

## **Damascus Captures Second Consecutive Montgomery County Title**

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*Swarmin' Hornets Have Tournament High Seven Finalists, Come Away With Three Champs*

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual Montgomery County Wrestling Tournament unfolded as expected this weekend at Montgomery Blair High School.

Damascus is #7 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association. The Swarmin' Hornets were riding the momentum created from winning the 3A/4A state duals title the previous weekend.

Five of Damascus' finalists are only sophomores; Mikey Macklin (106, #6 by the MSWA), Michael Wilkerson (120, #4), Cory Obendorfer (126, #16), #17 Owen Brooks (138), and #18 Johnny Fischer (152) make up the core of a team with a bright future ahead.

Caleb Baisden (170, #15) and Micael Scafate (195, #2) were the Swarmin' Hornets other finalists.

Coming away with county titles were, Baisden, Macklin, and Wilkerson.

Baisden got a measure of revenge with his finals victory over #14 Stephen Potemken (Wootton). Potemken had beaten Baisden in a dual meet earlier this season.

Placing 4<sup>th</sup> for Damascus was 220lber George Vinson. Logan Brooks (160) took 5<sup>th</sup>, and Jack Creegan (145) finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

"The team has bought into our message of leaving a legacy of excellence," said Damascus Coach John Furgeson. "We hope to continue our success next week at Regionals and into the future."

Furgeson's enthusiasm is dampened by concerns about two of his wrestlers who were injured in the tournament. Ari Cacopardo #28 at 182 and Obendorfer are both questionable for next week. Obendorfer had to injury default with 20 seconds left in his close championship match.

The Montgomery County Tournament is run differently than most tournaments in that you have to make it to the semi-finals in order to have a shot at third place. The losers in the semi-finals wrestle for third. If you lose in the quarter finals or earlier, you are placed into a consolation bracket and wrestle out to the fifth place match.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase (#14) came in second on the strength of a tournament high four champions. The Battlin' Barons were four-for-four in the championship finals.

#11 Sean Cohen (126), returning 3A/4A state placer Charlie Banaszak (138, #6), Justin Elwell (145, #18), and #5 Jesse McNeil (182) won titles.

McNeil defeated #6 Chen Han from Wootton 10-3 in his finals match.

Will Witkop (132, #13) finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alex Gama (152) was 4<sup>th</sup>. Jack Banaszak (120) took 5<sup>th</sup>. Ben Cohen (106) and Brendan Cowie (160) finished in 6<sup>th</sup> for Bethesda-Chevy Chase.

Northwest went three-for-three in the finals. #23 Nick Davis (113), #4 Luis Beteta (220), and unranked Ainsley Garvey (132) claimed county championships. The Jaguars outpointed #11 Wootton for third place.

Garvey was the most unlikely champion of the trio. He came in as the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed, but was unranked by the MSWA. Garvey defeated Witkop in the semi-finals; Witkop a returning 3A/4A state placer was considered the favorite to win the title.

In the finals Garvey pinned Montgomery Blair's Chuck Onwuzuruike at the 1:30 mark of the first period. Onwuzuruike (also unranked by the MSWA) pulled off an upset of his own in the quarter finals picking off top seed Chris Minor (Sherwood, #15).

Beteta beat Quince Orchard's #5 Connor Tilton in his title match, 6-0.

Northwest didn't have any wrestlers lose during the placement round as they had four wrestlers in the consolation finals, and all four won.

Dell Ngonga (106, #27), Tommy Beard (138, #30), Jeff Moreno (145, #30), and Byron Johnson (182, honorable mention by the MSWA) all took home bronze medals.

Wootton came in fourth place. The Patriots advanced five grapplers to the championship finals, but #2 Ralph Bernardo (195) was the only one to bring home a title.

Austin Tritto (113, #22), Potemken, Han, and Josh Strauss (285, #9) finished as runner-ups.

Stavi Tzamaras (126, but ranked #27 at 132) came in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Garrett Ruderman (138) took 6<sup>th</sup> for Wootton.

Walter Johnson's heavyweight Innocent Okocha (#10) won in overtime on the ultimate tie breaker to avenge an earlier loss to Strauss.

Paint Branch crowned two champions, KC Hill (152, HM) and #17 Malik Kelly (160).

Kelly had a big win over returning 3A/4A state placer Kellan Staton (Seneca Valley, #5) 8-4 for his county title.

Other runner-ups were Springbrook's Kevin Cristobal (106, #18), Quince Orchard's Kyle Bollinger (120, HM), and #29 Cody Dorsey (Poolesville).

