

No.1 McDonogh Flies Away With Third Straight MIAA Wrestling Tournament Title

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The Eagles Send Eight Grapplers to the Finals, Crown Five Champions

McDonogh (No.1 in the Maryland State Wrestling Association rankings) came into Mt. St. Joe's shiny new Smith Center Arena as the prohibitive favorite to win the MIAA Tournament, but the title chase was expected to be a close one. At the end of Friday's action the Eagles were only five points ahead of host Mt. St. Joe (No.3)

Heading into the final round on Saturday McDonogh was up by 30 points. When it was all said and done they won the crown by a whopping 51.5 points over Mt. St. Joe (245.5-194). The Eagles pulled off a few upsets in the semi-final round, that combined with strong performances in the wrestle-backs powered their strong finish.

"It's always exciting, it's always gut wrenching. A lot of work and prep goes into it all year long." said McDonogh Head Coach Pete Welch. "Other teams are trying to do the same thing and we just are able to keep it together and stay healthy. It's fortunate that we put it together at the right time."

"We wrestled very well today. Sam Martino had that big win in the semi-finals at 138 to give us a boost. Quinn to be a third seed and make it to the finals, those things helped us. We had some kids wrestle-back. Chris Barranco wrestled back and placed. Alexander Kline placed. Bobby Twigg came back and placed. Those wrestle-back wins are huge for our team."

In addition to the guys who fought back after losing in the championship bracket, McDonogh had eight others reach the finals. Their 11 total placers tied John Carroll for the most of any teams.

Winning Crowns for the Eagles were No.3 TK Megonigal (113), No.2 Cameron Harrell (145), No.1 Toby Hague (152), No.1 Myles Martin (170), and heavyweight Wyatt Cook (No.1).

Hague won his second MIAA title with two pins, a tech-fall, and then a major-decision of John Carroll's Austin Ross in the finals.

Martin, who is ranked 4th in the nation by Intermat, pinned all of his opponents in the first period en route to the finals where he registered a 24-9 technical-fall of St. Paul's Connor Wagh (No.3). The impressive run through the bracket earned Martin his second MIAA title, and the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler award.

"It's pretty exciting. I wrestled really well," Martin said. "I just kept scoring points, try to make 'em as quick as possible. I'm looking forward to next week (MIS State Tournament)."

Harrell transferred from Anne Arundel County's Broadneck High this year to gain access to the tough in-season tournaments. The move paid off as Harrell was one win from placing at the Ironman, and took 5th at the Beast of the East (the two toughest high school tournaments in the nation). He brought home his first MIAA crown this weekend.

"It feels great. It's tough," Harrell added. "I came here for the competition, and I was challenged this weekend. I had some close matches, but I've been working for it."

Bringing home silver for McDonogh were No.9 Quinn Devaney (126), No.11 Sam Martino (138), and No.2 Mike Smith (220).

Martino executed one of the biggest upsets of the tournament with his semi-final pin of Curley's former National Prep Champion Corey Huntley (No.5). The match was tight going into the 3rd period when Martino caught Huntley on his back and picked up the fall at the 4:23 mark of the third period.

No.9 Bobby Twigg (160) placed third for the Eagles, while Alexander Kline (120) and Chris Barranco (195) finished in sixth place.

Runner-up Mt. St. Joe placed five grapplers in the finals among their ten place-winners. The Gaels were only able to capture one title, Zeke Salvo (126).

The senior is heading to Brown University next fall, along the way he grabbed his first MIAA crown this weekend. Salvo (No.2) pinned all of his opponents on his run to the finals. In the finals Salvo faced McDonogh's Devaney in a rematch of a bout he won 6-5 in the season's final dual meet.

Salvo took control of the match early on with a first period takedown. Devaney chose bottom in the second period and proceeded to escape. Salvo registered another takedown to go up 4-1. Salvo took the defensive position to begin the third period. He reversed Devaney into a cradle late in the third period and rode the five-point move to a 9-1 victory.

"It feels great. My dad reminded me of it before the match, really got me pumped up. It (winning the title) hasn't fully hit me yet," said Salvo. "(I wanted) to really control the pace, and try to win every position. I made sure that I picked up a few things from the last match and I tried to implement them to the best of my ability. I thought I did a relatively good job of doing that."

Finishing second for Mt. St. Joe were No.8 Owen Rill (113), No.4 Sam Rowell (160), Dan Hawkins (195, No.3), and Shane Lowman (285, No.8).

Rowell pulled off a mild upset of No.2 Chris Almony (John Carroll) in the semi-finals with a controlling 7-2 performance. The win avenged a 2-0 loss to Almony at the Beast of the East.

Grabbing bronze for the Gaels were No.11 Malik Woody (120) and No.19 Shawn Orem (132). Logan Rill (No.12) was fifth at 182. Neil Schuster (145) and Alex Barnabae (220) placed sixth.

