

No.1 McDonogh Takes Down No.4 John Carroll in a Thriller

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Eagles Win Eight Bouts, Gain Bonus Points in Seven

The atmosphere at John Carroll High School in Bel Air was electric on Tuesday night. The fans gathered were treated to one heck of a dual meet. The music was rocking and excitement was in the air. Dave Strappelli provided the soundtrack and announcing before and during the matches, providing a unique wrestling experience for all.

McDonogh (No.1 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) came into the Patriot's house expecting a battle, and that was exactly what unfolded. The Eagles bounced back from an early deficit to win 40-29.

"(It was a) really good match. We knew it was going to be that tight, and it was everything we thought it was going to be," McDonogh Head Coach Pete Welch said. ""It was really good competition, but we came out on top."

"We didn't start off well, but we also knew that could happen to us. Bobby (Twig) is coming off an injury, and still trying to get gas in his tank. But then we got on a roll. I was really pleased with some of our younger guys. The way they battled, and the way they kept the matches close. We kept bonus points out of their hand and we got a lot of bonus points. That was the difference."

John Carroll started out strong with consecutive falls by Austin Ross (No.20 at 152) and Chris Almony (No.2) at 160. Both grapplers moved up a weight class.

Ross faced No.5 Bobby Twig and found himself behind early. Ross kept his composure, and mounted a comeback that culminated in a fall at the 4:58 mark of the third period. Almony pinned Ryan Walsh :52 into the first period.

McDonogh bumped No.1 Myles Martin (170) up to 182 to face No.10 Christian Scott. Martin, who is the ranked third in the nation at 170 by Intermat, dominated Scott before pinning him midway through the second period.

No.1 Hunter Ritter got the Patriots back in the win column making short work of Brandon Shure with a :32 fall. This made the score 18-6 in favor of John Carroll.

Mike Smith (No.6 at 195) slid up to 220 to take on No.14 Andy Reiningger. Smith made the move payoff gaining the fall at the 2:56 mark of the second period.

John Carroll forfeited to No.1 Wyatt Cook at heavyweight to tie the match, 18-18.

The two squads alternated wins over the next six bouts, taking turns claiming the lead. At 106 Mike McCabe put the Patriots out front 22-18 with a 10-0 major decision of Karl Lindsey.

In one of the marquee bouts of the night, No.3 TK Megonigal registered a major decision of his own, 9-1 over No.10 CJ Skokowski. The 113lb bout was a rematch of last year's 106lb private school state final, also won by Megonigal 7-1. The match was tied again, 22-22.

Austin Smith (No.9) put John Carroll back on top, 26-22, with a 12-4 major decision of Alexander Kline.

In one of the most anticipated match-ups of the night No.10 Zach Dwyer faced McDonogh's Quinn Devaney (No.14 at 120) at 126lbs. The match was tight and featured lots of scrambles, but not a lot of points. In the end the freshman, Devaney, held on for a 2-1 lead to draw McDonogh within one of John Carroll, 26-25.

The Patriots extended their lead to 29-25 after the 132lb match when Andy Milner came up with an 8-1 win over Riley Bakewell.

No. 11 Sam Martino came through with a 10-1 major decision over John Carroll's Steve Jernigan (No.16 at 132) at 138lbs to tie the match up again.

The score stood at 29-29 with two matches left. McDonogh had two of its top wrestlers still to come, while John Carroll had to slide guys up and use back-ups due to injuries to their regular starters.

No.2 Cameron Harrell rolled up the points on the Patriots' Brian Chalmers at 145, claiming an 18-3 technical fall to put the Eagles up 34-29. Harrell, a two-time 3A/4A state champion at Broadneck High School, transferred to McDonogh for his junior season.

The final bout of the night featured the state's top ranked 152lb'er, McDonogh's Toby Hague. Hague pinned his John Carroll foe in less than a minute to secure the win for the Eagles.

"We just don't have enough horses in the stable to beat teams like that," said John Carroll Head Coach Keith Watson. "We don't have the options a team like that has. We wrestled our butts off, showed a lot of heart and worked real hard. I thought we had 'em dialed in pretty well. That's the way it goes. They're tough."

McDonogh 40 – John Carroll 29

**Match started at 160*

160-Austin Ross (JC) pinned Bobby Twigg (McD), 4:58
170-Chris Almony (JC) pinned Ryan Walsh (McD), :52
182-Myles Martin (McD) pinned Christian Scott (JC), 3:02
195-Hunter Ritter (JC) pinned Brandon Shure (McD), :27
220-Mike Smith (McD) pinned Andy Reininger (JC), 2:56
285-Wyatt Cook (McD) won by forfeit
106-Mike McCabe (JC) maj dec Karl Lindsey (McD), 10-0
113-TK Megonigal (McD) maj dec CJ Skokowski (JC), 9-1
120-Austin Smith (JC) maj dec Alexander Kline (McD), 12-4
126-Quinn Devaney (McD) dec Zach Dwyer (JC), 2-1
132-Andy Milner (JC) dec Riley Bakewell (McD), 8-1
138-Sam Martino (McD) maj dec Steve Jernigan (JC), 10-1
145-Cameron Harrell (McD) tech-fall Brian Chalmers (JC), 18-3
152-Toby Hague (McD) pinned Devin Darrington (JC), :52

Videos

113-TK Megonigal vs. CJ Skokowski
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYEEKmZcfbY>

126-Quinn Devaney vs. Zach Dwyer
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJ5pWDQrenE>

138-Sam Martino vs. Steve Jernigan
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiVCruC5p3M>

160-Austin Ross vs. Bobby Twigg

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQg_5iWW7bY

182-Myles Martin vs. Christian Scott

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGZewJsCZH0>