

## **North Hagerstown Edges River Hill to Win the 3A/4A State Championship**

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### ***The Hubs Send 3 to the Finals, Place 5 Overall***

The North Hagerstown Hubs knew coming into the 3A/4A State Wrestling Tournament that they had enough big guns to contend for the title. To get over the hump though, they would need a few of their grapplers to step up and outperform expectations.

Saturday morning at Cole Field House that scenario played out as No.10 Hunter Faith (132) and 182lber JD McKoy (No.10 in the latest rankings by the Maryland State Wrestling Association) won their semi-final matches to join No.3 Brendon Colbert (145) in the championship finals.

All three came up short in their title quests, but their performance coupled with strong showings in the wrestle-backs by No.15 Gene Balcita (138) and No.18 Aaron Dopson (285) powered the Hubs to their first ever state crown, 96.5-92.5 over River Hill.

North Hagerstown (No.6) barely came up short at the state duals, losing in the finals to No.4 Damascus 30-29.

“It’s the first state title in the school’s history, but it’s feeling a little hollow right now because we had three guys that wrestled in the finals that didn’t get what they wanted,” said North Hagerstown Coach Greg Slick. “It’s tough for all three of them, but that kid (Colbert) has just worked so hard, and I can’t find any words to say to him that’s going to make any kind of difference to him right now.”

“This group of kids has been pretty amazing. They put a nice run together during the season. But the thing that really made the difference for them was the work that they did in the offseason. The tournaments they went to last spring, the freestyle wrestling that they did, summer training, all that kind of stuff just made a real big difference.”

“I don’t know if it’s redemption or not. This was a hell of a tight race over here. I think there were five teams that coulda won it. Our kids really put a nice run together yesterday and today. It feels good to have a state championship, but I think it would’ve felt a little bit better if a couple of those guys woulda come through in the finals.

Colbert ends his career as one of Maryland’s most successful high school wrestlers ever. He dropped a heart-breaking 3-1 decision to Centennial’s Austin Kraisser (No.5). The three-time state runner-up finishes his career with a 149-6 record.

Faith picked off No.9 Connor Joyce (Broadneck) in the quarter-finals to propel his run to the finals. In the championship bout he was shut out by Reservoir’s Mason Kilcarr (No.5) 5-0.

McKoy is one of the state’s most improved wrestlers. After never making a state tournament appearance the senior found himself in the finals. To do so he had to beat North County’s returning state-placer Malik Smith (No.5) in the semi-finals. The match went into overtime where McKoy pulled off some late magic for the 7-4 win.

The magic ran out for McKoy in the championship bout as he fell 5-4 to Howard’s Jared Rodriguez (No.8).

Balcita lost in the first round 8-0 to Parkdale's Kevin Thomas (No.18). He battled back through the consolation bracket and found himself facing Thomas in the consolation finals. This time Balcita won by fall with just one second left in the first period to secure a bronze medal.

Dopson placed fourth. Along the way he pulled off two upsets. The first a mild one in the quarter-finals with a fall over No.13 Drecon Hudson (Annapolis), the second was a big one 6-2 over No.5 Nick Keller (Urbana) in the consolation semi-finals.

Runner-up River Hill (No.9) crowned three champions No.5 Michael Beck (120), No.3 Logan Kirby (195), and No.1 Cory Daniel (220), while Sebastian Ames (170, No.13) finished in fifth place.

The title was Daniel's second in a row, and capped his second consecutive undefeated season. The match was never in doubt as Daniel cruised to a 6-0 win over Northern Calvert's Kyle Lamond (No.8).

"It's what I wanted all year. It's what I worked for all year," Daniel said. "(It) feels great to finish my season undefeated and get another state championship. I wanted to dominate my way through, keep pushing the pressure every match, against every opponent. I was able to do that with a tech, and a pin, a major decision, and then at the end there six, zero."

Kirby brought home his first state championship after being runner-up the two previous seasons. He defeated Eleanor Roosevelt's Casey Wokocha (No.7) 8-4.

"I feel great, super excited," Kirby said. "I worked really hard with my practice partners to get to this spot. I worked hard with Coach Lauer, and assistant coach-Coach BJ, Cory. A lot of that goes to them just pushing me every day in practice. I started out the tournament real tough. The tournament is long. I'm a little fatigued but it's all worth it in the end."