### **Team Scores (top 15)**

- 1-Damascus 212.5
- 2-Bethesda-Chevy Chase 182
- 3-Northwest 158
- 4-Thomas Wootton 141
- 5-Springbrook 107
- 6-Paint Branch 103.5
- 7-Walter Johnson 97
- 8-Montgomery Blair 78
- 9-Poolesville 73
- 10-Sherwood 72
- 11-Quince Orchard 67
- 12-Magruder 51
- 13-Walt Whitman 49.5
- 14-Winston Churchill 41
- 15-Watkins Mill 33

### **Championship Finals**

- 106-Mikey Macklin (Damascus) dec. Kevin Cristobal (Springbrook), 5-4
- 113-Nick Davis (Northwest) dec. Austin Tritto (Wootton), 4-1
- 120-Michael Wilkerson (Damascus) dec. Kyle Bollinger (Quince Orchard), 3-2
- 126-Sean Cohen (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) won by injury default over Cory Obendorfer (Damascus)
- 132-Ainsley Garvey (Northwest) pinned Chuck Onwuzuruike (Montgomery Blair), 1:30
- 138-Charlie Banaszak (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) dec. Owen Brooks (Damascus), 5-0
- 145-Justin Elwell (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) dec. Cody Dorsey (Poolesville), 9-5
- 152-KC Hill (Paint Branch) dec. Johnny Fischer (Damascus), 6-4
- 160-Malik Kelly (Paint Branch) dec. Kellen Staton (Seneca Valley), 8-4
- 170-Caleb Baisden (Damascus) dec. Stephen Potemken (Wootton), 4-3
- 182-Jesse McNeil (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) dec. Chen Han (Wootton), 10-3
- 195-Ralph Bernardo (Wootton) maj. dec. Micael Scafate (Damascus), 9-0
- 220-Luis Beteta (Northwest) dec. Connor Tilton (Quince Orchard), 6-0
- 285-Innocent Okocha (Walter Johnson) dec. Josh Strauss (Wootton), 3-2 OT UTB

### **Consolation Finals**

- 106-Dell Ngonga (Northwest) dec. Andrew Frumkin (Sherwood), 4-1
- 113-Ryan Van Meers (Paint Branch) dec. Greg Dirluk (Albert Einstein), 9-6
- 120-Andrew Barnes (Magruder) dec. Nick Karanikas (Gaithersburg), 4-2
- 126-Stavi Tzamaras (Wootton) dec. Oumarou Bitang (Montgomery Blair), 7-4
- 132-Will Witkop (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) dec. Julio Garcia (Springbrook), 7-1
- 138-Tommy Beard (Northwest) pinned Kevin Torres (Springbrook), 4:29
- 145-Jeff Moreno (Northwest) dec. Andrew Conine (Magruder), 7-5
- 152-Jamie Fitzpatrick (Walter Johnson) dec. Alex Gama (Bethesda-Chevy Chase), 7-4
- 160-Colin McCoy (Walter Johnson) dec. Danny Gonzalez (Blake), 5-1
- 170-Brandon Luis (Watkins Mill) dec. Giulian Groce (Winston Churchill), 5-4
- 182-Byron Johnson (Northwest) maj. dec. Tyler Magaha (Poolesville), 11-3
- 195-Matt Schleckser (Winston Churchill) dec. Max Sessions (Walt Whitman), 4-3
- 220-John Holland (Springbrook) dec. George Vinson (Damascus), 9-2
- 285-Adrian Arevalo (Sherwood) pinned Rayem Ali (Springbrook), 3:38

### **5<sup>th</sup> Place Matches**

106-David Silverberg (Richard Montgomery) dec. Ben Cohen (Bethesda-Chevy Chase), 6-4  
113-Quy Tran (Springbrook) dec. Johnny Lam (Watkins Mill), 12-10 OT  
120-Jack Banaszak (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) dec. Shawn Suser (Sherwood), 7-1  
126-Mitch Fenton (Walt Whitman) dec. Michael Macheras (Sherwood), 3-2  
132-Chris Minor (Sherwood) pinned Tommy Branthover (Walter Johnson), 2:45  
138-Chris Crawford (Walter Johnson) dec. Garrett Ruderman (Wootton), 7-4  
145-Keenthy Yeboah (Montgomery Blair) dec. Jack Creegan (Damascus), 7-0  
152-Cory Savage (Poolesville) pinned Jack Calder (Walt Whitman), 1:47  
160-Logan Brooks (Damascus) maj. dec. Brendan Cowie (Bethesda-Chevy Chase), 11-3  
170-Norris Kpamegan (Magruder) dec. Che Cabellero (Poolesville), 7-2  
182-Garrett Smith (Paint Branch) pinned Jordan Wilkerson (Richard Montgomery), 1:58  
195-Nelson Reyes (Quince Orchard) tech-fall Carl Newman (Walter Johnson), 20-5  
220-Lansana Sylla (Montgomery Blair) pinned Chris Young (Paint Branch), 2:03  
285-Marcus Forrester (Montgomery Blair) dec. Daniel Guerrro (Magruder), 5-3 OT UTB