

Mt. St. Joe Upsets John Carroll to Kick Off the Season

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Match ended in a 33-33 tie. Criteria H decided the winner.

The new Smith Center Arena at Mt. St. Joe played host to a wrestling match that was as spectacular as the facility itself.

The Gaels opened the season and the arena in style as they pulled off an upset of John Carroll on Wednesday evening. It was an exciting match from start to finish as the host team rallied back from a 15-0 deficit.

“(I’m) proud of the team. They’ve worked hard. It’s a big stepping stone for them for the remainder of the season. (We) still got a lot ahead of us,” said Mt. St. Joe head coach Harry Barnabae.

“(It’s) real exciting. John Carroll is one of the top teams around. They’re always prepared. They fought every match, and so did our guys.”

Mike McCabe (106), CJ Skokowski (113, No.7 in the Maryland State Wrestling Association rankings), Austin Smith (120, No.8 by the MSWA), and No.7 Zach Dwyer (126) started the match off with four straight wins.

Smith registered a mild upset of Mt. St. Joe’s Malik Woody (No.6) 3-2. The match was looked upon as a swing match since both wrestlers are so evenly matched. John Carroll gaining the win could have doomed the Gaels, but they battled back.

After the string of wins by the Patriots, Mt. St. Joe won the next three bouts to get back in it and close the gap to 15-12. Dean Rill (132) and Neil Schuster (145) won by decision, while Zeke Salvo (No.3 at 132) wrestling up at 138 pinned his opponent at the 3:20 mark of the second period.

John Carroll’s Phillip Venanzi picked up a fall at 152 which was offset by No.2 Sam Rowell’s own pin for The Gaels at 160. Mt. St. Joe chose to forfeit to No.2 Chris Almony at 170. This left the score at 27-18 in favor of the Patriots.

Logan Rill stepped up at 182 in another match that was considered a toss-up on paper. John Carroll’s Christian Scott (No. 13 by the MSWA) was a slight favorite in the matchup. It was as close as expected with Rill coming out on top 4-3.

The spectators on hand were hoping to see what would have been the marquee match of the night at 195. John Carroll’s Hunter Ritter is the state’s top ranked grappler at 195, while Mt. St. Joe’s Dan Hawkins came in ranked second in the state.

Due to some strategizing on behalf of Barnabae the match would not come to pass. The Gaels chose to forfeit to Ritter and bump Hawkins up to 220. It was a move that paid off as Hawkins picked up the fall and made the score 33-27 with one match remaining.

Shane Lowman is ranked No.7 by the MSWA at 285 and he came through for the home team. Lowman pinned John Carroll's Andy Reininger in the second period to tie the match at 33-33.

Everyone in the building was left wondering who would be declared the winner. There were some tense moments as the criteria to determine a winner was checked.

Both teams won seven matches, and both had the same number of falls or forfeits. There were no technical falls or major decisions so in order to declare a winner officials had to go deeper down the list.

Eventually they reached one and that favored Mt. St. Joe. Criteria H awards the win to the team that scored the most first points in a match. The Gaels scored first in eight of the twelve matches contested.

Matches that are won by forfeit don't count, but even if they were contested and the Patriots scored first in those Mt. St. Joe still would have won by Criteria H, 8-6.

The night kicked off with the Gaels defeating St. Mary's 63-16. John Carroll beat St. Mary's 54-18 before the evening's main event.

Mt. St. Joe 34, John Carroll 33

**Criteria H gave MSJ the win (match started at 106)*

106-Mike McCabe (JC) dec. Vince Oneto (MSJ), 12-8
113-CJ Skokowski (JC) pinned Turner Wilson (MSJ), 1:52
120-Austin Smith (JC) dec. Malik Woody (MSJ), 3-2
126-Zach Dwyer (JC) dec. Shawn Orem (MSJ), 7-3
132-Dean Rill (MSJ) dec. Andy Milner (JC), 8-1
138-Zeke Salvo (MSJ) pinned Mark Pickett (JC), 3:20
145-Neil Schuster (MSJ) dec. Brian Chalmers (JC), 4-1
152-Phillip Venanzi (JC) pinned Justin Langeluttig (MSJ), 1:42
160-Sam Rowell (MSJ) pinned Austin Ross (JC), 1:58
170-Chris Almony (JC) won by forfeit
182-Logan Rill (MSJ) dec. Christian Scott (JC), 4-3
195-Hunter Ritter (JC) won by forfeit
220-Dan Hawkins (MSJ) pinned Paul Lorick (JC), :58
285-Shane Lowman (MSJ) pinned Andy Reininger (JC), 2:51

Mt. St. Joe 63, St. Mary's 16

**Match started at 182*

106-Vince Oneto (MSJ) won by forfeit
113-Turner Wilson (MSJ) won by forfeit
120-Malik Woody (MSJ) won by forfeit
126-Shawn Orem (MSJ) pinned Nat Brown (St.M), 1:34
132-Zeke Salvo (MSJ) won by forfeit
138-Gary Grant (St.M) pinned Brent Johns (MSJ), 3:06
145-Neil Schuster (MSJ) pinned Chase Pappas (St.M), 4:54
152-Justin Langeluttig (MSJ) won by forfeit
160-Sam Rowell (MSJ) won by forfeit
170-Dave Hendricks (MSJ) won by forfeit
182-Bryce Pappas (St.M) maj dec. Logan Rill (MSJ), 11-0
195-Dan Hawkins (MSJ) dec. Peter Leimbach (St.M), 3-0
220-Rex Kitley (St.M) won by forfeit
285-Shane Lowman (MSJ) pinned Jackson Slotterback (St.M), :49

John Carroll 54, St. Mary's 18

**Match started at 182*

106-Mike McCabe (JC) won by forfeit

113-CJ Skokowski (JC) won by forfeit

120-Austin Smith (JC) won by forfeit

126-Nat Brown (St.M) dec. Andy Milner (JC), 5-3

132-Mark Pickett (JC) won by forfeit

138-Gary Grant (St.M) dec. Andrew Jefferson (JC), 6-1

145-Chase Pappas (St.M) dec. Brian Chalmers (JC), 7-3

152-Phillip Venanzi (JC) won by forfeit

160-Austin Ross (JC) won by forfeit

170-Chris Almony (JC) won by forfeit

182-Bryce Pappas (St.M) dec. Christian Scott (JC), 8-3

195-Hunter Ritter (JC) pinned Peter Leimbach (St.M), 1:56

220-Rex Kitley (St.M) pinned Paul Lorick (JC), 5:44

285-Chris Truitt (JC) pinned Jackson Slotterback (St.M), :19

120-Austin Smith vs. Malik Woody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5gH4G4Hilw>

126-Zach Dwyer vs. Shawn Orem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7Jo8fMvNW4>

285-Shane Lowman vs. Andy Reininger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ltx3-2UG7vo>