey Eberhard (Spalding, #26) is another wrestler to keep an eye on. Eberhard was a National Prep All-American at 106 last year, but spent most of the season at 138. He is now at a more comfortable weight, and looks to become a two time state placer.

Four out of the top five grapplers are set to compete at 132. #1 Daniel Sanchez (Georgetown Prep), #2 Scott Strappelli (John Carroll), #4 Logan Meister (McDonogh), and #5 Matt Pente (Spalding) round out the top four seeds.

Sanchez is a returning State Champion. Strappelli was 2nd last year. Sanchez and Strappelli wrestled in the state finals when both were freshmen at 112. Strappelli won that bout for his only state crown.

Meister avenged an earlier loss this season in overtime to Pente in the MIAA semi-finals this past weekend, 3-1.

Fifth seeded Matt Kelly (Good Counsel, #9) is dangerous, and could be a bracket buster. Kelly has a win over Meister last year, in addition to being a state runner-up ahead of Meister and Pente last year. Pente beat Kelly 4-0 in a dual meet this year.

The final three seeded wrestlers are St. Paul's Billy Krop (#12), DeMatha's Larry Lopez (#21), and Calvert Hall's Matt Wagner (#29). St. Mary's Chase Pappas was ranked in the state going into the MIAA Tournament. Pappas was upset by Mt. St. Joe's Cole Matson. Pappas and Matson are guys to watch out for.

145 features four of the top five in the state, and five out of ten. Top seed two time State Champion Jack Clark (McDonogh) is ranked 14th in the nation by InterMat. John Carroll's George Weber (#2 by the MSWA) is looking to redeem himself after missing weight on the second day of the MIAA Tournament. Weber will also be looking for his first career win against Clark if the expected finals matchup takes place. Clark, a junior, is 5-0 vs. Weber over the last two years.

#4 Michael Sprague (Georgetown Prep) is the 3rd seed and #5 Cole Graves (Spalding) is seeded 4th. Walter Johnson (Loyola, #9) is the 5th seed. Sprague has two win over Graves this year. The first was 8-7 in the semi-finals of the Ray Oliver Tournament, and the second was in the finals of the Mount Mat Madness Tournament 3-1. Graves has pinned Johnson twice this year at Mount Mat Madness and at the Cavalier Duals.

St. Mary's Ryken's Jack Krall, #21 in the MSWA rankings, was given the 6th seed. Mt. Carmel's Grant Taylor (#23) is the 7th seed. Anthony Wyler (Boys Latin) is a returning state placer who was ranked in the state until being upset by Severn's Daniel Medcalf at the MIAA Tournament. Medcalf received the 8th seed based on that win. Don't sleep on Wyler though, as he has the potential to turn some heads this weekend. Wyler was 4th at the very tough Mount Mat Madness Tournament, but hit a bit of a late season slump.

McDonogh's TK Megonigal (#3) heads the field at 106. Good Counsel's Adam Whitesell (#4) is the 2nd seed. Third seeded Michael Doetsch (Severn, #16), a double All-American at Fargo this past summer, is looking to return after missing the MIAA tournament. John Carroll's CJ Skokowski (#18) is seeded 4th. Nick Malinowski (Boys Latin, #19), #28 Logan Wilson (DeMatha), #30 Chae Neale (Curley), and Turner Wilson (Mt. St. Joe, honorable mention) are the 5th-8th seeds.

Megonigal beat Whitesell at the Ray Oliver Tournament 10-1. Whitesell has a common opponent win over Doetsch in Virginia's Victor Echeveria (Centreville), although Doetsch did beat Echeveria at Mount Mat Madness. Whitesell is 1-0 vs. Echeveria, while Doetsch is 1-1.

Skokowski has wins over Malinowski and Neale. Malinowski has beaten Neale and Turner Wilson. Logan Wilson has a win over Turner Wilson. Neale and Wilson are 2-1 vs. each other with Neale holding the advantage.

The star power took a blow when the state's top ranked 106lber Jake Vosburgh (St. Mary's Ryken) was not entered in the tournament.

