

## **McDonogh Gains Revenge over Good Counsel, Claims MIS Tournament Title**

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### ***Eagles Place Six in the Finals, Five Claim Titles. Bannister Captures his Fourth State Championship.***

For the second year in a row the finish at the Maryland Independent School State Tournament (MIS) came down to the heavyweight bout. Once again cell phones, Ipads, and other gadgets were being refreshed after each round to check the team scores.

Last year Good Counsel won the title when their heavyweight Jemal Averette beat Pallotti's Antonio Santoro 6-1 to seal the crown, this year the Falcons looked on as the heavyweight match again decided their fate.

Going into the finals Good Counsel (No.2 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) held a slim 6.5 point lead over No.1 McDonogh (219-212.5). Throughout the final round each team flexed their muscle and won key matches.

By the time the 220lb weight class rolled around, McDonogh had chipped one point off of Good Counsel's lead (237-231.5). Good Counsel had no wrestlers alive in the final two weights, while McDonogh had two No.1 seeds set to take the mat, Mike Smith (220, No.2 by the MSWA at 220) and heavyweight Wyatt Cook (No.1).

Smith did his part to help the Eagles pull out the win, as he registered a hard fought 4-3 decision over DeMatha's Mac Meehan (No.3). McDonogh was now down by only 1.5 points.

Santoro (No.9) was once again the linchpin for McDonogh's title hopes. Disaster almost struck for the Eagles at the beginning of the match when Cook was thrown to his back. The junior did a remarkable job in not giving up any back points. After gathering himself Cook came back to win the match 5-4 and propel McDonogh to the team title, 239.5-237.

"I coulda wrestled better to my ability," said Cook, who won his first state title. "I didn't wrestle as well as I woulda liked to. But it's a team sport, and we got the team win so I'm happy. It's a pretty big win. I got what I needed to get done and we won."

"Wow!" McDonogh Head Coach Pete Welch added. "I think we were trailing the whole tournament. We had a lot of things not go our way. And it looked like in that round of wrestle-backs, except for some of the finals, they had a lot of guys pinning and winning. Coming back and getting seventh by fall, third by fall, so I thought it was going to be tough."

"We just stayed in there and put it on the backs of some of our guys that have been doing it all year long. Bonus points were huge. Bonus points were huge in the first round, we got some falls out of some of our younger guys. It was tight, it was really tight. But it feels good. I'm proud of our guys."

No.1 Toby Hague (152) captured his first state crown to put an exclamation mark on an excellent career. Hague handled Loyola's Walter Johnson (No.5) rather easily in the finals, coming away with a 9-3 decision.

"It feels really good after being a two-time runner-up coming in," said Hague. "I just put a lot of hard work in and it just feels great to finally get that championship, especially as a senior. It was also my 161<sup>st</sup> win."

"Being from New Jersey, I've always wrestled on my feet a lot. (Wrestling) freestyle, Fargo, (I had) non-stop action on my feet. Wrestling Myles in the room, he's a beast on his feet, it just makes me better."

Smith's title was also his first.

"It was very exciting. (It was) two long years finishing fourth (my) freshman and sophomore years," said Smith. "My coaches and fellow teammates kept my spirits up, especially after MIAAs. I just wanted to leave this weekend with nothing but a win."

No.3 TK Megonigal (113) and No.1 Myles Martin (170) captured their second state titles. Megonigal avenged an early season loss to No.2 Adam Whitesell (Good Counsel) in a match that was crucial for the team race.

Martin, No.5 in the country according to InterMat, held off an early flurry from No.2 Josh Llopez (St. Mary's-Ryken) and went on to a 7-2 win. Llopez is ranked No.9 in the nation by InterMat.

McDonogh had four other grapplers earn spots on the podium, and three of them will be making the trip to Lehigh University for next weekend's National Prep Tournament (the top 6 at each weight qualify for preps).

No.2 Cameron Harrell (145) came in second. Freshman Quinn Devaney (126, No.8) was third, No.8 Sam Martino (138) was fifth and Brandon Shure (182) finished in eighth place.

