

MPSSAA State Wrestling Tournament Day 2 Preview – 220 and 285

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**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.*

220

3A/4A

Three of the top four 3A/4A 220lb wrestlers advanced to the semi-finals. #1-#3 advanced, #4 did not but is still alive in the consolation bracket.

#2 Luis Beteta (Northwest-Montgomery County, #4 o) reached the semi-finals on the strength of two pins, including a second period fall over #8 Michael Sullivan (Reservoir, #13 o) in the quarter finals.

Beteta, who was 6th in the state at this weight last year, won titles at the Mad Mats Tournament and the Battle at the Brook where he defeated Springbrook's John Holland. He is a Montgomery County and West Region Champion beating Quince Orchard's Connor Tilton in both finals. Beteta has two other wins over Tilton this year, one at Mad Mats and the other at the Cougar Claus Duals.

Beteta faces #7 Ryan Hassan from Mt. Hebron in the semi-finals.

Hassan, who is #12 overall by the MSWA, beat South Hagerstown's #6 Marquil Holt (#11 o) in the quarter finals. Holt beat #4 Matt Swiger (#7 o) from Hereford in the first round.

Hassan has lost to River Hill's Logan Kirby in three different tournament finals this year; Franklin, Howard County and the East Region.

#3 Tilton (#5 o) beat Northern of Calvert County's Scott Cross (#23 o) in the quarter-finals. Tilton was 1st at the Hub Cup where he beat DeMatha's Mac Meehan (#9 o) and Holt. He was a county and region runner-up.

Tilton squares off against #1 Kirby (#3 o) in the semi-finals. Kirby was a state runner-up at 195 last season.

Kirby is undefeated on the season, including titles at Franklin, Howard County, and the East Region. He beat #5 Holland (#10 o) in the quarter-finals.

Swiger meets Cross in a consolation match to start the day Saturday. Swiger had one loss this season (Perry Hall's Matt Green) coming into the tournament. Swiger won crowns at Franklin and SnOverlea wrestling at 285. He dropped to 220 for the postseason and won the Baltimore County title and North Region Championship.

Cross is a SMAC and South Region Champion.

Catonsville's county and region runner-up Jordan Reynolds (#24 o) faces Sullivan in another early consolation match. Sullivan moved up from 195 where he placed 2nd at the Oakdale Bear Cave Brawl and took 4th at Mount Mat Madness. He was 3rd in both Howard County and the East Region.

1A/2A

There was some craziness that unfolded in the 220lb bracket on Friday as a few ranked wrestlers went down.

#7 Ryan Hightower (Winters Mill, # 18 o) lost to two unranked wrestlers and went 0-2. Chesapeake-Baltimore County's Jordan Gale, a region champion, was the first to upset Hightower. The second was Glenelg's unheralded Craig Burris in a first round consolation match. Hightower had previously beaten Burris 4-2 in overtime at the state duals.

#2 Mike Tremper (Southern-AA, #8 o) fell 6-4 to Oakdale's #5 Ryan Simonica (#16 o) in the quarter finals. Tremper, a county and region champion, is still alive in the consolation bracket.

Simonica won titles at the Oakdale Bear Cave Brawl and Damascus Tournaments this year. The senior won the Frederick County Tournament and was a regional runner-up.

Simonica squares off against #3 Marlon Jones (Wicomico, #14 o) in the semi-finals. Jones defeated #6 Austin Kenney (Manchester Valley, # 17 o) in the quarter finals.

Jones was 2nd at the Bob Rowe Memorial Classic losing to Easton's Wyatt Griffith. Jones took 3rd at the Bayside Conference Tournament, losing to Queen Annes' Eddie Gillin for the second time this year. At the East Region Tournament he avenged both of those losses to win the region crown.

The other semi-final pits Century's #1 Ryder Cavey (#6 o) against #8 Gillin (#19 o).

Cavey is undefeated this year winning the Carroll County and West Region titles. Gillin was a Bayside and East Region runner-up.

Cavey beat #4 Griffith (#15 o) in the quarter finals. Griffith was the Bayside Champion and came in 3rd in the East Region.

285

3A/4A

There are 13 state ranked wrestlers amongst the 16 entries in the bracket. Having that many top notch guys made for an entertaining day for the big boys.