Third place John Carroll (No.5 by the MSWA) had three finalists along with eight other award winners. No.1 Hunter Ritter (195) was the Patriots lone champion.

Ritter faced Mt. St. Joe's Hawkins in the finals. It was a rematch of their third place bout at the Beast of the East, won by Ritter 5-3. Ritter came out ahead again with a 9-3 win.

"This time, we honestly, we opened up more and made it more exciting," Ritter said. "I had a good time. I opened up, scored some points and wrestled well."

No.13 Austin Smith (120) and No.19 Ross (152) were runner-ups for the Patriots. CJ Skokowski (113, No.10) and No.10 Zach Dwyer (126) took third. No.10 Christian Scott (182) and No.15 Andy Reininger came in fourth place.

Steve Jernigan (No. 17) took fifth at 145. Mike McCabe (106), Andy Milner (132), and Almony (160) finished in sixth place. Almony defaulted due to injury after his semi-final match.

Spalding's fourth place finish was powered by two champions and six other place-winners. Seniors Matt Pente (No.4 at 138) and Logan Breitenbach (No.1 at 160) were crowned champions.

Pente's title was his first, and it was a great way for the three-time MIAA and state placer to finish off his league career. He put in a workman like performance in his 3-1 win over Martino.

"It feels amazing. I've been working for this for a long time," Pente said. "I couldn't have done it without my coaches and teammates. There are a couple of things I still need to improve on for states, hopefully I can put it all together and win a state title next week."

Breitenbach is ranked No.17 in the country by InterMat and put on a strong showing en route to his second title. He pinned his way to the finals, and then won by a 13-3 major decision over Mt. St. Joe's Rowell in the championship bout.

"Winning my second title felt even better because my training partner won a title as well," said Breitenbach. "Things are really clicking for me and I'm ready to put things together at states and end my high school career by winning national preps."

Placing third for the Cavaliers was No.7 Jacob Parker (182). Coming in fourth were Mike Pearson (No.22) at 145 and Matt Lucente (170). Nick Goray (106), Matt Van Scoyoc (132), and Robert Kreczmer (285) won their last matches to claim fifth place.

Loyola was fifth, crowning one champion, and it was done in grand fashion. No.6 Jake Nordhausen celebrated his 100th win in style by winning the 220lb MIAA title. His 6-5 ultimate tie-breaker overtime win over McDonogh's Mike Smith was one of the most exciting bouts of the afternoon.

There was a flurry of activity in the first period with a takedown by Smith, followed by a Nordhausen reversal. They traded reversals after that to end the period tied at four. Each grappler had an escape in the regulation to force overtime. The initial overtime was scoreless. Nordhausen held Smith down for the victory in the sudden death period.

"When I didn't get out on that second OT, I knew I had to hold him down," said Nordhausen. "All that match time came down to just that one 30 seconds. It felt like forever, but I got it."

Seven other Dons won spots on the podium. Andrew Lala (106), No.18 Dominick Reyes (120), Pat Smist (132), No.16 Nick Moreno (160), and Neil Amaral (195) placed fourth. Matthew Callahan (113) and James Moses (138) finished in fifth place.

St. Paul's had three champions No.1 Daniel Planta (106), No.2 Ryan Friedman (120), and National Prep Champion Jack Mutchnik (No.1, 132). The title was Friedman's third.

Mutchnik won his fourth title with a strong, strategic approach in his finals match with Curley's Tyshawn Williams (No.3). The match was a grinding one that saw a scoreless first period followed by a second period escape by Mutchnik. Williams chose down in the third period and escaped to tie the bout at 1.

Shortly after the ensuing flurry, Williams called for his second injury timeout. This allowed Mutchnik to have choice of position upon the restart. Mutchnik chose down and proceeded to escape for the 2-1 win.

"It was an honor winning the MIAAs four times against such good wrestlers," expressed Mutchnik.

The No.1 182lb in the state, Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's) won his first MIAA crown with an 11-4 decision of Gilman's Garrett Pfeifer (No.8)