Good Counsel had 11 grapplers bring home awards to tie No.3 Mt. St. Joe with the most place-winners of any teams.

"McDonogh deserved it," Good Counsel Head Coach Skylar Saar said. "We had a chance to control our own destiny. I thought our kids wrestled really tough. You hate to be watching a match and hoping another guy wins. You'd like to have your guy out there being able to control it. Hats off to them for winning."

The Falcons advanced five wrestlers to the finals, but came home with only one champion; No.2 Kevin Budock (132). Coming up short in their title quests were Whitesell, No.4 Bailey Thomas (126), Nick Miller (182, No.5), and No.3 Kevin Snyder (195).

Budock won one of the most anticipated bouts of the finals with a 3-1 decision over St. Paul's National Prep Champion Jack Mutchnik (No.1). Mutchnik was looking for his third state title. Budock's win gave him his second title in two years and kept him on track to become a four-time state champion.

Budock got a takedown early in the first period and rode Mutchnik out. He chose bottom to start the second period, after escaping Budock was up 3-0. Mutchnik took the down position to start the third period and earned an escape of his own to make the score 3-1. That was it for the scoring as Budock fought off Mutchnik's takedown attempts as time expired.

Placing third for the Falcons were No.3 Matt Kelly (138), No.16 Paul Hutton (145) and Garrett Neff (152). No.25 Dale Tiongson (120) and Donovan McAfee (170, No.17) took seventh. Peter Stefanelli (160) came in eighth.

Third place Mt. St. Joe crowned two champions, Zeke Salvo (126) and Dan Hawkins (195).

Salvo (No.2 by the MSWA) defeated Good Counsel's Thomas to win the second state title of his career. The first came as a 106lb sophomore at Perry Hall in the 3A/4A state tournament.

"I feel great," Salvo exclaimed. "He's a great wrestler. I wrestled him earlier in the season. I thought he really improved on a few points that closed the gap. I gotta give a lot of kudos to my coaches, my dad, all my friends that came out to support us. It's an awesome feeling."

Hawkins captured his first state crown in his rematch with Good Counsel's Snyder. He won their previous meeting 5-2 at the Sharknado Duals. Hawkins hit a throw to plant Snyder at the 3:16 mark of the second period.

"Oh my goodness, I don't even know what I'm supposed to say," Hawkins added. "I've never been here before. That was awesome. He's a really good wrestler. I respect the hell out of him. I have to say thanks to Maryland Wrestling for that (the throw for the pin). Taking me to Fargo, getting me (exposure to) Freestyle and Greco. Feet to back moves man, that's Jay LaValley, Neil Adleberg, all the coaches. That's what made me the wrestler I am. (It feels) amazing, awesome!"

No.2 Sam Rowell (160) finished as a runner-up for the Gaels. Owen Rill (113, No.8), No.12 Malik Woody (120), and No.11 Logan Rill (182) came in fourth place.

Shawn Orem (132, No.20) and Alex Barnabae (220) took seventh. Vince Oneto (106) and Neil Schuster (145) placed eighth for Mt. St. Joe.

John Carroll finished in fourth place on the strength of 10 award winners. No.2 Hunter Ritter (182) was the Patriot's lone champion. Ritter, a junior, put on a dominating performance in the finals registering a 14-2 major-decision over Good Counsel's Miller for the second state crown of his career.

Chris Almony (160, No.3) placed third for John Carroll. Zach Dwyer (126, No.9) and No.14 Christian Scott (170) finished in fourth place. CJ Skokowski (113, No.10), Austin Smith (120, No.11), and No.14 Andy Reininger (220) brought home fifth place awards.

The other Patriots to reach the podium were Mike McCabe (106, 6<sup>th</sup>), No.21 Steve Jernigan (145, 7<sup>th</sup>), and No.19 Austin Ross (160, 8<sup>th</sup>).

Georgetown Prep came in fifth place with two grapplers winning titles, and five others grabbing awards.

