

Mt. St. Joe Comes Out of the Madness on Top

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Gaels Place 7 Grapplers to Claim Victory at Mount Mat Madness

The Mt. St. Joe wrestling team won a tight team race at the tenth annual Mount Mat Madness Tournament on Saturday at UMBC. Going into the final round of wrestling there were five teams within striking distance of the team title. The team scores were so close at the end that second place David Brearley from New Jersey finished just a half point ahead of Fauquier (VA) and John Carroll, who tied for third, 135.5-135.

When it was all said and done, Mt. St. Joe compiled 150 points to win their first tournament crown since the inaugural event in 2004.

The Gaels, who are currently ranked third in Maryland, had seven wrestlers earn spots on the podium to tie David Brearley with the most placemen. Reaching the finals for Mt. St. Joe were Zeke Salvo (126) and Shane Lowman (285). Salvo came away with a title to cap an impressive run through the tournament that saw him pin all of his opponents except one (which he defeated 14-0).

In the finals Salvo (ranked No.1 by the Maryland State Wrestling Association at 126) pinned No.10 Justin Chenault from Pallotti at the 2:48 mark of the second period. Salvo will be plying his trade at Brown University next year.

"I felt good out there. I felt like I dominated on top this weekend," said Salvo. "There's a lot of tradition in this program. From its coaches, its alumni. They're all coming back, they're all contributing. Just to boost the program a little by winning your own tournament is great."

Helping Mt. St. Joe capture the crown were runner-up Lowman (No. 8 by the MSWA), No.10 Owen Rill (113, 5th), No.8 Malik Woody (120, 3rd), fourth place finisher Sam Rowell (No.4 at 160), seventh place Logan Rill (No.8 at 182) and No.2 Dan Hawkins (195, 5th).

"It's very exciting (winning your own tournament)," said Gaels' Head Coach Harry Barnabae. "The kids worked very hard. They've been training all season for this. It was one of our goals. John Carroll was right on our heels the entire tournament."

"They rose up to the occasion as a team. (We) came away with one champion, Zeke Salvo. But the kids wrestled back hard. They all scored points, and that's what this team is about. They wrestle hard as a team."

"We've got a long way to go still. We're a third of the way through the season. If we keep on this path we'll be in the right place at the end of the year for the MIAAs, states, then the preps. This is a good stepping stone for us."

New Jersey's David Brearley had two champions. The most of any team in the tough field which also featured squads from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Coming away with crowns for the Bears were Ray Wetzel (106) and Joey Balboni (182). Balboni is currently ranked 20th in the nation by InterMat. Others reaching the podium were Nick DeMarco (120, 4th), Tim Murphy (126, 6th), Mike Tancs (170, 6th), Jeff Velez (195, 4th), and Saverio Salcfas (220, 5th).

No.4 John Carroll's title hopes took a blow before the action began as No.5 Austin Smith (120) had to withdraw from the tournament due to a skin issue. The Patriots still put up a gallant fight and were in the running for the crown well into the final round.

They placed two grapplers in the finals among their six placewinners. No.1 Hunter Ritter came away as John Carroll's only champion. Ritter, a Cadet Greco-Roman National Champion, is currently ranked 20th in the country by Intermat.

Finishing in second for John Carroll was No.2 Chris Almony (160). Almony lost a tough grinding match to No.1 Logan Breitenbach (Spalding). Breitenbach, who will be attending Iowa State next year, is Intermat's No.16 grappler in the nation.

The Patriots other award winners were No.5 CJ Skowkowski (113, 6th), No.9 Zach Dwyer (126, 4th), No.13 Christian Scott (182, 4th), and 220lber Andy Reininger (6th).

Virginia's Fauquier had one champion and four other placewinners to power their finish. Daniel Ariola (113) won a title, coming in third were Matt Raines (138) and Garrett Tingen (145). Kyle Roche (126, 5th) and Vito Camarca (160, 6th) were the other Falcons to gain spots on the podium.

Glenelg (No.10 by the MSWA) rounded out the top five finishing with 126 points. The Gladiators had four wrestlers place in the field and came home with one champion, No.8 Joe Zoller (170).

