

MPSSAA State Wrestling Tournament Preview - Middleweights

By Billy Buckheit © all rights reserved

February 27, 2013

**All rankings referenced are the Official Maryland State Wrestling Association Rankings; if the ranking is followed by an "o" it refers to a wrestler's overall state ranking, all other numbers refer to their divisional ranking.*

138

3A/4A

#1 Charlie Banaszak (Bethesda-Chevy Chase, #3 o) has his sights set on his first state title. The senior was 3rd at this weight class a year ago. One of Banaszak's two losses was to Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara) the #5 wrestler in the nation according to Intermat at the Bob Rowe Memorial Classic. He won his second straight Montgomery County crown and first region title this year.

Banaszak should meet Annapolis' #5 Stanley Proctor (#17 o) in the quarter finals. Proctor was an Anne Arundel County Champion. He finished 2nd in the East Region losing to Centennial's Austin Kraisser for the second time this season. The first lost to Kraisser occurred in the semi-finals of the Franklin Tournament. Proctor has wins over state runner-up Colin Alley (South River) and Travis Chidebe (Meade), who was a state placer for Spalding in the private school states as a sophomore.

South River's Tre Puccinelli (#23 o) faces Towson's Liam St. John in a first round match he should win. Puccinelli was 2nd in Anne Arundel County and 3rd in the East Region.

His likely quarter final opponent will be #6 Kevin Thomas (Parkdale, #18 o). Thomas' lone loss on the season occurred at 145lbs at the Mad Mats Tournament and was by default to Connor Jobes of Walter Johnson. Thomas won the Winter Blitz title as well as crowns at the Prince George's County Tournament and the South Regional. In the counties and regionals Thomas pinned Bowie's Detric McCoy in the finals.

#3 Kraisser (#8 o) could face #4 Damascus' Owen Brooks (#10 o). Kraisser (a freshman) has three losses on the year, and all three happened at the War on the Shore Tournament where he finished 6th. Kraisser has lost to only one Maryland wrestler this season, Ryan Carter (Glenelg) in the 5th place match. The other losses were to Virginia's Corbin Allen (Hanover) and West Virginia's Dylan Taylor (Wheeling Park).

Kraisser has since beaten Carter two times, including the Howard County finals. As noted above his regional final win over Proctor was his second on the season. He won by technical fall over Towson's St. John in the Franklin finals.

Brooks is a sophomore with a bright future. He won the Damascus Tournament by beating Poolesville's Will Korzeniewski 2-1. At the Catoctin Duals he beat Oakdale's Nic Przybocki. Brooks was a county and region runner-up, losing to Banaszak in both finals.

#7 McCoy from Bowie (# 19 o) meets North Hagerstown's #8 Gene Balcita (#22 o) in a first round match that should be a good one. McCoy has a win over Glenelg's Carter at the Dunbar Duals. Balcita, the Washington County Champion, has wins over Bethesda-Chevy Chase' Will Witkop and Williamsport's Bryan Davis.

The winner of the McCoy/Balcita match will get to face Urbana's #2 Nick Frank (#7 o). Frank is one of the most successful wrestlers in Urbana's history. He has placed at the state tournament each of the previous three years, and is expected to make it four for four this year. A state title has eluded Frank and that is his goal as he heads into Cole Field House this weekend.

Frank put together a pretty impressive senior campaign with some big wins. At the Bauerlein Duals he beat Charlie Perella (Catocin, the slight favorite to win the 1A/2A state title at 132) and state runner-up Antwan Reddick (Owings Mills). Frank beat returning state placer Casey Shea (Liberty) in a dual meet.

At Mount Mat Madness he placed 3rd beating Mt. St. Joe's Seth Rowell (#12 o) and National Prep All-American James McCord (Georgetown Prep, #5 o). One of Frank's only losses took place in the MMM semi-finals as he lost to Loyola's four time state placer and one time state champion, David Mohler.

