

## **MIAA Tournament Set For This Weekend**

*By Billy Buckheit © all rights reserved*

*#1 McDonogh has Five Top Seeded Wrestlers, Two Seeded Second*

This weekend's MIAA Wrestling Tournament at Mount St. Joe features 63 wrestlers ranked in the state by the Maryland State Wrestling Association. In addition there are nine other honorable mention grapplers.

McDonogh (the No.1 team in Maryland) is favored to win, but John Carroll and Spalding look to make things interesting. A few upsets in the right places could alter the outcome.

Two weight classes feature the top three wrestlers in the state, 126 and 152.

126 is one of the deepest weight classes of the tournament. Seven state ranked grapplers are set to do battle. #1 Jack Mutchnik (St. Paul's), #2 Tyshawn Williams (Curley), and #3 Zeke Salvo (Mt. St. Joe) lead the pack. McDonogh's Sam Martino, a freshman from Virginia, is the 4<sup>th</sup> seed. Martino is ranked #8 by the Maryland State Wrestling Association. The 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> seeds are; Austin Seivold (Calvert Hall, #21), Devin Davis (John Carroll, #22), and Joey Eberhard (Spalding, #28).

Mutchnik has two close wins over Salvo this year (Beast of the East and a dual meet). Williams has a win over Salvo in the finals of the Glenn Jones Charger Classic, but Salvo placed ahead of Williams at the War on the Shore tournament. Salvo pinned Mike Flora (Hanover, VA) in the finals. Flora beat Williams in the semi-finals of WOS. The probable semi-final match-up of Williams and Salvo looks to be a barn burner.

152 features #1 Logan Breitenbach (Spalding), #2 Toby Hague (McDonogh), and #3 Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's). Curley's Erik Meyer (#9) and John Carroll's Chris Almony (#10) are the other ranked grapplers in a weight that is loaded with five of the top ten wrestlers in Maryland. Brooks Lucier (St. Paul's) is listed as honorable mention by the MSWA.

Breitenbach beat Pappas at the South River Duals. Breitenbach and Hague have not met, but Breitenbach has a common opponent win over Hague. At the War on the Shore tournament Breitenbach beat Taylor Misuna (Grassfield, VA) in the semi-finals. Hague lost to Misuna at the Beast of the East. They both have wins over Germantown, PA's BJ Crozier at the Gilman Duals, but Hague lost Crozier earlier at the Beast of the East. Meyer owns a win over Almony from last year at the MIAA Tournament.

170 is another stacked weight class with seven state ranked wrestlers and one honorable mention. Conan Schuster (Loyola, #2) and Hunter Ritter (John Carroll, #3) are the top two seeds. Gilman's Garrett Pfeifer (#11), Curley's Sean Bieschke (#15), McDonogh's Theo Duncan (#16), Evan Dohler (Boys Latin, #21), Ryan Lamon (Severn, #27), and Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe, HM) are the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> seeds.

McDonogh's TK Megonigal (#5) is the top seed at 106, followed by CJ Skokoswki (John Carroll, #18), Nick Malinowski (Boys Latin, #26), #29 Turner Wilson from Mt. St. Joe, and Curley's Chae Neale (HM).

Severn's Mike Doetsch (#18) is out after having surgery.

The top seed at 113 is Ryan Friedman (St. Paul's, #2). Justin Chenault (Palotti, #14) is the No.2 seed. Rounding out the field are John Carroll's Austin Smith (#15), Gilman's Jack King (#16), and honorable mention Jack Eberhard (Spalding).

Friedman is unbeaten against Maryland competition this year, including two wins over Smith. Chenault beat Smith in a dual meet. Smith has a win over King.

Wolfie Bradley (Spalding, #7), Zach Dwyer (John Carroll, #8), Naron Gilmer (Curley, #10), Mt. St. Joe's Malik Woody (#12), and Boys Latin's Hunter Cotsoradis (#27) are the top grapplers at 120.

Bradley has a win over Dwyer at the Cavalier Duals. Dwyer beat Gilmer in a dual. At the War on the Shore Gilmer defeated Woody in the 5<sup>th</sup> place match.

132 features three of the state's top five wrestlers. John Carroll's Scott Strappelli (#2) is the No. 1 seed. Matt Pente (Spalding, #4) is the two seed, and Logan Meister (McDonogh, #5) is the three seed. Pente and Meister have a history of trading wins over the last few years, with Pente winning the latest matchup in OT this year.

St. Paul's Billy Krop (#12), St. Mary's Chase Pappas (#30), and Calvert Hall's Matt Wagner (HM) are the other top competitors at 132.

