

Hereford Claims Franklin Tournament Title

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Bulls Crown Four Champions to Power Their Way to the Top

There wasn't a lot of drama involved with the team race in the final round of wrestling Saturday evening at Franklin High School. Hereford (No.17 in the Maryland State Wrestling Association's Dual Meet rankings) went into the championship final round up by 15 points over Franklin.

The Bulls had five finalists, and the Indians four. They would go on to win the title by 26.5 points, 202.5-176.

"It feels good. Slowly, but surely, we're coming along and we always build towards the end of the year," Hereford Head Coach Ron Causey said. "We have some things to work on, but we're wrestling well. I'm proud of the boys, they're a good group of kids."

"We've got some kids that don't have as much experience as you'd like, but they're good athletes. They're working hard and they're learning. I think we're going to gel at the right time."

Hereford's Anthony Genco (No.5 in the latest rankings by the MSWA) defeated Franklin's No. 12 Ben Montayne 3-1 at 126lbs to seal the title for the Bulls.

Genco won the championship in the tournament's toughest weight class. The bracket featured three state runner-ups from 2013; Genco, No.8 Jeff Hayden (Mount Hebron), and Owings Mills' Jake Rendelman (No.9). Montayne was fifth at last year's 3A/4A state tournament.

In the semis Genco beat Hayden 13-6 and Montayne won by decision over Rendelman 12-9. In the third place match Hayden won by technical-fall, 20-5, against Rendelman.

"I feel very good. I'm just improving. I'm just looking to get the best competition to prepare for states," said Genco. "(I wanted) to stick to my offense. I knew he was going to come after me so I just stuck to my offense and got the takedown."

In addition to Genco, three more Bulls brought home titles No.17 Dylan Gray (160), No.18 Billy Hess (195) and heavyweight Brock Turnbaugh (No.6 at 220lbs by the MSWA).

Gray showed the crowd the virtues of the cradle, garnering 16 near fall points on the way to a 20-5 technical-fall of Sparrows Point's Eric Marvin. Hess defeated North County's Malcolm Johnson (No.20) 10-3 in a match he thoroughly dominated. Turnbaugh received a forfeit when his opponent No.13 Tyquez Shade (Owings Mills) failed to show up for the match (more on that later).

Joe Miller came up short in his title quest for Hereford in the 182lb final, losing a 7-1 decision to North County's Malik Smith. Smith, who placed fourth at last year's state tournament, is currently ranked No.4 at 182lbs.

Hereford had five other grapplers earn spots on the podium. Andrew Lopez (132) came in third place, Collin McNicholas (106) took fourth, and Alex Kubala (152) finished in the fifth spot. Josh Perry (120) and Patrick Meadowcroft (138) ended the tournament in sixth place.

Runner-up Franklin had a tournament high 11 wrestlers win awards. Four Indians reached the finals LJ Bell (113), Quail El-Ghazouni (120), and the Montayne brothers, Ben and Nick (132).

Bell put on an outstanding performance throughout the tournament. He came in as the fifth seed, and was unranked in the state. That did not bother Bell as he picked off Owings Mills' No.15 Brandon Bekar 7-6 in the semi-finals. In the finals Bell kept it going against No.21 Josh Kendrick (Mount Hebron). Bell won an intense, hard fought bout 7-5 to secure the crown.

"I'm really proud of myself," Bell proclaimed. "I feel like I just knew what I had to do to get where I am. My coaches and my team were a great support for me. I feel like that helped me in the end."

Nick Montayne followed Bell's lead and pulled off an upset of his own in the 132lb final match. Montayne (unranked by the MSWA) faced Owings Mills' David Hollingsworth (No.9).

Montayne was in control from the beginning of the bout gaining a first period takedown to take an early 2-0 lead. Hollingsworth tied it up with a second period reversal, but Montayne escaped and earned a takedown to go up 5-2.

An exciting third period saw Montayne start on bottom and escape. Hollingsworth secured a takedown only to see Montayne escape again. Hollingsworth took Montayne down again to pull within one, 7-6. With the match drawing to a close Montayne reversed Hollingsworth to secure a 9-6 victory.

"I knew I was going to win," said Montayne. "I honestly feel like I'm underrated in the state. I've beat a few state ranked kids now. I went in, did my thing and wrestled like I always do. I hit a few single legs and I thought that was pretty effective on him."

Coming away with silver for the Indians were El-Ghazouni and Ben Montayne. Austin Widerman (106) placed third. Austin Mowrey (145) and Tristan Armstrong (195) came in fourth. Sid Grossfeld (138) took fifth. Holden Taylor (152), Brian Brandon (170), and Ion Barbus (220) finished in sixth place.

