

Maryland Wrestlers Have Strong Showing at National Prep Tournament

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Mutchnik, Bannister, Clark, Martin, and Snyder Claim Titles; Good Counsel is 3rd, McDonogh 4th

The National Prep Tournament held at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania is the top of the mountain for private school wrestlers in Maryland. The tournament isn't truly a "national" gathering. It is mostly comprised of prep schools on the east coast and a few from Texas.

The Prep Tournament is a tough endeavor, as national powerhouses Blair Academy (NJ) and Wyoming Seminary (PA) are among the teams in the field.

Maryland wrestlers were impressive as eight grapplers total reached the championship finals, and five came away as National Prep Champions.

St. Paul's Jack Mutchnik (#1 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) showed why you keep wrestling hard until the final whistle blows. Mutchnik was down by two late in his match with Wyoming Seminary's Judson Preskitt in the 126lb final.

Mutchnik pressed the action, forcing a stalling call on Preskitt that resulted in one point being awarded to him. Up by one with a few seconds remaining Preskitt took a shot that Mutchnik countered with a slide by spin around for two points at the buzzer, and his first National Prep Title.

Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara), ranked #5 in the country by InterMat, won his first prep title with a dominating performance in the 138lb final. Bannister defeated Blair Academy's Walker Dempsey by major decision 11-3.

The nation's top 220lb wrestler, Kyle Snyder (Good Counsel), won his third consecutive National Prep title with ease. Snyder pinned all of his opponents in the second period or earlier en route to the finals. In the championship final Snyder won by technical fall over InterMat's 11th ranked Garrett Ryan (Wyoming Seminary), 21-6.

Snyder's Good Counsel teammates had a great tournament. The Falcons outpointed 4th place McDonogh by 8.5 to come in 3rd behind Blair Academy (1st) and Wyoming Seminary (2nd).

Good Counsel had seven grapplers earn All-American status. Kevin Budock (120, #2 by the MSWA) and Spencer Neff (195, #1) finished as runner-ups.

Neff capped off a stellar career with his second straight All-American finish.

#7 Adam Whitesell (106), #4 Jhared Simmons (126), and heavyweight Jemal Averette (#5) all placed fourth for the Falcons. Philip Robilotto (170, #7) came in 6th place.

McDonogh crowned two champions, and had one runner-up in their total of six All-Americans. Jack Clark, #14 by InterMat at 145, won his second straight title 7-2 over Blair Academy's Mason Manville (#6 in the country at 138).

Two Maryland wrestlers made the finals at 160. Myles Martin (#8 in the nation by InterMat) won his first National Prep crown by defeating St. Mary's Ryken's Josh Llopez (#10 by InterMat) on an injury default. Martin was winning the match at the time of Llopez's default.

Clark and Martin are on pace to become four time Prep All-Americans. Interestingly, all appearances by the two have ended in the finals. Clark is a three time All-American, Martin two time. Clark has two crowns, and Martin one.

Tyler Patrick (182, #2 by the MSWA) came up short in his title quest, settling for silver. Patrick lost to the #1 wrestler in the country at 182, Wyoming Seminary's Eric Morris, 10-0. This was the senior's first time placing at the National Prep Tournament.

TK Megonigal (106, #3 by the MSWA), Xavi Ramos (138, #2), and #2 Toby Hague (152) came in third for the Eagles.

Hague is another McDonogh wrestler hoping to join the four time club. He earned his third placing this year. Clark, Hague, and Martin look to achieve what senior Xavi Ramos did in becoming a four time Prep All-American.

Hague avenged two earlier losses to Spalding's Logan Breitenbach (#1). Hague beat Breitenbach in the quarter finals 6-3, then again in the consolation finals 3-2.

John Carroll came in 6th place with 83 points. Earning All-American status for the Patriots were; #1 Hunter Ritter (170), #1 Scott Strappelli (132), #3 George Weber (145), and Austin Smith (#13 at 113).

Ritter came in third, beating the #1 seeded Patrick Coover (Blair Academy) 4-3 in the consolation final. It was the sophomore Ritter's second All-American finish. Strappelli and Weber placed fourth, both avenged earlier losses.

Strappelli beat Tyler Ponte (Wyoming Seminary) in the quarter finals. Ponte had beaten Strappelli in the season's first tournament at St. Benedicts, NJ.

Weber defeated Georgetown Prep's Michael Sprague (#2 by the MSWA) in the quarter finals to reverse a semi-final loss from a week ago at the MIS Tournament.

Strappelli (3) and Weber (4) end their careers with seven All-American finishes combined.

Smith took 8th place for the Patriots.

Spalding was 8th with 73.5 points and Georgetown Prep rounded out the top ten with 69 points.

The Cavaliers had four grapplers earn awards. Breitenbach was 4th. Matt Pente (132, #8) and Cole Graves (145, #4) both placed fourth. #15 Jacob Parker (182) was a surprise All-American.

Pente and Graves both got a measure of revenge over opponents they previously lost to. Pente lost to Good Counsel's Matt Kelly two times at last week's MIS Tournament. Pente beat Peter Tedesco (Belmont Hill) 4-2. Tedesco beat Kelly in overtime 3-1 in the previous round.

