

Good Counsel Closes Strong to Soar Past John Carroll

By Billy Buckheit © All Rights Reserved

Jan 24th, 2013

Falcons Rally for 37-21 Win Over Patriots after Early Deficit

John Carroll (No.4 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) stormed out of the gates Friday afternoon at the Boys Latin School winning four of the first five matches in a highly anticipated matchup with No.2 Good Counsel. The early roll put the Patriots on top 12-4.

The two powerhouses alternated wins over the next four bouts before the Falcons closed with five victories to clinch the win over the Patriots.

“It was a big win. This was one on our schedule that we were looking ahead to,” Good Counsel Head Coach Skylar Saar said. “I talked to Watty, we wanted to wrestle. There was a chance we were gonna not wrestle it because of the weather this week. Watty and I said we need to have this match.”

“I feel good about the win. I thought our kids wrestled really well. It wasn’t a perfect match. We had a couple matches that were one-pointers that got away from us at the end. We gotta improve a little bit.”

The tri-meet with Boys Latin was originally scheduled for Thursday night but weather related issues forced the meet to be moved to Friday.

Austin Ross (No.20 at 152) moved up to 160lbs for John Carroll and started the match off with a 9-4 win over Peter Stefanelli.

The Patriots bumped Chris Almony (No.2 at 160) to 170lbs to face No.6 Donovan McAfee. Almony won the hard fought, grinding match 5-4 to put John Carroll out front 6-0.

The Falcons got on the board when No.4 Nick Miller won by major decision over No.10 Christian Scott 13-4. The score now stood at 6-4.

Next up was one of the marquee matches of the night featuring No.1 Hunter Ritter (John Carroll) against No.3 Kevin Snyder. Snyder has improved immensely from last year when he was sixth in the 1A/2A state tournament for Century High School in Carroll County. Snyder gave defending private school state champion Ritter, a Fargo National Champion, all he could handle before coming up short 5-3.

The Patriots’ early roll continued as they increased their lead to 12-4 when Andy Reininger (No.14) defeated Jalen Lea 7-1 in the 220lb match.

The heavyweight bout ended at the 2:14 mark of the second period when Good Counsel’s Kojo Dingle pinned Ricky Denu. The match started in favor of Denu as he was close to securing his own fall in the first period before Dingle fought off of his back. The bonus points earned with the pin helped Good Counsel close the gap 12-10.

Mike McCabe swung things back in John Carroll’s favor with a quick :51 pin of Justin McCoy at 106. The win increased the Patriots’ lead to 18-10.

CJ Skokowski (No.10) came out firing on all cylinders at 113lbs throwing Good Counsel's No.2 Adam Whitesell to his back with a standing cradle, but was curiously not awarded any back points. Whitesell composed himself after the initial flurry and began a comeback, eventually winning the match 10-3.

The 120lb match between the Patriots' Austin Smith (No.9) and un-ranked Dale Tiongson was a barn burner. There were several lead changes and lots of exciting scrambles throughout the bout, Smith secured the 9-8 victory by riding out Tiongson at the end of the match. The score was now 21-13 in favor of John Carroll.

At this point Good Counsel's middle weights took control of the meet, as the Falcons went on a run and won the last five matches.

No.5 Bailey Thomas was impressive as he dominated former National Prep placer Zach Dwyer (No.9) in the 126lb bout. The Good Counsel freshman won the match by major decision 13-1.

With The Falcons now within four points of the Patriots, 21-17, sophomore sensation Kevin Budock (No.2) registered a first period fall against the Patriots' Andy Milner. The pin gave Good Counsel a 23-21 lead they would not relinquish.

No.3 Matt Kelly looked sharp in the 138lb match despite battling the flu. Kelly defeated John Carroll's Steve Jernigan (No.16 at 132) with a 12-1 major decision, putting more bonus points on the board for the Falcons. Kelly's win sealed the victory for Good Counsel since John Carroll had to forfeit one of the last two matches due to injury.

Paul Hutton (No.17) registered yet another major decision for Good Counsel in the 145lb match-up. Hutton's 9-1 win over Brian Chalmers pushed the Falcons' lead to 10, 31-21.

Philip Venanzi recently suffered a concussion and was not available so John Carroll forfeited the 152lb match to Garret Neff. This made the final score 37-21 in favor of Good Counsel.

Good Counsel won eight of the 14 bouts (7 of the 13 contested matches). The biggest factor in the margin of victory was the seven matches in which the Falcons gained bonus points, compared to one for the Patriots.

Good Counsel 37 – John Carroll 21

**match started at 160*

160-Austin Ross (JC) dec Peter Stefanelli (GC), 9-4
170-Chris Almony (JC) dec Donovan McAfee (GC), 5-4
182-Nick Miller (GC) dec Christian Scott (JC), 13-4
195-Hunter Ritter (JC) dec Kevin Snyder (GC), 5-3
220-Andy Reininger (JC) dec Jalen Lea (GC), 7-1
285-Kojo Dingle (GC) pinned Ricky Denu (JC), 2:14
106-Mike McCabe (JC) pinned Justin McCoy (GC), :51
113-Adam Whitesell (GC) dec CJ Skokowski (JC), 10-3
120-Austin Smith (JC) dec Dale Tiongson (GC), 9-8
126-Bailey Thomas (GC) maj dec Zach Dwyer (JC), 13-1
132-Kevin Budock (GC) pinned Andy Milner (JC), 1:42
138-Matt Kelly (GC) maj dec Steve Jernigan (JC), 12-1
145-Paul Hutton (GC) maj dec Brian Chalmers (JC), 9-1
152-Garrett Neff (GC) won by forfeit

Videos (not all the matches were recorded)

170-Chris Almony vs. Donovan McAfee

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L8YrRySrHk>

182-Nick Miller vs. Christian Scott

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SymFr4RgIP8>

195-Hunter Ritter vs. Kevin Snyder

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-o42fROyis>

113-Adam Whitesell vs. CJ Skokowski

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8fWDsffYJE>