Frank won the Hub Cup title. At the state duals he beat state runner-up Colin Alley (South River) and Damascus' Brooks. The only other blemish on his record occurred in the Frederick County semi-finals when he lost to Oakdale's Przybocki 2-0. The loss denied Frank the honor of becoming a four time Frederick County Champion. He bounced back to win the North Region with a 10-1 victory over Towson's St. John.

1A/2A

The top half of the bracket is pretty bare in regards to state ranked competitors. There are only three, but two of them are #1 and #2 in the 1A/2A division.

#1 Matt Capobianco (Middletown, #4 o) is looking for his first state title after finishing as a runner-up last year and 4th the prior season. The senior won the Frederick County title and the West Regional crown. He beat Przybocki in the finals of the county tournament, and then again in the regional semi-finals. In the regional finals Capobianco beat Century's returning state placer, Sean Donoghue, 17-1.

Capobianco's semi-final opponent here will likely be #2 Connor Furst (Patuxent, #9). Furst won the Oakdale Bear Cave Brawl beating Damascus' Brooks in the final. He was 2nd at the Northern Calvert Patriot Classic picking up his only loss of the year to Virginia's Derek Arnold (Westfield). Furst won the SMAC and South Region Championships. In the regional final he beat Glenelg's Carter.

Furst faces Southern Garrett's Tanner Massey (#21 o) in the first round.

The bottom half of the bracket is loaded with six of the eight wrestlers ranked in the state by the MSHA.

#5 Jake Trybus from Bohemia Manor, was 5th at 132 in last year's state tournament. The junior should advance to the quarter finals with ease. Trybus (#14 o) didn't place at Mount Mat Madness, but he lost to two quality wrestlers; McCord and Rowell. He again lost to Rowell in the finals of the Battle at the Bridge. Trybus won the UCBAC and East Region titles.

Trybus' quarter final opponent will be the winner of Poolseville's #7 Korzeniewski (#16 o) and #8 Donoghue (#20 o). As noted before Donoghue is a returning state placer. He was a Carroll County Champion and West Region runner-up.

Korzeniewski has two wins over Przybocki. The first was for the title at the Oakdale Bear Cave Brawl, the second was the semi-finals of the Damascus Tournament. Korzeniewski took 2nd at Damascus losing to Brooks. He won the Battle at the Brook crown. Korzeniewski did not wrestle in the Montgomery County Tournament, but wrestled in the South Regional finishing 3rd. He lost to Carter in the semi-finals.

#6 Carter (#15 o) and #3 Przybocki (# 11 o) will do battle in a first round match that should be a barnburner. Either grappler could come away with the victory. Some of Carter's exploits are mentioned above. In addition to those he is a county and region runner-up this year. He also placed 6th at Mount Mat Madness and owns a win over Loyola's David Mohler in a dual meet.

Przybocki has added some big wins to his resume this season. He beat Liberty's Casey Shea and Good Counsel's Matt Kelly in dual meets. Przybocki was a Frederick County runner-up and placed 3rd in the West Region. As previously mentioned he beat Frank in the county semi-finals.

Whoever wins that war will likely face Pikesville's #4 Travon Wright (#13 o) in the quarter finals. Wright, a senior, is attempting to place in the state tournament for the first time in his career. He is a two time Baltimore County Champion and won his first regional title this year.

145

3A/4A

There are five state ranked wrestlers in the top of this bracket compared to three in the bottom half. There is however, a traditional division of the top four guys at this weight. The #1 and #4 grapplers are placed at the top, the #2 and #3 are in the bottom.

#1 Larry Cannon (Chopticon, #6 o) is primed to become a Maryland State placer for the first time. Cannon wrestled in Maryland as a freshman, but moved to Florida where he placed 3rd in the state tournament.

Cannon has a win over state runner-up Colin Alley (South River) at the South River Duals. He is a SMAC and South Region Champion.

Cannon will meet the winner of one of the tougher first round matches of the tournament. #5 Travis Chidebe (Meade, #11 o) and #7 Chad Ellis (Linganore, #16 o) are state placers from last year.