Graves beat the Hill School's Nick Flanigan 3-0, in the match following Flanigan's 7-1 win over #2 Michael Sprague (Georgetown Prep). Sprague has two wins over Graves this year. Graves ends his career as a two time Prep All-American.

Parker defeated #5 Clay Conaway (DeMatha) 6-5 in an early round consolation match. The momentum from that win carried Parker into the placement round, along the way he defeated Northfield Mount Hermon's 6th seeded Stephen Piascik.

The Little Hoyas came home with three All-Americans, Troy Murtha (170, #2), James McCord (138, #12), and Colin Kowalski (113, #4).

Murtha was a surprise finalist after picking off the top seed from Blair Academy Patrick Coover in overtime 3-1. Murtha came up short in his finals match losing to Wyoming Seminary's Nicky Hall 2-0. McCord came in sixth and Kowalski was seventh. Murtha is now a two time Prep placer.

In addition to Llopez, St. Mary's Ryken had one other All-American; #3 Steven Simpson (113). Simpson finished third, pinning Northfield Mount Hermon's Will Verallis in the consolation finals. The win reversed a quarter final loss to Verallis.

St. Paul's had another grappler reach the finals, #2 Ryan Friedman (113). Friedman came up short in his title quest losing to the top seed from Blair Academy, Charles Tucker, 5-2.

Friedman and Simpson both became two time placers as sophomore.

Maryland had four other wrestlers earn All-American status, Curley's #6 Tyshawn Williams (126, 5th place), Loyola's #4 Conan Schuster (170, 7th place), Mt. St. Joe's #6 Dan Hawkins (195, 3rd place), and #2 Shane Cockerille (Gilman, 220) came in third.

Williams and Hawkins were surprise placers in that, some of the adversaries they'd lost to in the past didn't place themselves.

Williams beat Mt. St. Joe's Zeke Salvo (#3) in the quarter finals. That win reversed the recent trend favoring Salvo and evened their season series at two wins apiece.

Hawkins (seeded 5th) didn't get direct revenge over a foe. Hawkins did however, place third while Spalding's Zach Abey (#5) did not place. Abey has beaten Hawkins in their last three matchups.

Hawkins did a stellar job throughout the tournament. He won on disqualification against Angus Cowell (Hotchkiss). Cowell beat Abey in the previous round 10-6.

In the consolation final match Hawkins beat 3rd seeded LJ Barlow (Haverford, PA). Hawkins had two previous wins over Barlow but got a lower seed in one of the many instances of questionable seeding.

Schuster, a senior, became a two time Prep All-American with his 7th place finish.

Cockerille, who is off to the University of MD to play football, became a three time All-American.

Cockerille missed the prep tournament last season due to an injury.

TEAM SCORES (top 15 + MD finishes)

1-Blair Academy (NJ) 324.5
2-Wyoming Seminary (PA) 236
3-Good Counsel 160.5
4-McDonogh 152
5-Malvern Prep (PA) 86
6-John Carroll 83
7-Kiski (PA) 77
8-Spalding 73.5
Tie-Northfield Mount Hermon (MA) 73.5
10-Georgetown Prep 69
11-Germantown (PA) 66.5
12-St. Paul's 65
13-Libert Christian (VA) 61.5
14-St. Benedict's Prep (NJ) 54.5
15-St. Mary's Ryken 51

21-Mt. St. Joe 32.5
22-Bishop McNamara 31
25-Gilman 29.5
26-Curley 29
29-Loyola 27
37-DeMatha 17.5
46-St. Mary's 12
51-Boys Latin 11
52-MDAC (Charles E Smith) 10
70-Severn 7
86-Bullis 5

Championship Finals

106-Jack Mueller (Trinity Christian, TX) dec. Ethan McCoy (Kiski, PA), 15-13 OT
113-Ross Tucker (Blair Academy, NJ) dec. **Ryan Friedman (St. Paul's)**, 5-2
120-Matthew Kolodzik (Blair Academy) dec. **Kevin Budock (Good Counsel)**, 10-3
126-**Jack Mutchnik (St. Paul's)** dec. Judson Preskitt (Wyoming Seminary, PA), 5-4
132-Joseph McKenna (Blair Academy) dec. Andrew Atkinson (Liberty Christian, VA), 6-1
138-**Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara)** maj. dec. Walker Dempsey (Blair Academy), 11-3
145-**Jack Clark (McDonogh)** dec. Mason Manville (Blair Academy), 7-2
152-Russell Parsons (Blair Academy) dec. Zach Kelly (Kiski), 5-0
160-**Myles Martin (McDonogh)** won by default over **Josh Llopez (St. Mary's Ryken)**
170-Nicky Hall (Wyoming Seminary) dec. **Troy Murtha (Georgetown Prep)**, 2-0
182-Eric Morris (Wyoming Seminary) maj. dec. **Tyler Patrick (McDonogh)**, 10-0
195-Frank Mattiace (Blair Academy) dec. **Spencer Neff (Good Counsel)**, 9-2
220-**Kyle Snyder (Good Counsel)** tech-fall Garrett Ryan (Wyoming Seminary), 21-6
285-Brooks Black (Blair Academy) dec. Michael Johnson (Wyoming Seminary), 4-1