Michael Budock (152) was a surprise finalist for Glenelg. Unranked in Maryland, Budock came into the action seeded seventh. He picked off second seeded Colton Smith (Kent Island, No.9 by the MSWA) with a fall in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals Budock won a close 4-3 decision over third seeded Josh Smith (Appoquinimink, DE). He gave Loyola's top seeded Walter Johnson (No.8) all he could handle in the finals, falling 11-9 in overtime.

No.8 Craig Burris (220, 3rd) and Sam Kraus (106, 6th) round out the Gladiators' medal winners.

Other Champions from Maryland were freshman sensation Eric Hong (Georgetown Prep) who is ranked No.3 by the MSWA at 120, Reservoir's No.5 Mike Sullivan (220), No.6 Nick Keller (Urbana, 285), and Bishop McNamara's top ranked Alfred Bannister (145).

Bannister is having a tremendous season to date, and was named the outstanding wrestler of the event. His only loss on the season is to the nation's No.1 145lber, Micah Jordan (St. Paris Graham, OH), 2-1 in the Ironman finals. Bannister won the Beast of the East tournament this year, his second title in two years, and is currently ranked 7th in the country by Intermat.

"It's what I look forward to every tournament (being in the run for outstanding wrestler)," Bannister said. "This is my first time doing this tournament, winning it on my first try and getting OW feels good."

Hunter Manley (South County, VA) won the crown at 132. Manley was a Mount Mat Madness runner-up last year as a junior.

Ian Brown (Hanover, PA) won the 138lb championship bout over Urbana's Morgan Way (No.4). Way beat Manley in last year's 120lb final.

Brown is ranked No.1 in Pennsylvania's AA division according to PaPowerRankings. The senior has placed in Pennsylvania's AA state tournament every year in his career (3rd as a junior, 4th his first two years).

During the first four years the tournament was held at Goucher College in Towson. It then moved to CCBC-Catonsville for the next four installments. After a one year break, tournament director Neil Adleberg brought it back. UMBC has hosted the last two years. The recent construction of the Smith Athletic Center on the Campus of Mt. St. Joe will allow the Gaels to begin holding the tournament at their facility next year.

"The arena at UMBC has been a great site for spectators and wrestlers," said Adleberg. "The layout and the seating made for a pleasurable wrestling experience for everyone involved."

“The new building at Mt. St. Joe is a state of the art facility. There will be a 15-foot wall mounted screen with an electronic projector that allows our bout board to be seen by everybody in the building. It will be much more workable logistically. It will make things easier for the wonderful volunteers from Mt. St. Joe; the parents, the alumni that make the event such a success.”

Team Scores

1-Mt. St. Joe 150
2-David Brearley (NJ) 135.5
3-Fauquier (VA) 135
T-John Carroll 135
5-Glenelg 126
6-Georgetown Prep 110.5
7-Leonardtown 101
8-Spalding 99.5
9-Brentsville (VA) 96
10-Urbana 94.5
11-Loyola 92.5
12-Hanover (PA) 89
13-Reservoir 87.5
14-CD Hylton (VA) 83
15-St. Georges (DE) 82.5
16-Kent Island 82
17-South County 79.5
18-Bohemia Manor 68
19-Centreville (VA) 67
20-Centennial 65.5
21-Boys Latin 62
22-Severn 52.5
23-Edison (VA) 51
24-Appoquinimink (DE) 50.5
25-St. Mary's 47.5
26-Pallotti 44
27-Gilman 39
28-Bishop McNamara 29.5
29-Severna Park 23
30-Rising Sun 20
31-Gonzaga 8

Championship Finals

106-Ray Wetzel (David Brearley) won by forfeit over Michael Doetsch (Severn)
113-Daniel Ariola (Fauquier) dec. Jeffrey Walker (Brentsville), 9-6
120-Eric Hong (Georgetown Prep) tech-fall Brenden Velez (Brentsville), 19-3
126-Zeke Salvo (Mt. St. Joe) pinned Justin Chenault (Palotti), 2:48
132-Hunter Manley (South County) dec. Colin Kowalski (Georgetown Prep), 2-0
138-Ian Brown (Hanover) dec. Morgan Way (Urbana), 9-3
145-Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara) dec. Austin Kraisser (Centennial), 11-4
152-Walter Johnson (Loyola) dec. Michael Budock (Glenelg), 11-9 OT
160-Logan Breitenbach (Spalding) maj. Dec. Chris Almony (John Carroll), 10-2
170-Joe Zoller (Glenelg) won by forfeit over Evan Dohler (Boys Latin)
182-Joe Balboni (David Brearley) pinned Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's), 4:40
195-Hunter Ritter (John Carroll) dec. Jake Nordhausen (Loyola), 5-1
220-Michael Sullivan (Reservoir) dec. Brian Mays (Leonardtown), 3-1
285-Nick Keller (Urbana) pinned Shane Lowman (Mt. St. Joe), 3:50