Chidebe was 4th at 132 in the private school state tournament for Spalding. Ellis was 4th in the state at this weight last year.

#4 Malik Jackson (Wilde Lake, #10 o) faces returning state placer John Freeze (Urbana). Jackson was 4th in the state at 132 as a sophomore. He won the Howard County title and finished as region runner-up.

#8 Justin Elwell (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) should advance to the quarter finals and meet Jackson. Elwell missed a chunk of the season due to injury, but made it back in time for the postseason. Elwell won the Montgomery County and West Region Championships.

#3 Ben Swanson (C. Milton Wright, #9 o) emerged from the woodwork at the region tournament. Swanson showed flashes of promise last season. While still at John Carroll he beat Huntingtown's state placer Hunter Rowe 10-2.

Swanson won the UCBAC Tournament, but saved his best performance for the regional tournament. In the East Region Finals Swanson beat Jackson 7-3. He beat Alley in the semi-finals, and Arundel's Justin Goodwin in the quarter finals.

Swanson will likely face former state placer Andrew Conine (6th as a freshman at 119) in the quarter finals.

The last preliminary match in the 3A/4A bracket looks to be a doozie. #2 Jacob Asher (Dulaney, #7 o) is coming off two impressive wins at the counties and regions. In the Baltimore County finals he beat Owings Mill's three time state placer Demetrius Johnson. Asher won the North Region beating Ellis.

#6 Alley (#12 o) was a state runner-up at 126lbs last season. Alley won the Anne Arundel County crown, but only finished 4th in the East Region. At the counties Alley beat Chidebe, but lost to him at the regionals.

Alley owns wins over Jackson from the South River Duals and Southern-AA's Chase McKenzie in a dual meet. Asher/Alley will be a good one.

1A/2A

#1 Wes Cook (Winters Mill, #5 o) is on a quest for his second straight title, and revenge for his state runner-up finish as a sophomore. Two years ago Cook lost to Owings Mills' Johnson in the state finals. The two grapplers could meet in the finals again, with both going for second titles.

Cook could face Southern-AA's #3 McKenzie (#13 o) in the semi-finals. It would be a rematch of the Battle by the Bay finals won by Cook on a first period fall.

Mckenzie defaulted in the Anne Arundel County Tournament, but came back and won the South Region. Mckenzie has wins over Arundel's Goodwin and Meade's Chidebe this season.

#6 Ori Shimony (Pikesville, #21 o) faces Kent Island's Dmitry Callas in his first round match. Callas could surprise Shimony if he's not on his game. Shimony was 3rd in Baltimore County and 2nd in the North Region. Shimony lost to Asher at the counties, reversing an earlier win he had over Asher at the Loch Raven Duals.

#7 Connor Welch (Lackey, #22 o) and #4 Josh Loveless (Oakdale, #14) square off in a first round match that should be a thriller.

Loveless won the Frederick County Championship pinning returning state placer, Chad Ellis, in the semi-finals. In the region finals Loveless picked off another state placer, Catoclin's Pat Guliday, by fall before losing to Cook in the finals.

Welch didn't wrestle in the SMAC Tournament. He was 3rd in the South Region beating Patuxent's Mitch Lake in the consolation finals. Welch defeated Glenelg's Austin Pagnotta at the regions too.

#5 Guilday (#15 o) placed 4th at 138 at last year's state tournament. He faces #8 Cody Dorsey (Poolesville, #25 o) in the first round.

Owings Mills' #2 Johnson (#8 o) can become a four time state placer this weekend. Johnson won titles at the Parkville Tournament where he beat Pikesville's Travon Wright in the finals, and at Franklin he beat Joe Kendrick (Mt. Hebron) in the 152lb final.

Johnson was a Baltimore County runner-up to Asher. He captured his 3rd regional championship this year.

152

3A/4A

The bottom half of the bracket is tougher than the top at 152. The #2-#4 grapplers reside down below.