Northern of Calvert County finished third on the strength of three finalists, edging Damascus by a half point (81-80.5).

106lber Breandan Coughlin (No.3) powered his way through the bracket culminating with a fall over No.6 Dell Ngonga (Northwest-Montgomery) at the 1:15 mark of the first period.

No.16 Jackson Drum (160) and Lamond had to settle for silver for the Patriots while heavyweight Scott Cross (No.10) brought home a bronze medal.

Damascus tied North Hagerstown with the most place-winners (five), but only advanced one grappler to the finals.

Mikey Macklin(No.2, 113) won a tight match 5-4 over Chopticon's Jarrett Arnold (No.11) to secure his second straight state title.

"It's pretty awesome," added Macklin. "I think it could have been a little better but I got the job done. I think I wrestled a good match, but not my best match."

Other Swarmin' Hornets to bring home hardware were third place finisher No.16 Michael Wilkerson (126) and freshman No.24 Brendan Parent (5<sup>th</sup>, 120). Colin McLaughlin (152, No.19) and No.10 Johnny Fischer (160) came in sixth place.

La Plata (69.5 points) rounded out the top five. The Warriors crowned two champions, Marty Margolis (126) and Anthony Cable (170). No.13 Cameron Butler (106) took third.

Margolis won his second straight crown. The junior put on an impressive performance in the finals, registering a 23-8 technical-fall over Westminster's Cole Wetzell (No.10).

"I feel really good," said Margolis, who is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> by the MSWA. "I'm glad I made a statement with it too. My coaches told me, just dominate, and make a statement. Don't go out there just as another kid that won a title. So I just went out there and worked my offense, didn't give him any opportunity to think he can do anything."

Cable was a runner-up last year, and made it to the top of the podium this year with a tough 2-1 overtime win against Thomas Stone's Ryan Sharp (No.8). It was the third consecutive weekend the two squared off.

"Finally got it (the state title)," said Cable. "I knew it was going to be a tough battle. Wrestling him during the regular season, SMAC Finals, and in my regionals, it's always been a tough match. He's a real good competitor, but I couldn't be denied. I couldn't let second come twice."

A face familiar to wrestling fans was back in the finals this year after an injury ended his junior campaign. Winston Churchill's Hunter Sutton (No.2) returned to the spotlight of the finals and claimed the third state title of his career.

Sutton will go down as one of Maryland's greatest ever as he joined the exclusive club of three-time champions with a 5-3 win over No.4 Malik Jackson (Wilde Lake) in the 152lb championship bout.

"It feels awesome. I'm so pumped right now," said Sutton. "Last year was tough, but I knew I was gonna come back this year and win it because I worked so hard. I trained with the best. This year was definitely my year to win it."

Annapolis' Stanley Proctor (138, No.6) has been in the shadow of his father throughout his high school career. The elder Proctor was a three-time state champion for Bowie. Proctor was finally able to live up to that legacy as the senior capped his season off with a 3-2 upset of No.2 Morgan Way (Urbana) to secure his first crown.

"It paid off this year, all the hard work I've done and all the support I've gotten from my coaches." Proctor added. "It feels great. My dad won it three times, and every day I just try to work a step harder to be as good as him. I got the two which was what I wanted to do in the first period, get the first takedown."

Meade's Travis Chidebe (160, No.4) captured his first state crown with a thrilling 6-3 win over Northern Calvert's Drum. Huntingtown's Dalonte Holland (285, No.2) reached the top of the podium to close out his career with a 4-3 win over previously unbeaten Connor Tilton (Quince Orchard, No.3).

#### **Team Scores (Top 15)**

1. North Hagerstown 96.5
2. River Hill, 92.5
3. Northern Calvert, 81
4. Damascus, 80.5
5. LaPlata, 69.5
6. Huntingtown, 62
7. Stephen Decatur  
Tie-Reservoir, 61
9. Northwest (Montgomery), 54.5
10. Winston Churchill, 51
11. Urbana, 48
12. Parkdale, 40.5
13. Centennial, 38
14. Mt. Hebron, 35.5
15. Franklin, 35