A battle of the state's #2 and #3 ranked wrestlers could occur in the 138lb finals. Top seeded Xavi Ramos (McDonogh) and 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded David Mohler (Loyola) would be a rematch of a dual meet earlier in the year, won by Ramos. Gabe Pastirik (St. Mary's, #23), Artie Milner (John Carroll, #27), St. Paul's Griffin Welsh (#28), and #30 Noah Koski (Calvert Hall) fill out the field of ranked wrestlers.

Mt. St. Joe's Seth Rowell (#5) is out with a knee injury, but hopes to be ready for the Maryland Independent States.

Four wrestlers in the top ten of the MSWA rankings, and three out of the top five, are set to battle it out at 145. #1 Jack Clark (McDonogh), #2 George Weber (John Carroll), #5 Cole Graves (Spalding), and #9 Walter Johnson (Loyola) are the top four seeds. The five seed is Mt. Carmel's Grant Taylor (#22), and the six seed is Boys Latin's Anthony Wyler (#26).

160 is the home of heavily favored Myles Martin (McDonogh). Martin is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the country by Intermat. The other top wrestlers at are; #13 Jimmy Malone (Spalding), #23 Fred Johnson (Curley), plus honorable mention wrestlers Greg Louzan (St. Paul's) and John Carroll's Christian Scott.

The competition at 182 is comprised of three top ten wrestlers; top seeded Tyler Patrick (McDonogh, #2), 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Jacob Parker (Spalding, #9), and 3<sup>rd</sup> seeded Jake Nordhausen (Loyola). Parker beat Nordhausen earlier this year. St. Mary's Matt Kerner (HM) is seeded 4<sup>th</sup>.

195lbs is one of the toughest weights at the top. The top three wrestlers at this weight participated in the dreaded A beats B, B beats C, C beats A scenario this year. Top seeded Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe, #5) has a few wins against McDonogh's Mike Smith (#6). The 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Smith has a win over 3<sup>rd</sup> seeded Zach Abey (Spalding, #7) in a recent dual. Abey beat Hawkins in a dual before the loss to Smith. Hawkins was given the 1<sup>st</sup> seed based on his multiple wins over Smith, Beast of the East placing, and Fargo All-American status as accomplishments were used to break the tie. John Carroll's Dan Kelble (#29) is the 4<sup>th</sup> seed.

The field at 220 is wide open. Gilman's Shane Cockerille (#3) is a big favorite to win the title. Yamil Cristobal (Palotti, #27) is seeded 2<sup>nd</sup>. Loyola's Sam Roberts, the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed, is tough. John Carroll's Andy Reininger (4<sup>th</sup> seed), 5<sup>th</sup> seeded Travis Woods (McDonogh), Severn's Brian DeStefano, and Mt. St. Joe's Alex Barnabae are guys to watch as they all are capable of out-performing their seed.

#8 Dan Maltsev is out for McDonogh.

The 285lb weight class was another weight where there was a circle of wins. Top seeded Antonio Santoro (Palotti, #26) has two wins over 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Shane Lowman (Mt. St. Joe). 3<sup>rd</sup> seeded Curley's Kevin Sigwart (HM) has a recent win over Santoro, and has been on a late season tear. Accomplishments again played a role in the seeding as Lowman placed higher than Sigwart at the War on the Shore and Glenn Jones Charger Classic.

As with 220, the field is wide open and any number of guys could surprise. Melvin Gowl (Spalding) is seeded fourth. Loyola's Tyler Covey is the fifth seed, and placed at the Parkville Tournament while Sheldon Johnson (6<sup>th</sup> seed, Gilman) didn't place. Johnson is dangerous though, he owns a win over Santoro.

#### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

All entries must weigh-in according to the following schedule:

Note: No admission to Mount Saint Joseph will be allowed prior to 12:30 PM on Friday.

Friday, February 8 1:30 - 2:30 PM Weigh-ins, Skin Check, Hair and Nails

3:30 PM Matches begin on 4 Mats

(1st Round, Quarter Finals, 1st round Consolations, Quarter final consolations)

Saturday, February 9 7:45 - 8:45 AM Weigh-ins

9:00 AM Matches begin on 4 Mats

Championship Semi Finals

3rd Round Consolation

11:30 AM Consolation Semi Finals

1:00 PM Finals (1st, 3rd, 5th on 3 mats)

Follow the event on Kap Wrestling

Registration required; free brackets will be available; minimal charge to follow the event live:

<http://www.kapwrestling.net/tournaments/miaamd2013/>