Third Place Matches

106-Cody Trybus (Bohemia Manor) dec. Kahlan Lee-Lermer (Boys Latin), 5-3 OT
113-Victor Echeveria (Centreville) maj. dec. Ethan Krause (Georgetown Prep), 12-1
120-Malik Woody (Mt. St. Joe) dec. Nick DeMarco (David Brearley), 3-0
126-Caleb Garland (Hanover) dec. Zach Dwyer (John Carroll), 9-3
132-Stevan Smith (Kent Island) dec. Kayleb Forsythe (Leonardtwn), 3-0
138-Matt Raines (Fauquier) pinned Matt Pente (Spalding), 4:32
145-Garrett Tingen (Fauquier) pinned Casey Bowers (CD Hylton), 4:05
152-Josh Smith (Appoquinimink) dec. Colton Smith (Kent Island), 13-8 OT
160-Mike Albanese (St. Georges) dec. Sam Rowell (Mt. St. Joe), 6-4
170-Codie Bowers (CD Hylton) dec. Wes Beattie (Reservoir), 7-6
182-Rocco Hladney (St. Georges) maj. Dec. Christian Scott (John Carroll), 14-6
195-Garrett Pfeifer (Gilman) dec. Jeff Velez (David Brearley), 3-1
220-Craig Burris (Glenelg) dec. Nathan Tabourn (CD Hylton), 2-1
285-Antonio Santoro (Palotti) dec. Patrick Stewart (Georgetown Prep), 10-6

Fifth Place Matches

106-Robert Garnett (Edison) pinned Sam Kraus (Glenelg)
113-Owen Rill (Mt. St. Joe) dec. CJ Skokowski (John Carroll), 7-3
120-Braeden Alevizatos (Gilman) dec. Tyear Castle (Bohemia Manor), 6-0
126-Kyle Roche (Fauquier) dec. Tim Murphy (David Brearley), 3-1
132-Danny Blasch (Appoquinimink) dec. Javid Mammaldi (Edison), 7-2
138-Brock Jacobson (Edison) dec. Garland Brooks (Leonardtwn), 10-3
145-Tyler Shafer (Hanover) dec. Connor Mitchell (Centreville), 4-0
152-Sameh Boulos (Centennial) dec. Parker Mellott (Urbana), 1-0
160-Jake Ward (CD Hylton) dec. Vito Camarca (Fauquier), 5-4
170-Ryan Spake (Kent Island) dec. Mike Tancs (David Brearley), 6-2 OT
182-Jacob Parker (Spalding) dec. Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe), 1-0
195-Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe) dec. Tyler Love (Centreville), 5-2
220-Saverio Salcfas (David Brearley) dec. Andy Reininger (John Carroll), 4-2
285-Brian DeStefano (Severn) won by forfeit over Jahee Jackson (Gilman)

FINAL BRACKETS can be found here:

http://c813999.r99.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploads/mmm2014_2013_full.pdf

Videos

(106 & 170 were not contested)

113-Daniel Ariola vs Jeffrey Walker

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjINPR-3pB8>

120-Eric Hong vs Brenden Velez

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj-akOBd5hM>

126-Zeke Salvo vs Justin Chenault

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXt9R4wPABc>

132-Hunter Manley vs Colin Kowalski

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ6PEco0cLM>

138-Ian Brown vs Morgan Way

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTVfaxAiN1Y>

145-Alfred Bannister vs Austin Kraisser

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

152-Walter Johnson vs Michael Budock

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qtk_u2FKwaQ

160-Logan Breitenbach vs Chris Almony

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4s_wwk_uiw

182-Joe Balboni vs Bryce Pappas

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO_4LqJljl

195-Hunter Ritter vs Jake Nordhausen

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sv7d_ZEkE3Q

220-Mike Sullivan vs Brian Mays

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QL_OBx80_Pc

285-Nick Keller vs Shane Lowman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz4WulhtvSg>