Senior Michael Sprague (No.1) walked away with his first championship authoring an 8-0 win over Spalding's Matt Pente (No.4). Sprague controlled the match from beginning to end, but Pente kept coming at him. It was a good, solid match from both wrestlers.

"It's been a long time coming," said Sprague. "(I) worked hard for it. I've been wrestling since I was a little kid, and getting the first state title in high school is pretty awesome. I wrestled well. I stuck to my game plan and I did well on my feet, which is a big key for me."

Freshman sensation Eric Hong (No.4), who is from Pennsylvania, wowed the crowd with a pin of No.1 Steven Simpson (St. Mary's-Ryken) just 18 seconds into the third period.

No.7 Ethan Krause (113), No.4 Colin Kowalski (132), and Patrick Stewart (220, No.6) grabbed bronze medals for the Little Hoyas. Paul Triandafilou (195, No.11) was sixth and Joe McCord was seventh at 106.

Alfred Bannister, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation by Intermat, pulled off an ultra-rare feat with his 3-2 win over McDonogh's Harrell in the finals; winning four state titles. The match was one of the more action packed bouts of the finals even though the scoring was low.

Bannister registered a takedown in the first period and Harrell escaped. Bannister took the defensive position to start the second period. He escaped, but neither grappler could gain a takedown, leaving the score at 3-1. Harrell chose bottom and escaped to pull within one. Bannister picked up another takedown to go up 5-2. Harrell went on to escape, needing a takedown to tie it up. Harrell hit a Flying Squirrel late in the third period. The execution was flawless, but Bannister is so quick he was able to face Harrell before he could secure the takedown.

Bannister's performance throughout the tournament, coupled with earning his fourth state title earned him the Outstanding Wrestler trophy.

"It's awesome, you know it's hard to explain how proud I am of myself," Bannister added. "This was kinda like more for my family than it was for me. My older brother (Andrew) had three state titles, and he fell short his senior year. The pressure was on me (to win it). It was for my dad, my brother, my whole family."

"It (the OW award) is the icing on the cake. I love it. I just love the state of Maryland, and how good they treat me. National Preps (is) next week. I want to get my second title there."

Spalding's No.1 Logan Breitenbach secured his second state crown with an impressive 17-5 major decision against Mt. St. Joe's Rowell. Breitenbach is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the country by Intermat.

"I felt good all weekend and was getting to my attacks the way I wanted to," said Breitenbach. "I feel I'm peaking at the right time, and I'm ready to get a National Prep title. Getting my second state title was very special. I was never able to win a junior league state tournament so getting two in high school is a testament to the hard work I've put in the past four years."

St. Paul's freshman No.1 Daniel Planta won the 106lb crown with a 3-2 win over Severn's Michael Doetsch (No.2). It was a rematch of the MIAA finals won by Planta in overtime.

Severn won the tournament's B division. The quickly improving program will send four grapplers to the National Prep tournament, the most Admirals to ever make the trip to Lehigh.

In addition to Doetsch, Daniel Medcalf (152, 5<sup>th</sup>), Braden Nelligan (6<sup>th</sup>, 182), and Brian Destefano (6<sup>th</sup>, 285) qualified for the preps.

"I'm really, really proud of my guys," Severn Coach Doug West said. "They came together at the right time and wrestled really tough. We had a few seniors on the team whose ultimate goal was to get to the National Preps. They accomplished that goal. It's only our fourth year, and we've come a long way in four years."

### **Team Scores**

#### **A Division**

1. McDonogh 239.5
2. Good Counsel 237
3. Mt. St. Joe 202
4. John Carroll 181.5
5. Georgetown Prep 149.5
6. DeMatha 148.5
7. Spalding 138
8. St. Paul's 135
9. Loyola 119
10. Curley 113
11. Boys' Latin 83
12. St. Mary's-Ryken 71
13. Gilman 66
14. Calvert Hall 64
15. Bullis 48
16. Landon 35