Team Scores

1-McDonogh 245.5

2-Mt. St. Joe 194.0

3-John Carroll 176.5

4-Spalding 153.0

5-Loyola 148.5

6-St. Paul's 141.0

7-Curley 117.0

8-Boys' Latin 94.5

9-Calvert Hall 79.0

10-Pallotti 62.5

11-Gilman 58

12-Severn 57.5

13-St. Mary's 53

14-Glenelg Country 18

15-Friends 8

16-Annapolis Area Christian 4

Tie-Mt. Carmel 4

Championship Finals

106-Daniel Planta (St. Pauls) dec Michael Doetsch (Severn), 3-2 (OT)
113-TK Meginigal (McDonogh) maj dec Owen Rill (Mt. St. Joe), 12-3
120-Ryan Friedman (St. Pauls) dec Austin Smith (John Carroll), 10-3
126-Zeke Salvo (Mt. St. Joe) dec Quinn Devaney (McDonogh), 9-1
132-Jack Mutchnik (St. Pauls) dec Tyshawn Williams (Curley), 2-1
138-Matt Pente (Spalding) dec Sam Martino (McDonogh), 3-0
145-Cameron Harrell (McDonogh) dec Austin Seivold (Calvert Hall), 9-2
152-Toby Hague (McDonogh) maj dec Austin Ross (John Carroll), 18-5
160-Logan Breitenbach (Spalding) maj dec Sam Rowell (Mt. St. Joe), 13-3
170-Myles Martin (McDonogh) tech-fall Connor Waugh (St. Pauls), 24-9
182-Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's) dec Garrett Pfeifer (Gilman), 11-4
195-Hunter Ritter (John Carroll) dec Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe), 9-3
220-Jake Nordhausen (Loyola) dec Mike Smith (McDonogh), 6-5 (OT UTB)
285-Wyatt Cook (McDonogh) pinned Shane Lowman (Mt. St. Joe), 1:22

Third Place Matches

106-Kahlan Lee-Lermer (Boys Latin) pinned Andrew Lala (Loyola), 3:53
113-Cj Skokowski (John Carroll) dec Nick Malinowski (Boys Latin), 8-2
120-Malik Woody (Mt. St. Joe) dec Dominck Reyes (Loyola), 5-2
126-Zach Dwyer (John Carroll) dec Justin Chenault (Pallotti), 4-2
132-Shawn Orem (Mt. St. Joe) dec Pat Smist (Loyola), 6-2
138-Corey Huntley (Curley) dec Matt Wagner (Calvert Hall), 12-6
145-Anthony Wyler (Boys Latin) dec Mike Pearson (Spalding), 6-3
152-Brooks Lucier (St. Pauls) maj dec Noah Koski (Calvert Hall), 13-0
160-Bobby Twigg (McDonogh) tech-fall Nick Moreno (Loyola), 15-0
170-Evan Dohler (Boys Latin) dec Matt Lucente (Spalding), 6-0
182-Jacob Parker (Spalding) dec Christian Scott (John Carroll), 7-3
195-Brock Bushyager (Curley) pinned Neil Amaral (Loyola), 4:37
220-Mansur Abdul-Malik (Pallotti) dec Andy Reininger (John Carroll), 3-2
285-Antonio Santoro (Pallotti) maj dec Kevin Sigwart (Curley), 9-0

Fifth Place Matches

106-Nick Goray (Spalding) pinned Mike McCabe (John Carroll)
113-Matthew Callahan (Loyola) pinned Mike King (Curley)
120-Braeden Alevizatos (Gilman) pinned Alexander Kline (McDonogh)
126-Jordan Brown (St. Pauls) dec Hunter Cotsoradis (Boys Latin), 8-4
132-Matt Van Scoyoc (Spalding) dec Andy Millner (John Carroll), 3-0
138-James Moses (Loyola) dec Thomas Runner (Pallotti), 9-4
145-Steve Jernigan (John Carroll) maj dec Neil Schuster (Mt. St. Joe), 16-5
152-Kai Lee (Curley) dec Daniel Medcalf (Severn), 9-5
160-Rocco Bruno (Boys Latin) won by forfeit over Chris Almony (John Carroll)
170-Alex Crum (Calvert Hall) dec Sam Wancowicz (Gilman), 3-0
182-Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe) dec Morgan Mccolgan (Curley), 3-0
195-Rex Kiteley (St. Mary's) pinned Chris Barranco (McDonogh)
220-Roger Boyce (St. Pauls) dec Alex Barnabae (Mt. St. Joe), 1-0
285-Robert Kreczmer (Spalding) dec Brian Destefano (Severn), 5-2

Finals Videos

106-Daniel Planta vs Michael Doetsch
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvzs8IJQTTs>

113-TK Meginigal vs Owen Rill
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EywANT88Prg>

120-Ryan Friedman vs Austin Smith
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT-vjxQC4Fg>

126-Zeke Salvo vs Quinn Devaney
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ1XL6-72GI>

132-Jack Mutchnik vs Tyshawn Williams
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS8_0LmLzsA

138-Matt Pente vs Sam Martino
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utau4IHe-jo>

145-Cameron Harrell vs Austin Seivold
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUgJteodIUl>

152-Toby Hague vs Austin Ross
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XintBsQFXUQ>

160-Logan Breitenbach vs Sam Rowell
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xcYiQ8CWAc>

170-Myles Martin vs Connor Wagh
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRfjcYBvb3A>

182-Bryce Pappas vs Garrett Pfeifer
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVAj8hAD9tc>

195-Hunter Ritter vs Dan Hawkins
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjhrsLO6A8o>

220-Jake Nordhausen vs Mike Smith
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHj4xq12uho>

285-Wyatt Cook vs Shane Lowman
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLVLkpv2V8s>