

3A/4A East Region is Loaded With Top Talent

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River Hill, South River, and Stephen Decatur Appear to be the Top Candidates to Capture the Regional Crown

The 3A/4A East Region Tournament is traditionally one of the tougher region tournaments in the state, and this year is no exception. The region is comprised of teams from Anne Arundel County, Harford County, Howard County and the Eastern Shore.

This year's tournament is at Wilde Lake High School in Howard County.

South River (#8 overall team in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) and River Hill (#9 overall) are the top two squads, but the Eastern Shore's Stephen Decatur (#25 in dual meet rankings) could make things interesting.

145 and 152 are the two most stacked weight classes. Both feature six state ranked wrestlers.

Returning 3A/4A state runner-up Colin Alley (South River, #7 by the MSWA) is the top seed at 145. Meade's sophomore Travis Chidebe (#18) comes in as the 2nd seed. Chidebe was 4th at the private school state tournament at 132 as a freshman for Spalding.

Third seeded Malik Jackson (Wilde Lake, #8) was 4th at the 3A/4A states at 132 last year. Jackson will meet 6th seeded Connor Strunk (Mt. Hebron, #24) in the first round. Jackson defeated Strunk 7-3 in the Howard County Finals last weekend.

4th seeded Ben Swanson (C. Milton Wright, #19) faces off against #12 Justin Goodwin (Arundel) in the quarter finals.

The top seed at 152 senior Sam Ziff (Severna Park, #13) was 6th in the 3A/4A states as a sophomore, but failed to reach the podium last year. Ziff wrestled at 160 most of the season before dropping to 152 for the postseason.

Bel Air's John Cross (#11) finished 6th at last year's state tournament and comes in as the #2 seed. Point rich Kanean Patterson (Stephen Decatur, #16) claimed the 3rd seed and will square off against Reservoir's returning state placer (5th at 138) Sam Rowell. Rowell (#15) missed the entire season with an injury, but returned in time for last week's Howard County Tournament where he placed 3rd.

#12 Joe Kendrick (Mt. Hebron) was 6th at 145 in the 3A/4A State Tournament last season. Kendrick comes in as the 4th seed because he missed a portion of the season due to illness. He will face #19 Sameh Boulos (Centennial) in the first round. The meeting will be a rematch of last week's Howard County Final, won by Kendrick 3-0. In the semi-finals Kendrick beat Rowell 5-0.

106 has three state ranked grapplers. River Hill's Michael Beck (#2) is the #1 seed. Troy Kilcarr (Reservoir, #17) and Jeff Hayden (Mt. Hebron, #10) are the 2nd and 3rd seeds respectively. There would be a repeat of the Howard County Finals if Beck and Hayden advance to the final. Beck won the title with a 4-2 decision.

#17 Taariq Mohammed (River Hill) was 6th in the state tournament at 113 last season, and occupies the #1 seed. Stephen Decatur's Nate Rosenblatt (#19) is seeded 2nd.

Four state ranked wrestlers are in the bracket at 120. #1 seed Jeremy Morrow (Northeast-AA, #12) is a senior looking to become a two time state placer. Morrow was 4th at 103 as a sophomore, but didn't place last year. #2 seed Trent Kilcarr (Reservoir) should meet 3rd seeded Noel Rodriguez (North County, #21) in the semi-finals.

The point system placed Arundel's Tanner Chaplain (#8) in the 4th seed. Chaplain has beaten the top seeded Morrow two times this season, the latest being in the Anne Arundel County Finals last weekend 4-2. They will likely meet for the third time this season in the semi-finals.

The top seed at 126, South River's Austin Alley (#13), is looking to get back on the state podium in his final season. Alley was 3rd at 112 as a sophomore. Aberdeen's Travis Hubler (#24) is the 2nd seed.

Jordan Trinh (Wilde Lake, #19) is the 3rd seed and will likely meet Hubler in the semi-finals. #16 Connor Joyce (Broadneck) comes in as the 4th seed. Joyce's potential semi-final meeting with Alley would be a rematch of last week's Anne Arundel County Final, won by Alley 12-2.

Defending 3A/4A state champion #3 Cameron Harrell of Broadneck is the top seed at 132. Harrell won the state title last year as a freshman and looks to stay on pace to become Maryland's next four time state champion.

2nd seeded Mason Kilcarr (Reservoir, #15) is set to face off against 7th seeded Nana Boadu (Meade, #25). 4th seeded Cameron Watts (Bel Air) won the UCBAC title last weekend.

River Hill's Lee Carter is seeded 3rd at 132. Carter will meet the 6th seed, South River's Jordan Orme (#24), in the first round. The Carter vs. Orme match could go either way. Both have been inconsistent this year, but have the potential to qualify for the state tournament.