#### **B Division**

1. Severn 81
2. Pallotti 67.5
3. St. Mary's 38
4. Bishop McNamara 36
5. Heights School 32
- Tie. St. James School 32
7. Glenelg Country School 27.5
8. Silver Oak Academy 17
9. Friends 14
- Tie. Saint Andrew's Episcopal 14
11. Annapolis Area Christian 12
12. Covenant Life School 9
13. Mt. Carmel 8
14. Maryland School for the Deaf 4

### **Championship Finals**

- 106-Daniel Planta (St. Paul's) dec Michael Doetsch (Severn), 3-2
- 113-TK Megonigal (McDonogh) dec Adam Whitesell (Good Counsel), 7-3
- 120-Eric Hong (Georgetown Prep) pinned Steven Simpson (St. Mary's-Ryken), 4:18
- 126-Zeke Salvo (Mt. St. Joe) dec Bailey Thomas (Good Counsel), 5-3
- 132-Kevin Budock (Good Counsel) dec Jack Mutchnik (St. Paul's), 3-1
- 138-Michael Sprague (Georgetown Prep) maj dec Matt Pente Spalding, 8-0
- 145-Alfred Bannister (Bishop McNamara) dec Cameron Harrell (McDonogh), 5-3
- 152-Toby Hague (McDonogh) dec Walter Johnson (Loyola), 9-3
- 160-Logan Breitenbach (Spalding) maj dec Sam Rowell (Mt. St. Joe), 17-5
- 170-Myles Martin (McDonogh) dec Josh Llopez (St. Mary's-Ryken), 7-2
- 182-Hunter Ritter (John Carroll) maj dec Nick Miller (Good Counsel), 14-2
- 195-Dan Hawkins (Mt. St. Joe) pinned Kevin Snyder (Good Counsel), 3:16
- 220-Mike Smith (McDonogh) dec Mac Meehan (DeMatha), 4-3
- 285-Wyatt Cook (McDonogh) dec Antonio Santoro (Pallotti), 5-4

### **Third Place Matches**

106-Kahlan Lee-Lermer (Boys` Latin) dec Nick Goray (Spalding), 2-0  
113-Ethan Krause (Georgetown Prep) dec over Owen Rill (Mt. St. Joe), 3-1  
120-Ryan Friedman (St. Paul's) tech-fall Malik Woody (Mt. St. Joe), 15-0  
126-Quinn Devaney (McDonogh) maj dec Zach Dwyer (John Carroll), 10-2  
132-Colin Kowalski (Georgetown Prep) dec Tyshawn Williams (Curley), 8-1  
138-Matt Kelly (Good Counsel) dec Matt Wagner (Calvert Hall), 5-2  
145-Paul Hutton (Good Counsel) pinned Lewis Riggs (DeMatha), 2:52  
152-Garrett Neff (Good Counsel) pinned Brooks Lucier (St. Paul's), 2:42  
160-Chris Almony (John Carroll) pinned Fred Johnson (Curley), 4:59  
170-Connor Wagh (St. Paul's) maj dec Christian Scott (John Carroll), 9-0  
182-Bryce Pappas (St. Mary's) dec Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe), 6-3  
195-Jake Nordhausen (Loyola) dec Garrett Pfeifer (Gilman), 9-2  
220-Patrick Stewart (Georgetown Prep) dec Mansur Abdul-Malik (Pallotti), 3-2  
285-Shane Lowman (Mt. St. Joe) dec Kevin Sigwart (Curley), 1-0