Ryan Friedman (St. Paul's, #2) and Steven Simpson (St. Mary's Ryken, #3) are the favorites to reach the finals at 113. The potential matchup would be a repeat of last year's 106lb state final won by Simpson. Friedman defeated Simpson in the third place bout at the National Prep Tournament last year and in the finals of the Battle of Manassas Tournament this year.

Georgetown Prep's Colin Kowalski (#8) owns wins over Paul Hutton (Good Counsel, #13) at St. Alban's, Justin Chenault (Pallotti, #14) at the Glenn Jones Charger Classic and Gilman's Jack King (#16) at the Ray Oliver Tournament.

Hutton beat Chenault in the third place match at St. Michael's Battle by the Bay. Chenault has two wins over John Carroll's Austin Smith (#15) one in a dual meet, the other at the MIAA Tournament. Smith beat King in a dual meet and for third place at the MIAAs. Jack Eberhard (Spalding) is the 8th seed, and is listed as honorable mention by the MSWA.

The favorite at 120 is freshman sensation Kevin Budock (Good Counsel, #3). Budock has steadily climbed the rankings since the start of the season. Budock placed 7th at the PowerAde Tournament in Pennsylvania, which is considered one of the top five toughest high school tournaments in the country. Budock owns a win over #2 seed Wolfie Bradley (Spalding, #7) in a dual meet. Budock won last weekend's St. Alban's Tournament, defeating Jeremy Schwartz of Wyoming Seminary, PA.

Bradley was two wins over 3rd seeded Naron Gilmer (Curley, #9). The first was at the Ray Oliver Tournament, the second was in the MIAA Finals.

Gilmer reversed an earlier loss to #10 Zach Dwyer (John Carroll) at the MIAA Tournament. Mt. St. Joe's Malik Woody (#12) is the 5th seed. Bullis' Blake Matthews (honorable mention) is seeded 6th.

Two nationally ranked grapplers should square off in the finals at 160. McDonogh's Myles Martin (#8 by Intermat) and Josh Llopez (St. Mary's Ryken, #10 by Intermat) could meet for the fourth time this season.

Lopez won the first meeting in the finals of the Ray Oliver Tournament. The two met again a week later in the consolation finals of the Ironman, but Llopez defaulted early in the second period. The third clash was won by Martin in the semi-finals of the Beast of the East.

The rest of the field at 160 is a group of closely ranked wrestlers. The 3rd-7th seeds are #22 Fred Johnson (Curley), #26 Donovan McAfee (Good Counsel), #27 Greg Louzan (St. Paul's), John Carroll's Christian Scott (#28), and Spalding's Jimmy Malone (#29).

All five of those guys are capable of beating each other. In fact, the 7th seeded Malone has a win over the 3rd seeded Johnson at the War on the Shore. Louzan and Scott traded wins at the MIAAs, with Scott winning in the quarter finals and Louzan winning the consolation final match. Malone had a tough outing at MIAAs losing to Johnson, then Louzan.

#1 Troy Murtha from Georgetown Prep dropped from 182 to 170 for the postseason. Murtha, a senior, is looking for his first state title after finishing as a runner-up last year. Murtha is a two time Beast of the East placer.

John Carroll's Hunter Ritter (#3) and Loyola's Conan Schuster (#4) appear to be headed for a semi-final rematch of last weekend's MIAA final, won by Ritter 8-0. #6 Philip Robilotto (Good Counsel) has been red hot lately. Robilotto took third at St. Alban's, in the semi-finals he lost to Murtha by one point (5-4) so he is a dangerous 4th seed.

170 is the deepest weight of the tournament with ten state ranked wrestlers and one honorable mention entry. 5th seeded Garrett Pfeifer (Gilman, #12), beat #16 Evan Dohler (Boys Latin) in the consolation finals at MIAAs. 7th seeded Theo Duncan (McDonogh, #17) and 8th seeded Sean Bieschke (Curley, #18) split wins last week. Bieschke won the quarter final match, and Duncan won the 5th place bout.

#29 Ryan Lamon (Severn), #30 Donovan Hall (St. Mary's Ryken), and honorable mention Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe) are the other top competitors in the bracket.

