

McDonogh Eagles Fly Past Mt. St. Joe in MIAA Showdown

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Jan 31st, 2014

McDonogh Wins 9 of 14 Bouts En Route to a 44-25 Victory

Things started out well for Mt. St. Joe (No.3 in the latest Maryland State Wrestling Association rankings) on Friday night at the McDonogh School in Owings Mills. The Gaels were facing their long-time MIAA rival with the league title on the line.

Shawn Orem (No.21) began the match with a bang for Mt. St. Joe, pinning Riley Bakewell at the 3:14 mark of the second period in the 132lb match. The glory would be short lived for the Gaels as No.1 McDonogh would reel off seven consecutive wins to take a commanding 34-6 lead.

The enthusiastic crowd packed into the old gym for Senior Night witnessed the Eagles cruise to a surprisingly easy 44-25 win.

"I think we really wrestled well," McDonogh Head Coach Pete Welch said. "We wanted to put our good guys against their good guys. We moved Toby (Hague) up to wrestle Sam Rowell, who's having a really good year. We knew it was going to be a really great match and Toby wrestled well. He performed well, they both battled well."

"The last match at 26, I thought we were going to get that one. We wrestled really well and it didn't work out that way. St. Joe and McDonogh is just a great tradition. It's always a great rivalry. We got this one, but they'll always be nipping at us and we'll always be nipping back at them."

No.11 Sam Martino got McDonogh's momentum rolling with a 22-7 technical fall over Neil Schuster at 138lbs. The Gaels then chose to forfeit to No.2 Cameron Harrell at 145.

After Bobby Twigg's 15-0 technical fall of Justin Langeluttig the score was 16-6 in favor of McDonogh. Twigg normally competes in the 160lb weight class, and is ranked eighth in the state by the MSWA, but he dropped down to 152 in a strategic move by Welch.

Next up was a match the folks on hand were hoping to see. Toby Hague, the state's top ranked 152lber, moved up to 160 to face No.4 Sam Rowell. The bout featured quite a few exciting scrambles, all of which ended in Hague's favor. Hague racked up five takedowns to propel his 10-4 win. All of Rowell's points were earned on escapes.

In wrestling there are typically matches that are labeled as swing matches during a dual meet. This means the team that wins these matches is likely to come away with the victory. The 170lb bout was indeed a swing match.

McDonogh's Ryan Walsh faced Mt. St. Joe's David Hendricks. Walsh was able to gain the upper-hand in the second period and secured the fall at the 3:26 mark. A win here by the Gaels would have kept them in the match, but it wasn't meant to be as the Eagles extended their lead to 25-6.

Myles Martin, the nation's third best 170lber according to Intermat, moved up to 182 in hopes of facing Mt. St. Joe's No.10 Logan Rill. Gaels' Head Coach Harry Barnabae had other plans for Rill and chose to forfeit to Martin.

Rill then slid up to 195 to face No.6 Mike Smith. The moved almost paid off for Mt. St. Joe, as Rill gave Smith all he could handle before falling 5-3. After the seventh consecutive victory McDonogh was now out in front by a score of 34-6.

Dan Hawkins (No.3 at 195) bumped up to 220lbs and made quick work of Mike Romfelt, registering the pin 36 seconds into the match to get Mt. St. Joe back in the win column.

The heavyweight bout featured two grapplers ranked in the top ten. McDonogh's Wyatt Cook is No.1 and Shane Lowman came into the match as the No.7 guy at 285. Cook took control of the match in the second period and caught Lowman on his back to pick up the fall in 3:47 to seal the win for the Eagles.

The score now stood at 40-12 with four matches remaining. Even if the Gaels were to close with four pins they would come up short by four points (40-36). But alas, that was not to happen.

They did however pick up a pin at 106lbs when Vince Oneto planted Karl Lindsey in the first period with a double chicken wing.

Another marquee bout was on tap at 113. McDonogh's TK Megonigal (No.3) squared off against No.8 Owen Rill. Megonigal was in control throughout the match and ended with a 9-1 major decision to push the score to 44-18.

No.11 Malik Woody tallied eight takedowns in his match with Alexander Kline. Woody earned a 16-8 major decision for the Gaels.

The last match of the night was a highly anticipated meeting that came to be when Bakewell went out at 132 to start the match for the Eagles.

Mt. St. Joe senior Zeke Salvo (No.2) would be facing McDonogh's highly touted freshman Quinn Devaney (No.9). The match lived up to the hype as both wrestlers battled until the final buzzer. Salvo pulled out a last second takedown to secure a 6-5 win over Devaney, and make the final score 44-25.

McDonogh honored seniors Chris Barranco, Toby Hague, AJ Johnson, and Bobby Twigg before the match. The wrestlers and their parents were introduced as each of the wrestlers gave their parents a bouquet of flowers and a gift bag.

McDonogh 44 – Mt. St. Joe 25

**Match Started at 132*

132-Shawn Orem (MSJ) pinned Riley Bakewell (McD), 3:14
138-Sam Martino (McD) tech-fall Neil Schuster (MSJ), 22-7
145-Cameron Harrell (McD) won by forfeit
152-Bobby Twigg (McD) tech-fall Justin Langeluttig (MSJ), 15-0
160-Toby Hague (McD) dec Sam Rowell (MSJ), 10-4
170-Ryan Walsh (McD) pinned David Hendricks (MSJ), 3:26
182-Myles Martin (McD) won by forfeit
195-Mike Smith (McD) dec Logan Rill (MSJ), 5-3
220-Dan Hawkins (MSJ) pinned Mike Romfelt (McD), :36
285-Wyatt Cook (McD) pinned Shane Lowman (MSJ), 3:47
106-Vince Oneto (MSJ) pinned Karl Lindsey (McD), 1:37
113-TK Megonigal (McD) maj dec Owen Rill (MSJ), 9-1
120-Malik Woody (MSJ) maj dec Alexander Kline (McD), 16-8
126-Zeke Salvo (MSJ) dec Quinn Devaney (McD), 6-5

Videos *(not all the matches were recorded)*

113-TK Megonigal vs. Owen Rill

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8S9IPxXNkY>

126-Zeke Salvo vs. Quinn Devaney

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oOZQMjHDFI>

160-Toby Hague vs. Sam Rowell

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIv9bBzVEbc>

195-Mike Smith vs. Logan Rill

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4v8xP-iXQTo>

285-Wyatt Cook vs. Shane Lowman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kF-SbLoXcJw>