### **Fifth Place Matches**

106-Ryan Perpall (DeMatha) dec Mike McCabe (John Carroll), 4-1  
113-CJ Skokowski (John Carroll) dec Nick Malinowski (Boys` Latin), 4-0  
120-Austin Smith (John Carroll) pinned Dominick Reyes (Loyola), 4:15  
126-Justin Chenault (Pallotti) dec Hunter Cotsoradis (Boys` Latin), 3-2  
132-Shane Wilson (DeMatha) maj dec Alex Brown (Bullis), 11-0  
138-Sam Martino (McDonogh) won by forfeit over Corey Huntley (Curley)  
145-Austin Seivold (Calvert Hall) dec Mike Pearson (Archbishop Spalding), 5-1  
152-Daniel Medcalf (Severn) won by forfeit over Larry Lopez (DeMatha)  
160-Rocco Bruno (Boys` Latin) dec Jarett Witzal (Landon), 1-0  
170-Morgan McColgan (Curley) pinned Evan Dohler (Boys` Latin), 1:40  
182-Jacob Parker (Spalding) maj dec Braden Nelligan (Severn), 10-2  
195-Jaime Hunter (DeMatha) dec Paul Triandafilou (Georgetown Prep), 2-1 OT TB  
220-Andy Reininger (John Carroll) pinned Austin Hurdle (Loyola), 5:32  
285-Dan Herman (Heights School) dec Brian Destefano (Severn School), 1-0

### **Seventh Place Matches**

106-Joseph McCord (Georgetown Prep) dec Vincent Oneto (Mt. St. Joe), 7-4  
113-Logan Wilson (DeMatha) dec Matthew Callahan (Loyola), 9-3  
120-Dale Tiongsun (Good Counsel) dec Breaden Alevizatos (Gilman), 6-3  
126-Nat Brown (St. Mary's) dec Matt Siems (Gilman), 8-2  
132-Shawn Orem (Mt. St. Joe) dec Matt Van Scoyoc (Spalding), 8-7  
138-James Moses (Loyola) dec Nate Malinowski (Boys` Latin), 3-1  
145-Steven Jernigan (John Carroll) maj dec Neil Schuster (Mt. St. Joe), 15-4  
152-Noah Koski (Calvert Hall) maj dec Austin Ross (John Carroll), 12-4  
160-Donovan Hall (St. Mary's-Ryken) dec Perry Stefanelli (Good Counsel), 6-4 OT  
170-Donovan McAfee (Good Counsel) pinned Matt Lucente (Spalding), 4:07  
182-Neil Amaral (Loyola) dec Brandon Shure (McDonogh), 4-2  
195-Brock Bushyager (Curley) pinned Patrick Hart (St. James School), 2:14  
220-Alex Barnabae (Mt. St. Joe) dec CJ Williams (Bullis), 11-9 OT  
285-Robert Kreczmer (Spalding) dec Matt Johnston (Landon), 5-4 OT TB

### **Finals Videos**

106-Daniel Planta vs Michael Doetsch  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyaV8xuo33s>

113-TK Megonigal vs Adam Whitesell  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC0CmYAspCo>

120-Eric Hong vs Steven Simpson  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0auig9e8u2Q>

126-Zeke Salvo vs Bailey Thomas  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkpvtZ9-hg>

132-Kevin Budock vs Jack Mutchnik  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAwiiH5nPow>

138-Michael Sprague vs Matt Pente  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1BZzK91psI>

145-Alfred Bannister vs Cameron Harrell  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq3vGQ6P\\_-U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq3vGQ6P_-U)

152-Toby Hague vs Walter Johnson  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAhuCDXYJFg>

160-Logan Breitenbach vs Sam Rowell  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNn6AP1LPdY>

170-Myles Martin vs Josh Llopez  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94dpKCMHYmo>

182-Hunter Ritter vs Nick Miller  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6DzG6vBSkc>

195-Dan Hawkins vs Kevin Snyder  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxIz5kAqrWU>

220-Mike Smith vs Mac Meehan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLBowfJVfDY>

285-Wyatt Cook vs Antonio Santoro  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEEM4m5dDhc>

#### **Semi-Finals Video**

120-Eric Hong vs Ryan Friedman  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQnKbaUivIQ>

126-Bailey Thomas vs Quinn Devaney  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2ZWFyZHD0U>

132-Kevin Budock vs Tyshawn Williams  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q86F1REYDBg>

138-Matt Pente vs Matt Kelly  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3ga\\_1oKKAw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3ga_1oKKAw)

160-Sam Rowell vs Chris Almony  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LdKo9ta\\_LA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LdKo9ta_LA)