McDonogh's Tyler Patrick ranked #2 by the MSWA is the top seed at 182. Patrick is a three time state placer, but a state title has eluded him so far. DeMatha's Clay Conaway (#4) is the 2nd seed. Conaway is a transfer from Delaware's Sussex Central.

Jake Nordhausen (Loyola, #19) beat 4th seeded Jacob Parker (Spalding, #10) in the semi-finals of the MIAA Tournament to avenge an earlier dual meet loss. Nick Miller (Good Counsel, #21) is the 5th seed. Georgetown Prep's Abraham Pischevar (honorable mention) is seeded 6th. St. James' Leighton Younger ranked #22 by the MSWA was given the 8th seed behind returning state placer Matt Kerner (St. Mary's).

The top seed at 195 is Good Counsel's Spencer Neff (#1). Neff, who is looking for his second straight state title, has put together an impressive senior campaign. Neff was 6th at the Ironman in Ohio. The Ironman is considered by many to be the toughest high school tournament in the country. Some think the Beast of the East is more difficult, and Neff placed 5th there. At the PowerAde he took 3rd.

Zach Abey (Spalding, #5), Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe, #6), and Mike Smith (McDonogh, #7) are the 2nd-4th seeded wrestlers respectively.

Abey has two wins over Hawkins this year (a dual meet and the MIAA Finals). Hawkins has beaten Smith multiple times. Smith has split wins with Abey this year, winning in a dual meet but losing in the MIAA semi-finals. Georgetown Prep's Paul Triandifilou is seeded 5th. Triandifilou is listed as honorable mention by the MSWA.

Kyle Snyder (Good Counsel) is the #1 wrestler in the country according to Intermat. The junior has yet to lose in his high school career. The streak is extra impressive considering the level of competition Snyder faces. He is a three time Beast of the East Champion and two time Ironman Champion. Snyder's closest match of the year was a 16-6 win in the PowerAde Finals against the #3 wrestler in the country Solanco, Pennsylvania's Thomas Haines. Ohio's Evan Rosborough (Pain Riverside) is the only other wrestler to go the distance with Snyder this year. Snyder won 18-7.

Gilman's Shane Cockerille (#3 by the MSWA) is the 2nd seed. Mac Meehan (DeMatha, #11), Patrick Stewart (Georgetown Prep, #15), and Yamil Cristobal (Pallotti, #27) are the other ranked wrestlers at 220.

Jemal Averette (Good Counsel, #4) is a heavy favorite at 285. Averette placed 6th at the Ironman. The #2 seed is Pallotti's Antonio Santoro (#24). The 3rd seed is Mt. St. Joe's Shane Lowman (#25). Santoro has three wins over Lowman this year, the latest being in the MIAA Finals.

Sheldon Johnson (Gilman) is seeded 4th and Kevin Sigwart (Curley) is the 5th seed. Both are capable of pulling off some upsets as they have wins over Santoro during the regular season. Dan Maltsev (McDonogh, #17) could make things interesting as the 6th seed. Maltsev was ranked #8 by the MSWA at 220lbs, but is up at 285 for the state tournament.

The MSWA State Rankings can be found here:

<http://marylandwrestling.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=30756&sid=e1f94f79b75a472ee805548c1d2de667>

MIS Website:

<http://www.mcdonoghwrestling.com/misstatetourn.html>

The MIS Website has a link to follow results.

2013 MIS State Tournament Schedule

Friday, February 15, 2013

3:30 - 5:00 pm	1st Round Championship
5:00 - 7:00 pm	2nd Round Championship & 1st Round Wrestle Backs
7:00 - 8:30 pm	2nd Round Wrestle Backs
8:30 - 10:00 pm	Quarterfinals & 3rd Round Wrestle Backs

Saturday, February 16, 2013

10:00 - 11:30 am	4th Round Wrestle Backs
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Semi-finals & Consi-quarters (5th Round WB)
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Consi-semis (6th Round WB)
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Finals 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th place matches
5:00 - 5:30 pm	Awards