Freshman sensation #6 Austin Kraisser (Centennial) comes in as the top seed at 138. Kraisser owns a win over the #2 seed Stanley Proctor (Annapolis, #16) in the semi-finals of the Franklin Tournament, 9-0. Chris Banko (Aberdeen) is seeded 3rd and Tre Puccinelli (South River, #23) is the 4th seed. Banko was runner-up at the UCBAC Tournament, losing to Jake Trybus (Bohemia Manor, #15). Puccinelli finished 2nd at the Anne Arundel County Tournament losing to Proctor 7-0 in the finals.

Returning state placer (4th at 160) and top seeded Bryan Overton (Hammond, #5) could see a repeat of last week's Howard County final in the semi-finals. Atholton's Pat Mullens (#10) is seeded 5th and will face the 4th seed, Annapolis' Josue Moreno, in the first round.

Overton defeated Mullens 3-2 for the Howard County crown. Mullens beat Oakland Mills' returning state placer Jaron Smith (#11) in the county semi-finals last weekend. It was Mullens first win over Smith this season after losing their prior two meetings.

Stephen Decatur's Andrew Borradaile (#14) is seeded 2nd and North Harford's Logan Smith (#17) is the 3rd seed at 160.

Two returning state placers could square off in the 170lb final. #6 William Holder-Moore (Bel Air) is seeded 1st and #5 Tola Morakinyo (Wilde Lake) is seeded 2nd. Holder-Moore placed 6th in the state at this weight last year. Morakinyo was 3rd at 160.

Old Mill's Aaron Wallace (#15) beat Meade's Juan Coranado (#16) in last week's Anne Arundel County final. Wallace is seeded 3rd, Coranado 4th.

Wallace will meet 6th seeded Wes Beattie (Reservoir) in the first round. Beattie is dangerous as he has a win over Oakland Mills' Smith this season in addition to placing 5th at the tough Mount Mat Madness Tournament. Beattie was 3rd at the Howard County Tournament. He lost to state placer Anthony Pagnotta (Glenelg, #12) in the semi-finals, 7-6.

There are only two grapplers ranked in the state in the bracket at 182; #1 seed Malik Smith (North County, #8) and 2nd seeded Brian Kirby (River Hill, #21). C. Milton Wright's Doug Thier is someone to keep an eye on. He was ranked in the state before suffering a loss to #24 Austin Rutkowski (Fallston) in the UCBAAC Tournament semi-finals.

#4 Cory Daniel finished 6th in the state at 160 last season for River Hill. Daniel is seeded 1st. Anthony Rossi (South River, #14) is seeded 2nd.

Adam Bargar (Stephen Decatur) is the 3 seed. Bel Air's Cyler Crawford (#10) is the 4th seed.

River Hills's Logan Kirby was a state runner-up at 195 last season. Kirby, currently ranked #3 by the MSWA, is the top seed at 220. 2nd seeded Ryan Hassan (Mt. Hebron, #15) hopes to reach the finals and have a rematch of the Howard County final with Kirby. Kirby won that match 2-0.

Old Mill's Matt Pfeiffer was awarded the 3rd seed even though he had a surprising loss at the Anne Arundel County Tournament. Pfeiffer battled back and took 3rd after suffering a loss in the quarter finals to Meade's Segun Abioye, Abioye didn't qualify for the regional tournament.

#16 Mike Sullivan (Reservoir) is seeded 4th. Sullivan was pinned by Hassan in the county semi-finals last weekend.

#3 Ryan Kail (Stephen Decatur) is the #1 seed at 285. Kail has twice lost to #2 Brion Blades (North Caroline) by fall, including the Bayside finals last week. Kail does own a win over defending 1A/2A State Champion Sean Twigg (Glenleg, #4). Kail defeated Twigg in the War on the Shore finals 1-0.

2nd seeded Devin Keller (Glen Burnie) pulled off a mild upset in the Anne Arundel County Tournament finals pinning 3rd seeded Landon Reeher (Broadneck). The two could meet in the semi-finals for a rematch.

#16 Ne'co Jones (Wilde Lake) is seeded 4th. River Hill's #15 Justin Nestor is the 5th seed. Jones had beaten Nestor two times this season prior to their consolation final match at the Howard County Tournament. Nestor reversed the trend and beat Jones 5-3 to claim 3rd place in Howard County. They will meet for the fourth time this season in Friday's round one.

Tentative Schedule for 3A/4A East

Friday

Weigh-In (by Team).....3:30
Coaches Meeting.....4:45
Varsity Pigtails.....5:00-5:30
Varsity Quarterfinals.....5:30-8:00
Varsity Consolation 1st Round.....8:00-9:30

Saturday

Weigh-in (by Team).....8:30
Coaches Meeting.....9:30
Varsity Semifinals.....10:00-12:00
Break/Lunch.....12:00-12:30
Varsity Consolation Semi-Finals.....12:30-2:30
Varsity Consolations (5th-6th).....2:45-4:30
Varsity Consolations (3rd-4th).....2:45-4:30
Clear Gym.....
Break/Dinner.....4:30-5:00

Varsity Finals.....5:00

**All session times are estimated. New sessions will start at the completion of the previous sessions.

Adjustments for weather will be announced if necessary.