

Hereford Wins Baltimore County Title

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Bulls Win 13 of last 14 Matches to Seal Win over Defending Champion Owings Mills

The Hereford Bulls (#23 overall in the team rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) came into the Baltimore County Wrestling Tournament at Franklin High School as slight underdogs. Their main obstacle to a title was Owings Mills (#15 overall by the MSWA) who had won the last three county titles.

Hereford beat Owings Mills at the Bauerlein Duals, but Owings Mills placed ahead of Hereford at the Franklin Invitational in January. Therefore, the Bulls were ranked above the Eagles in the dual meet rankings (#18 and #21 respectively). The tournament rankings, however, favored Owings Mills (#16) while Hereford was listed as honorable mention.

This being a bracketed tournament, Owings Mills was the favored team. The Bulls had other plans though.

Hereford got hot at the end of the tournament winning 13 of the last 14 matches they wrestled. The only loss was in the 285lb consolation final.

"It's awesome," said Bulls Coach and 1977 Hereford graduate Ron Causey. "I tell you what, the boys came to wrestle. No if, ands, or buts, they came to wrestle."

"We came to wrestle with conviction, and with heart, and with conditioning, and with skill. I'm proud of these boys. They are a great group of boys. I couldn't be more proud of them."

Hereford sent four grapplers to the finals, and all four won titles. The four champions were the most of any team. Anthony Genco (113, #7 by the MSWA) and 220lber Mike Swiger (#8) were heavily favored.

Genco won by major decision, 18-9, over Owings Mills' returning 1A/2A state placer Brandon Bekar (#19). Swiger pinned Catonsville's Jordan Reynolds at the 5:11 mark of the third period.

At 170 Billy Hess had an improbable run to the championship. Hess came into the tournament seeded 4th. In the semi-finals he avenged a 13-6 loss to Owings Mill's Abduhl El-Omari in the consolation finals at the Franklin Invitational. Hess pinned El-Omari in the first period in 41 seconds.

In the finals Hess was up against Trevar Jackson (Catonsville, #29). Hess defeated Jackson 9-4.

"I was the 4th seed coming in. I really didn't think I was going to win the whole tournament," said Hess. "A couple of the guys in here had already beaten me. I pinned the kid who beat me last time I was at this school."

"I just dominated the finals match. It's great. It's the best feeling I've ever had."

#21 Brock Turnbaugh (195) was seeded second, but his bracket had two returning 1A/2A state placers; Sparrows Point's James Krug (#8) and Western Tech's Payton Beachum (#12). Beachum (the 4th seed) upset top seeded Krug in the semi-finals, winning by fall.

Turnbaugh beat Beachum in the finals, 4-2, to secure the county crown.

"It definitely felt great," said Turnbaugh. "I know I came in feeling like the underdog. So I had to come out and wrestle the way I know I can, and I came away with the victory."

Andrew Lopez (126), Kevin Wheeler (132), Dylan Gray (152), and Joe Miller (182) finished third for the Bulls. Heavyweight Patrick Anderson (#19) came in 4th place.

Owings Mills had a tournament high six grapplers in the finals. Winning Crowns for the Eagles were #8 Jake Rendelman (106), returning 3A/4A state runner-up Antwan Reddick (152, #8), and #16 Komil Juraev (182).

Taking home silver for Owings Mills were Bekar, Isaiah Mack (120), and three time 1A/2A state placer (and former state champion) Demetrius Johnson (145, #3).

El-Omari finished 4th, and Dan Grossman (126) took 5th for the Eagles.

Dulaney's Jacob Asher had the upset of the night in the 145lb finals. Asher, ranked #20, picked off #3 Johnson 3-2.

"I'm incredibly happy about this win," Asher said. "My dad (Scott) won counties his junior year. I wanted to follow after him. I knew I was the underdog, but I didn't let that take hold of my mentality of winning the match."

Defending 1A/2A state champion Tejon Anthony (#10) from Western Tech cruised to his second straight county crown. In the finals Anthony won by major decision, 15-4, over Perry Hall's DJ Grindle (#29). En route to the finals Anthony picked up two second period falls and a technical fall.

Western Tech had two wrestlers finish in second, Tony Simuel (152, #29) and Beachum.

Perry Hall's Matt Green, a defending 3A/4A state champion, won his second county crown pinning Milford Mill's powerful Steven Gbale (#12) in the first period at the 1:55 mark. Gbale is a transfer from Delaware.

Pikesville crowned two champions, #10 Travon Wright (138) and Cameron Hall-Hurt (160, #18). It was both wrestlers' first county titles. Wright was runner-up as a sophomore and junior.

Two east county teams had one champion apiece. Sparrows Point's Randy Watson (120, #17) and Dundalk's Alfred Martinez (126, #29) won their first county titles.

Towson had two guys make it to the finals, but both had to settle for silver. Liam St. John (138) lost to Wright 12-4, and Nathan Nenortas (182) was defeated by Juraev 7-0.

The host school had one finalist, Nick Montayne (126, #28). Montayne lost to top seeded Martinez 6-3.

Kenwood's Nyonbou Farley (160, #19) lost his final to Hall-Hurttt 6-4 in a battle of state ranked wrestlers.