Consolation Finals

- 106-**TK Megonigal (McDonogh)** dec. **Adam Whitesell (Good Counsel)**, 4-3
113-**Steven Simpson (St. Mary's Ryken)** pinned Will Verallis (Northfield Mount Hermon, MA), 2:11
120-Will Crisco (Wyoming Seminary) dec. Matt Lattanze (Malvern Prep, PA) 5-1
126-Alex Rinaldi (Blair Academy) dec. **Jhared Simmons (Good Counsel)**, 4-2
132-Luke Brooman (Epsicopal Academy, PA) pinned **Scott Strappelli (John Carroll)**, 2:49
138-**Xavi Ramos (McDonogh)** dec. Spencer Slishman (Northfield Mount Hermon), 7-2
145-Tyrell White (Wyoming Seminary) dec. **George Weber (John Carroll)**, 1-0
152-**Toby Hague (McDonogh)** dec. **Logan Breitenbach (Spalding)**, 3-2
160-Dom Scallise (Kiski) maj. dec. Greg Bacci (Malvern Prep), 9-0
170-**Hunter Ritter (John Carroll)** dec. Patrick Coover (Blair Academy), 4-3
182-Addison Knepshild (Blair Academy) won by default over Isaiah Bellamy (Lawrence, MA)
195-**Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe)** dec. LJ Barlow (Haverford, PA), 2-1
220-**Shane Cockerille (Gilman)** dec. McZiggy Richards (St. Benedict's, NJ), 3-1 OT
285-Steven Dwight (Hyde, ME) pinned **Jemal Averette (Good Counsel)**, 4:23

5th Place Matches

- 106-Joey Prata (St. Christophers, VA) dec. Matthew Deehan (Blair Academy), 2-0
113-Danny Boychuck (Wyoming Seminary) dec. William Kelly (St. Christophers), 2-0
120-Stephen Thibault (Avon Old Farms, CT) dec. Christian Vallis (Phillips, MA), 3-1
126-Jawan Jones (St. Benedict's) dec. **Tyshawn Williams (Curley)**, 3-1 OT
132-Geoff Verallis (Northfield Mount Hermon) dec. **Matt Pente (Spalding)**, 8-2
138-Frederick Perrine (Peddie, NJ) dec. **James McCord (Georgetown Prep)**, 7-3
145-Ike Podell (Liberty Christian) dec. **Cole Graves (Spalding)**, 2-1
152-William Crozier (Germantown, PA) dec. Robert Janis (St. Christophers), 1-0
160-Chris Weiler (Wyoming Seminary) pinned Andrew Konovalchik (Brooks School, MA), 2:11
170-Terrell Forbes (St. Benedict's) dec. **Philip Robilotto (Good Counsel)**, 8-4
182-Matthew Apuzzi (Lawrenceville, NJ) dec. Luke Kisselback (Germantown), 3-0
195-Harry Mauk (Malvern Prep) dec. Matt Doggett (Wyoming Seminary), 7-2
220-Todd Bazarewski (Tabor, MA) won by forfeit over David Showunmi (Blair Academy)
285-Connor Dintino (Choate Rosemary, CT) dec. Henry Anderson (Northfield Mount Hermon), 1-0

7th Place Matches

- 106-Logan Harvich (Cape Henry, VA) dec. Nick Lattanze (Malvern Prep), 4-3 OT
113-**Colin Kowalski (Georgetown Prep)** tech-fall **Austin Smith (John Carroll)**, 18-3
120-Dustin Runzo (Norfolk, VA) dec. Patrick McLaughlin (Lawrenceville), 3-2
126-Brady Riley (Germantown) dec. John Anderson (Tabor), 1-0
132-Peter Tedesco (Belmont Hill, MA) dec. Casey Cowan (Kinkaid, TX), 5-2
138-Jared Gober (Germantown) dec. Brandon Walker (Woodberry Forest, VA), 8-6
145-Sky Walker (McKinney Christian, TX) dec. Nick Flanigan (Hill School, PA), 6-3
152-Ricky Regas (St. Thomas, TX) dec. Connor Burns (Malvern Prep), 8-3
160-Jack Wedholm (Blair Academy) dec. John Grossi (Germantown), 5-2
170-**Conan Schuster (Loyola)** pinned Clayton McKee (Westtown, PA), 2:37
182-John Cherneskie (Hill School) dec. **Jacob Parker (Spalding)**, 2-1
195-Desmond Johnson (Springside Chestnut Hill, PA) dec. Ryan Kelley (Belmont Hill, MA)
220-John Anderson (Malvern Prep) pinned Marshall Hollerith (St. Christophers), :43
285-Chris Hattar (Trinity-Pawling, NY) dec. Cannon Maki (All Saints Episcopal, TX), 4-2