Third place Sparrows Point tied Hereford with 10 placewinners each. The Pointers had two guys reach the finals and brought home one championship.

No.9 Randy Watson put on a takedown clinic en route to his 16-7 thrashing of Franklin's El-Ghazouni in the 120lb final. Watson tallied eight takedowns during the match. Teammate Marvin (160) came up short against Hereford's Gray.

Finishing third for Sparrows Point was Cody Geho (152). Roy Herring (113) and Chris Long (138) were fourth place finishers. Three Pointers grabbed fifth place awards; Brandon Stencil (106), Jon Cruse (132), and Manny Pritt (285). Brody Underwood (145) was Sparrows Point's lone sixth place finisher.

Mount Hebron had seven grapplers place in the tournament en route to a fourth place finish. The Vikings had three wrestlers reach the finals. Connor Strunk (No.7 at 152) and No.3 Ryan Hassan (220) brought home titles, while Kendrick (113) finished as a runner-up.

Hassan pinned both of his opponents in the first period prior to the finals. In the championship match he faced Western Tech's No.19 Necho Freeman. Hassan secured a 3-1 victory, and with that was voted the Outstanding Upper Weight of the tournament.

"I feel great," Hassan recounted. "It's a big honor to be given this here."

Strunk faced No.18 Sameh Boulos (Centennial) in his finals match. Strunk came away with a close 3-2 decision over his Howard County rival.

Taking third for Mount Hebron was Jeff Hayden at 126. His brother Jimmy took fourth at 120lbs. Jake Norton (145) and Austin Day (195) took home fifth place awards for the Vikings.

Arundel had six wrestlers place in the tournament to propel them to a fifth place finish. Nathan Gainey (106) reached the finals but couldn't bring home the gold, losing a 10-2 major decision to No.17 Nick Vila Chesapeake (Anne Arundel).

Three grapplers earned bronze medals for the Wildcats; Tyler Rendina (145), Tanner Williams (170), and Isaiah Olugbemi (220). Nathan Labile (113) and Jack Owen (126) took fifth.

The marquee bout of the night featured Annapolis' Stanley Proctor (No.7) facing Western Tech's No.6 Tejon Anthony in the 138lb final. Proctor was third at last year's 3A/4A state tournament. Anthony, a 1A/2A state champion as a sophomore, was fifth at the 1A/2A state tournament last year as a junior.

The match didn't disappoint. After a scoreless first period, Anthony chose bottom to start the second period. He earned an escape, but saw Proctor get a takedown for a 2-1 lead.

Proctor started down in the third period but quickly escaped. Anthony proceeded to take him down to tie the match 3-3. Proctor reversed Anthony to go up 5-3. Anthony was able to break free but could not secure a takedown leaving the score at 5-4 in favor of Proctor. The win earned proctor the award for Outstanding Lower Weight.

"I wanted to control the pace. I knew what he had and I was just going out there trying to wrestle my style." Proctor added, "It feels great (to win outstanding wrestler). That's what I've been preparing for and I just want to lead myself to the state championship this year."

Centennial's Austin Kraisser, a state runner-up as a freshman last year, had little trouble in the 145lb championship bout. Kraisser (No.5 by the MSWA) pinned Eastern Tech's Dallas Prater at the 1:43 mark of the first period.

The other tournament champion hails from Western Tech. No.24 Austin Harrison won a gritty 5-1 decision over Ian Chiveral (Eastern Tech).

In one of the poorest showings of sportsmanship ever. The Owings Mills Eagles chose to leave the tournament early. It was a classless move that, according to tournament officials, was not provoked due to an emergency situation (they were not notified of anything to justify the action by Owings Mills). No Owings Mills wrestlers were present for the awards ceremony.

Team Scores

- 1-Hereford 202.5
- 2-Franklin 176
- 3-Sparrows Point 170.5
- 4-Mount Hebron 138.5
- 5-Arundel 122
- 6-Centennial 112
- 7-Owings Mills 111.5
- 8-Annapolis 101
- 9-North County 85
- 10-Western Tech 74.5
- 11-Eastern Tech 72.5
- 12-Dunbar 59.5
- 13-Lansdowne 56
- 14-Chesapeake-AA 48
- 15-Towson 46
- 16-Silver Oak Academy 20