#4 Colton Rowe (Huntingtown, #14 o) was 5th in the state at 160lbs last year. Rowe will probably meet Bel Air's #2 John Cross (#12 o) in the quarter finals. Cross placed 6th at 152 last year.

Rowe was a SMAC and South Region Champion. Cross lost to state runner-up CJ Austin (Fallston) in the UCBAC finals, and Sam Ziff in the East Region finals.

Cross will face #24 overall Jamie Fitzpatrick (Walter Johnson) in his first round match.

#3 Joe Kendrick (Mt. Hebron, # 13 o) meets Paint Branch's KC Hill (# 23 o) in a first round match. Kendrick (6th in the state at 145 a season ago) was a Howard County Champion this year.

He finished 3rd in the East Region, winning by forfeit over Reservoir's Sam Rowell. Kendrick beat Rowell 5-0 in the Howard County semi-finals.

Kendrick probably advances to meet the winner of #8 Andrew Lohr (North Point, #20 o) and Catonsville's Regional Champion Joseth Hylton.

#5 Rowell (#15 o) was 5th at 138 at last year's state tournament. He missed the entire regular season, and came back in time for the postseason. Rowell faces Walt Whitman's Jack Calder (#22) in the first round. Calder is the West Region Champion.

#7 Ryan Sharp (Thomas Stone, #19 o) is expected to meet Rowell in the quarter finals, but Mervo's Tyreke Rudolph is one to watch. Sharp and Rudolph meet in the first round.

#6 Jonthan Jones (Eleanor Roosevelt, #16) appears to be on a collision course with Severna Park's Sam Ziff.

Jones was the Prince George's County Champion, and took 2nd in the South Region.

Ziff was a War on the Shore Champion at 160, and took 5th at Mount Mat Madness in the 160lb class. Ziff won titles at the Anne Arundel County Tournament and East Region. In the East Region Tournament Ziff beat Cross in the finals, and Kendrick in the semi-finals.

1A/2A

Cody Sharkey has won two consecutive Carroll County and West Region titles. Sharkey was 6th at last year's state tournament, after defaulting in the semi-finals.

Sharkey has a win over Bel Air's Cross at the Battle by the Bay Tournament, Kendrick in a dual, and Billy Fritz (North Carroll) in the county and region finals.

Baltimore City's Carver Vo-Tech has #7 Derrick Lee (#21 o) in the bracket. Lee is a city champion and region runner-up. He is likely to face Sharkey in the quarter finals.

#6 Tucker Ziegler (#18 o), a sophomore from Middletown, faces state runner-up and #1 CJ Austin (Fallston, #4) in the first round.

Ziegler won the Fredrick County crown, and was 4th in the West Region. Austin is the UCBAC Champion and East Region title winner.

Glenelg's Troy Walter won the South Region and is ranked 8th in the 1A/2A rankings. He faces Western Tech's Tony Simuel in the first round. Simuel has been inconsistent this year, but has the ability to pull the mild upset here.

#5 Sam Willingham (#17 o) from South Carroll faces Queen Annes Garrett Graef in his first round bout. Graef is another dangerous wrestler that has battled inconsistency.

North Carroll's #4 Fritz (#7 o) seems headed towards a quarter final showdown with Owings Mills' Antwan Reddick.

Fritz was a county and regional runner-up to Sharkey, but owns a 5-4 win over John Carroll's Chris Almony (#8 o) at the Iron Horse Duals.

#3 Reddick (#6 o) was a 3A/4A state runner-up at DuVal last season. Reddick won titles at the Parkville Tournament and Franklin tournament, in addition to being a Baltimore County and North Region Champion.

160

3A/4A

The bracket here is pretty intense as there are 13 state ranked wrestlers in the field. The top of the bracket has seven ranked grapplers, the bottom has six.

#3 Kellen Staton (Seneca Valley, #7 o) finished 3rd in the state at 152 last year. Staton was a Montgomery County runner-up, losing to Paint Branch's Malik Kelly. The West Region final went the other way, as Staton beat Kelly. He will likely meet Anthony Cable in the quarter finals.