Undefeated #1 Matt Green (Perry Hall) took a few steps towards defending his state title from last season. The state's #1 grappler won the 220lb title last year, but moved up to heavyweight this season.

Green beat Wootton's #7 Josh Strauss (#10 o) in the quarter finals. He will face Sherwood's Adrian Arevalo (#22 o) in the semi-finals.

In the quarter finals Arevalo beat Urbana's Nick Keller (#19 o). Keller was coming off a big win over #3 Cliff Armentrout (Northern Calvert, #6 o).

Arevalo's win was surprising as the senior's biggest win to date was over Pallotti's Antonio Santoro (#23 o). He was 3rd in both the county and region tournaments. Arevalo beat Broadneck's Landon Reeher (#25 o) in his first match of the day.

#4 Bola Adeboyku (DuVal, #7 o) upset #2 Ryan Kail (Stephen Decatur, #3 o) in the quarter finals.

Adeboyku won the Prince George's County title this year. He was 2nd in the region losing to Armentrout. Adeboyku owns a win over Averalo from a dual meet.

Adeboyku will meet #5 Dalonte Holland from Huntingtown in the semi-finals. Holland beat #6 Innocent Okocha (Walter Johnson, #9 o) in the quarter finals, after defeating Milford Mill's #8 Steven Gbale (#12 o) in his first match.

Holland finished 2nd at Mount Mat Madness losing to Glenelg's Sean Twigg in three overtimes. Holland pinned Kail at the Iron Horse Duals. He was 2nd in the SMAC, coming up short in the ultimate tie-breaker to Armentrout. Holland was 3rd in the South Region where he lost to Adeboyku 4-3 in overtime.

Gbale a county and region runner-up faces Strauss in a consolation match Saturday morning. Strauss was a Montgomery County and West Region runner-up.

Armentrout will face Kail in another consolation bout. Armentrout won the SMAC tournament with a win in the finals over Holland. He beat Adeboyku in the region finals.

Kail beat Twigg and Holland at the War on the Shore Tournament to win the crown. Kail was 2nd at the Bayside Conference tournament where he lost to North Caroline's Brion Blades for the second time this season. Kail won the East Region with wins over Reecher and River Hill's Justin Nestor.

Okocha faces Nestor (#15 o) in the consolation round. Okocha won the county and region titles beating Strauss in both finals.

1A/2A

There is an imbalance of power in the bracket at 285. The top half has five state ranked wrestlers and the bottom only features two.

Three of the top four ranked grapplers made it to the semi-finals, the lone exception was #1 Brion Blades (North Caroline, #2 o).

Blades came into the state tournament undefeated; among his wins were two victories over Kail so his hype was not created by paper. #5 Roy Kadje (Oakland Mills, #14 o) beat Blades in overtime 4-3.

Kadje was 3rd at the SnOverlea Tournament where he lost to Dundalk's Wayne Maddox. Kadje was 2nd at the Howard County and East Region Tournament.

#3 Jake Utz from Winters Mill will face Kadje in the semi-finals. Utz (#11 o) beat Gwynn Park's #7 Steve Reyes (#21 o) 2-1 in the quarter finals. Reyes was coming off a win over Randallstown's regional runner-up #6 Greg Smith (#17 o).

Utz lost to #5 overall Jemal Averette (Good Counsel) in overtime at the Battle by the Bay. He was a Carroll County and West Region Champion.

#2 Twigg is a defending state champion hoping to claim his 2nd straight heavyweight crown. Twigg's only loss this season was in the War on the Shore finals 1-0 to Kail. He won the Mount Mat Madness title with an overtime win over Holland.

Twigg (#4 o) has three wins over Kadje, and one over Utz at the state duals. Two of Twigg's wins over Kadje were in the finals of the Howard County and East Region Tournament.

Twigg will face #4 Maddox (#13 o). Maddox was 3rd in the Baltimore County Tournament where he lost to Milford Mill's Gbale. He won his second straight region crown.

Blades, Reyes, and Smith are alive in the consolation bracket. Blades and Reyes will meet if they both win their first consolation bouts Saturday morning.

Saturday's Schedule:

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)