Championship Finals

106-Nick Vila (Chesapeake-AA) maj dec Nathan Gainey (Arundel), 10-2
113-LJ Bell (Franklin) dec Josh Kendrick (Mt. Hebron), 7-5
120-Randy Watson (Sparrows Point) maj dec Quail El-Ghazouni (Franklin), 16-7
126-Anthony Genco (Hereford) dec Ben Montayne (Franklin), 3-1
132-Nick Montayne (Franklin) dec David Hollingsworth (Owings Mills), 9-6
138-Stanley Proctor (Annapolis) dec Tejon Anthony (Western Tech), 5-4
145-Austin Kraisser (Centennial) pinned Dallas Prater (Eastern Tech), 1:43
152-Connor Strunk (Mt. Hebron) dec Sameh Boulos (Centennial), 3-2
160-Dylan Gray (Hereford) tech-fall Eric Marvin (Sparrows Point), 20-5
170-Austin Harrison (Western Tech) dec Ian Chiveral (Eastern Tech), 5-1
182-Malik Smith (North County) dec Joe Miller (Hereford), 7-1
195-Billy Hess (Hereford) dec Malcolm Johnson (North County), 10-3
220-Ryan Hassan (Mt. Hebron) dec Necho Freeman (Western Tech), 3-1
285-Brock Turnbaugh (Hereford) won by forfeit over Tyquez Shade (Owings Mills)

Third Place Matches

106-Austin Widerman (Franklin) pinned Collin McNicholas (Hereford), 2:31
113-Brandon Bekar (Owings Mills) pinned Roy Herring (Sparrows Point), :44
120-Zach Allewalt (North County) dec Jimmy Hayden (Mt. Hebron), 10-5
126-Jeff Hayden (Mt. Hebron) tech-fall Jake Rendelman (Owings Mills), 20-5
132-Andrew Lopez (Hereford) pinned Deshawn Jefferson (Dunbar), 3:23
138-Danny Pittas (Towson) dec Chris Long (Sparrows Point), 9-2
145-Tyler Rendina (Arundel) pinned Austin Mowrey (Franklin), 1:45
152-Cody Geho (Sparrows Point) pinned John Proctor (Annapolis), 1:09
160-Romario Orellana (Lansdowne) pinned Novontay Whitener (Silver Oak Academy), 4:47
170-Tanner Williams (Arundel) pinned Islom Juraev (Owings Mills), 4:41
182-Plevon Pryor (Dunbar) dec Russell Seeney-Cunning (Lansdowne), 9-2
195-Mauricio Franco (Lansdowne) pinned Tristan Armstrong (Franklin), 4:42
220-Isaiah Olugbemi (Arundel) maj dec Monte Graves (Annapolis), 10-2
285-Drecon Hudosen (Annapolis) pinned Tyler Boettcher (Centennial), 4:05

Fifth Place Matches

106-Brandon Stencil (Sparrows Point) pinned Cameron Neilon (Centennial), 4:13
113-Nathan Labile (Arundel) pinned Trevon Jones (North County), 3:27
120-Isaiah Mack (Owings Mills) dec Josh Perry (Hereford), 4-0
126-Jack Owen (Arundel) dec Brent Kline (Sparrows Point), 1-0
132-Jon Cruse (Sparrows Point) pinned Troy Kalkman (Chesapeake-AA)
138-Sid Grossfeld (Franklin) dec Patrick Meadowcroft (Hereford), 8-7
145-Jake Norton (Mt. Hebron) dec Brody Underwood (Sparrows Point), 7-2
152-Alex Kubala (Hereford) dec Holden Taylor (Franklin), 12-6
160-Anthony Osodi (Dunbar) dec Bradley Fasulo (Centennial), 8-3
170-Joey Shapiro (Centennial) pinned Brian Brandon (Franklin), 1:28
182-Hunter Cochran (Chesapeake-AA) dec Cullen Jones (Eastern Tech), 9-2
195-Austin Day (Mt. Hebron) dec Tyleigh Horton (Eastern Tech), 10-4
220-Neeko Regalbutto (Towson) dec Ion Barbus (Franklin), 6-0
285-Manny Pritt (Sparrows Point) won by default by Jason Wainwright (Dunbar)

Championship Finals Video (Not all matches were recorded)

113-LJ Bell vs. Josh Kendrick

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvDXzEC8t38>

126-Anthony Genco vs. Ben Montayne

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kKSjs0_G4

132-Nick Montayne vs. David Hollingsworth

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcnUNrjRjHI>

138-Stanley Proctor vs. Tejon Anthony

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WVGnlp5TY0>

152-Connor Strunk vs. Sameh Boulos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMWhXpFwMWc>

195-Billy Hess vs. Malcolm Johnson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLfmZs28NTA>

220-Ryan Hassan vs. Necho Freeman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpKtK02V-xg>