### **Championship Finals**

106-Breandan Coughlin (Northern Calvert) pinned Dell Ngonga (Northwest-Montgomery), 1:15  
113-Mikey Macklin (Damascus) dec Jarrett Arnold (Chopticon), 5-4  
120-Michael Beck (River Hill) dec Jeff Hayden (Mt. Hebron), 5-2  
126-Marty Margolis (Urbana) tech-fall Cole Wetzel (Westminster), 23-8  
132-Mason Kilcarr (Reservoir) dec Hunter Faith (North Hagerstown), 5-0  
138-Stanley Proctor (Annapolis) dec Morgan Way (Urbana), 3-2  
145-Nathan Kraisser (Centennial) dec Brendon Colbert (North Hagerstown), 3-1  
152-Hunter Sutton (Winston Churchill) dec Malik Jackson (Wilde Lake), 5-3  
160-Travis Chidebe (Meade) dec Jackson Drum (Northern Calvert), 6-3  
170-Anthony Cable (La Plata) dec Ryan Sharp (Thomas Stone), 2-1 OT UTB  
182-Jared Rodriguez (Howard) dec JD McKoy (North Hagerstown), 5-4  
195-Logan Kirby (River Hill) dec Casey Wokocha (Eleanor Roosevelt), 8-4  
220-Cory Daniel (River Hill) dec Kyle Lamond (Northern Calvert), 6-0  
285-Dalonte Holland (Huntingtown) dec Connor Tilton (Quince Orchard), 4-3

### **Third Place Matches**

106-Cameron Butler (La Plata) dec Quy Tran (Springbrook), 4-2  
113-Andy McKahan (Stephen Decatur) dec Gino Sita (Huntingtown), 6-1  
120-Nick Davis (Northwest-Montgomery) dec Trent Klicarr (Reservoir), 2-0  
126-Ben Montanye (Franklin) dec Michael Wilkerson (Damascus), 4-3  
132-Mitch Fenton (Walt Whitman) dec D.J. Grindle (Perry Hall), 2-0 OT  
138-Gene Balcita (North Hagerstown) pinned Kevin Thomas (Parkdale), :59  
145-Mitchell Zio (Paint Branch) pinned Nick Bennett (Stephen Decatur), 3:17  
152-Connor Strunk (M t. Hebron) dec Jacob Asher (Dulaney), 4-0  
160-Ray Jones (Parkdale) dec Adam Keita (Winston Churchill), 7-3  
170-Tristan Ramberg (Huntingtown) dec Shomari Stewart (Bowie), 4-2  
182-Wes Beattie (Reservoir) dec Malik Smith (North County), 9-2  
195-Mike Laury (Lackey) dec James Kalavritinos (Winston Churchill), 4-0  
220-Ethan Eible (Stephen Decatur) dec Thomas Fitzpatrick (Walter Johnson), 2-0  
285-Scott Cross (Northern Calvert) dec Aaron Dopson (North Hagerstown), 3-2

### **Fifth Place Matches**

106-David Silverberg (Richard Montgomery) dec David Reagan (Bel Air), 9-8  
113-Jamil Garrison (Northwest-Montgomery) dec Nolan Smith (Paint Branch), 4-0  
120-Brendan Parent (Damascus) dec Mark Guglielmini (Tuscarora), 4-1  
126-Andrew Barnes (Magruder) dec Francois Scarboro (CH Flowers), 13-7  
132-Kayleb Forsythe (Leonardtwn) dec Nick Montanye (Franklin), 4-0  
138-Tyler Morgan (North Point) dec Kyle Bollinger (Quince Orchard), 4-2 OT  
145-Tre Puccinelli (South River) dec Tyler Rendina (Arundel), 7-6  
152- Sameh Boulos (Centennial) dec Colin McLaughlin (Damascus), 5-2  
160- Andrew Borradaile (Stephen Decatur) dec Johnny Fischer (Damascus), 8-5  
170-Sebastian Ames (River Hill) dec Shaine Middleton (Broadneck), 5-3  
182-Max Anderson (Gaithersburg) dec Corrice Davis (Lackey), 5-3  
195-Max Sessions (Walt Whitman) won by forfeit over Robby Happy (Sherwood)  
220-Calloway Lee (Catonsville) pinned Adric Turner (Aberdeen), 2:53  
285-Nick Keller (Urbana) pinned Aaron Dorsey (C. Milton Wright), 1:33