Eastern Tech's Doug Ramirez reached the 106lb final by avenging a loss to Kenwood's Dominic Purcell from earlier this season. Ramirez had to settle for silver after getting pinned by Rendelman at the 1:30 mark of the first period.

Team Scores (top 15)

- 1-Hereford 200.5
- 2-Owings Mills 186
- 3-Catonsville 143.5
- 4-Eastern Tech 112.5
- 5-Western STES 107
- 6-Perry Hall 106
- 7-Pikesville 94
- 8-Dulaney 90.5
- 9-Franklin 84
- 10-Dundalk 76.5
- 11-Milford Mill 76
- 12-Sparrows Point 66.5
- 13-Towson 63
- 14-Kenwood 56
- 15-Parkville 46.5

Championship Finals

- 106-Jake Rendelman (Owings Mills) pinned Doug Ramirez (Eastern Tech), 1:30
- 113-Anthony Genco (Hereford) maj. dec. Brandon Bekar (Owings Mills), 18-9
- 120-Randy Watson (Sparrows Point) dec. Isaiah Mack (Owings Mills), 7-1
- 126-Alfred Martinez (Dundalk) dec. Nick Montayne (Franklin), 6-3
- 132-Tejon Anthony (Western STES) maj. dec. DJ Grindle (Perry Hall), 15-4
- 138-Travon Wright (Pikesville) maj. dec. Liam St. John (Towson), 12-4
- 145-Jacob Asher (Dulaney) dec. Demetrius Johnson (Owings Mills), 3-2
- 152-Antwan Reddick (Owings Mills) maj. dec. Tony Simuel (Western STES), 12-2
- 160-Cameron Hall-Hurttt (Pikesville) dec. Nyonbou Farley (Kenwood), 6-4
- 170-Billy Hess (Hereford) dec. Trevar Jackson (Catonsville), 9-4
- 182-Komil Juraev (Owings Mills) dec. Nathan Nenortas (Towson), 7-0
- 195-Brock Turnbaugh (Hereford) dec. Payton Beachum (Western Tech), 4-2
- 220-Mike Swiger (Hereford) pinned Jordan Reynolds (Catonsville), 5:11
- 285-Matt Green (Perry Hall) pinned Nathan Gbale (Milford Mill), 1:55

Consolation Finals

106-Austin Widerman (Franklin) pinned Joe Scott (Dundalk), 2:47
113-Trey Settle (Perry Hall) pinned Chris Petrovia (Sparrows Point), 1:23
120-Dylan Ruiz (Dulaney) pinned Dominick Davis (Parkville), 1:31
126-Andrew Lopez (Hereford) dec. Joe Jaen (Pikesville), 11-6
132-Kevin Wheeler (Hereford) dec. Holden Taylor (Franklin), 5-4
138-Sean Thrasher (Catonsville) dec. Kendall Costley (Carver A&T), 10-3
145-Ori Shimony (Pikesville) dec. Scott Dengler (Eastern Tech), 3-0
152-Dylan Gray (Hereford) dec. Sean Hoffman (Dulaney), 1-0
160-Austin Harrison (Western STES) dec. Mike Romingo (Woodlawn)
170-Nataneil Dunchie (Milford Mill) dec. Abduhl El-Omari (Owings Mills), 4-2
182-Joe Miller (Hereford) pinned Cullen Jones (Eastern Tech), 2:35
195-Devin Fehsenfeld (Milford Mill) dec. Andrew Spencer (Loch Raven), 9-4
220-Stephan Burden (Kenwood) pinned Jordan Gale (Chesapeake), 3:54
285-Wayne Maddox (Dundalk) dec. Patrick Anderson (Hereford), 10-3

5th Place Matches

106-Dominic Purcell (Kenwood) dec. Andrew Southwell (Catonsville), 6-0
113-Sam Caravello (Eastern Tech) won by forfeit over Quail El-Ghazouni (Franklin)
120-Tyler Rolfes (Eastern Tech) won by forfeit over Ben Montayne (Franklin)
126-Dan Grossman (Owings Mills) dec. Evan Laryea (Milford Mill), 7-6
132-Karran Costley (Carver A&T) dec. Dan Matthews (Dulaney), 4-2
138-Pat Hoffman (Dulaney) dec. Kevin Isenock (Eastern Tech), 7-3
145-Jimmy Nicholas (Perry Hall) dec. Danny Pittas (Towson), 4-1
152-Joseth Hylton (Catonsville) pinned Jerry Williams (Perry Hall), 1:32
160-Manny Miranda (Catonsville) dec. Ian Chiveral (Eastern Tech), 6-3
170-Greg Stephens (Eastern Tech) dec. Myles Dunton (Woodlawn), 1-0
182-Bobby Lease (Loch Raven) dec. Connor Handzo (Dulaney), 6-0
195-Tarrence Henry (Catonsville) won by forfeit over James Krug (Sparrows Point)
220-Rodney Jones (Dundalk) dec. Necho Freeman (Western STES), 11-4
285-Greg Smith (Randallstown) dec. Calloway Lee (Catonsville), 7-2 OT