#5 Cable (La Plata, #9 o) squares off against Old Mill's Lalito Trevino (#16 o) in a first round bout.

Cable has a win over Oakland Mills' Jaron Smith in a dual meet, in addition to being a SMAC and South Region runner-up to Northern Calvert's Eric Hoffman.

Anne Arundel County Champion Trevino beat North Harford's UCBAC runner-up Logan Smith (#17 o) from North Harford two times at the regional tournament. Smith has a win over Pikesville's Cameron Hall-Hurtt at the Loch Raven Duals.

#6 Clyde McBride (CH Flowers, #11 o) has a tough first round meeting against Stephen Decatur's Andrew Borradaile (#14 o).

McBride won the Prince George's County title and placed 3rd in the South Region, losing to La Plata's Cable in the semi-finals.

Kenwood's Nyonbou Fraley (#20 o) and Blake's Danny Gonzalez (#21 o) face off in a first round match that should be as close as the rankings indicate. Farley was a county runner-up to Hall-Hurtt, but won the North Region crown.

#1 Eric Hoffman (Northern Calvert, #4 o) is seeking his first state title. The senior has placed in all three trips to Cole Field House, including a state runner-up appearance as a sophomore.

Hoffman was 3rd at 145 last year. He is undefeated at 160 this season, including crowns at the Damascus Tournament and Patriot Classic during the regular season. In the postseason Hoffman won the SMAC and South Region championships.

North Harford's Smith faces Hoffman in their first round match.

Paint Branch's #4 Malik Kelly (#8 o) won the Montgomery County title by defeating Staton in the finals. He is likely to face Hoffman in the quarter finals.

#8 Colin McCoy (Walter Johnson, #13 o) should face the winner of Schirf and Overton in the quarter finals. #7 Schirf (#12 o) has split matches with Cable this year.

Overton was 4th in the state at this weight last season. He is a Howard County and East Regional Champion.

1A/2A

There are only six wrestlers ranked in the MSWA's overall rankings at this weight, three on each side of the bracket.

#2 Collin Schildt (Catoclin, #6 o) has one loss on the season to Pennsylvania's Nick Mort (Fairfield) at the Catoclin Duals. Schildt is perfect against Maryland Wrestlers including wins over Matt Capobianco in a dual meet, and Malik Kelly in the Hub Cup finals.

Schildt was 4th in the state last year and looks to build on that as a county and region champion this year.

Snow Hill's Raheem Knight and Southern-AA's Troy Bohrer should be an interesting match as both were ranked by the MSWA at various points this season.

#5 Hall-Hurtt (#19 o) won the Baltimore County and North Region crown this year. The senior is expected to reach the podium for the first time in his career.

#3 Smith from Oakland Mills placed 5th in the state at 145 as a freshman last season. Smith (#10 o) beat Atholton's Pat Mullens two times prior to the counties, but lost to Mullens en route to a 3rd place finish in Howard County. Mullens did not advance out of the brutal 3A/4A East Region.

Smith is likely to meet #6 Arizona Oxendine (Winters Mill, #25 o) in the quarter finals.

Returning State Champion, and two time state runner-up, Anthony Cimorosi is the favorite to win the 1A/2A crown. Cimorosi's only loss this year was to Spalding's #2 overall Logan Breitenbach in the Mount Mat Madness finals.

Cimorosi has a win over Hammond's Overton in a dual meet. He is the UCBAC Tournament and East Region Champion.

SCHEDULE

Friday, March 1st

2:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Preliminary Round (8 mats)
6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Quarterfinal Round (8 mats)
8:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Consolation Preliminary Round (8 mats)

Saturday, March 2nd

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Consolation First Round (8 mats)
11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Championship Semifinals (4 mats)
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Consolation Quarterfinals (8 mats)
2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Consolation Semifinals (8 mats)
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Consolation Finals (4 mats)
3rd & 4th place / 5th & 6th place
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Championship Finals (2 mats)