

John Carroll's Seniors Lead the Way to Division Title over Rival Mt. St. Joe

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Hunter Ritter Breaks Patriot's Career Wins Record, 206 and Counting

One of John Carroll's goals for this season was fulfilled Wednesday night at John Carroll when the Patriots defeated Mt. St. Joe 33-27 to win the MIAA "A" Division crown. The next comes this Friday night when John Carroll takes on McDonogh for the MIAA Conference Dual Meet Championship.

Patriots' coach Keith Watson built a strong senior laden line-up for his final season at the helm. Watson, who has been at John Carroll since 2002, has his eye on a state title to cap off his hall of fame career. The Patriots have a strong shot at fulfilling that goal in a season that is as wide open as any in recent memory.

"It feels good to be winding things up because the daily grind has been getting to me," Watson said. "Having a quality team and a supportive AD has helped make the positives over-shadow the negative. But I'm ready to move on. It's tough not being a teacher, having to take a 4-5 hour break from work each day makes for very long days. I'll miss it, but I'm ready to support Tommy (Free) and John (Thornton)."

John Carroll is ranked No.2 in the state by the Maryland State Wrestling Association, and Mt. St. Joe No.6. The match, the last home dual meet for Watson, didn't disappoint as there was a lot of great wrestling from both sides.

"I think Rill surprised me," added Watson. "I didn't think he was going to be able to stop Hunter from pinning him. Other than that I think it kinda went the way we figured it would go in general. But again I thought we would get six from Ritter, and that's nothing against him, Rill did a great job of not letting it happen."

"They're a good team. We're a good team. Dual meets are about matchups and we don't match up well with them. Mike McCabe is somebody that did a great job, 'cause those Trybus boys are very tough as you saw, and Mike has been sort of a journeyman all season. He wrestled his butt off."

The meet started at 126lbs where the Gaels' Malik Woody (No.4) used a slew of takedowns to run up a 26-11 technical-fall over Eric Ashton and stake Mt. St. Joe to a 5-0 lead. In the bout, Woody tallied 13 takedowns with Ashton's only points coming on escapes.

The Patriots won the next three bouts to go out front 12-5. After No.3 Zach Dwyer received a forfeit at 132lbs, senior Brian Chalmers (No.21) stepped to the mat to face Shawn Orem (No.9 at 132). On paper, Orem was the favorite, but that had no impact on Chalmers. The John Carroll senior took control of the match early and wrestled a solid match to gain the upset with an 8-4 win. Chalmer's win may have been the key to the dual meet. Getting a win in this match was important for the Patriots.

No.7 Steve Jernigan, also a senior, held off Mt. St. Joe's feisty freshman Jahki Hilton. Hilton bumped up from 138 and his athleticism helped the Gaels keep the Patriots to just an 8-3 decision, avoiding bonus points.

The Gaels got back in the win column at 152lbs when No.14 Neil Schuster (up from 145) beat Andy Milner (No.23) 5-2 in a hard fought battle.

Sam Rowell (No.3) pinned Mark Pickett midway through the third period of the 160lb bout to give Mt. St. Joe a 14-12 lead.

The lead would be short lived though, as the Patriots' No.9 Austin Ross pinned Joey Lucas 27 seconds into the second period to push John Carroll ahead of Mt. St. Joe, 18-14. They would never trail again.

The Gaels elected to forfeit to senior Chris Almony (No.1) at 182 pushing the lead to ten, 24-14. Jimmy Lucas then grabbed a swing match for Mt. St. Joe at 195lbs defeating Adam Berg 7-2.

Next up was the marquee bout of the night. Both wrestlers normally compete at 195lbs, but were moved to 220 by the roster jostling common in dual meets. No.1 Hunter Ritter, who is also ranked fourth in the country by FloWrestling, faced No.5 Logan Rill.

The matchup ended up being closer than expected but Ritter was able to secure a 5-1 victory, and the career wins record at John Carroll. The future Wisconsin grappler passed Matt Miller's 205 wins.

"(I) got 206, beat Matt Miller," Ritter said. "It feels good. It's been a goal since freshman year. Just looking up to him and having him as a role model coming in and out of the room. I just wanna finish the year good. Win states, win National Preps, and just put an end to a good high school career."

Christian Scott (No.3) made quick work of Jimmy Luc planting him just 58 seconds into the heavyweight match. The win gave John Carroll their biggest lead of the night, 33-17.

The Gaels were still within striking distance, but would need pins in the last three matches to win. That was not in the cards though as Luke Strappelli gave Mt. St. Joe's Pat Langelutting (No.13) all he could handle before losing 7-5. Strappelli's hardnosed performance secured the victory for John Carroll as the score now stood at 33-20 with two matches remaining.

No.9 Cody Trybus gained a 10-4 major-decision for Mt. St. Joe over Mike McCabe at 113lbs. His brother Kyle (No.1) was up next at 120. He would face No.3 CJ Skokowski in another highly anticipated matchup.

Trybus beat Skokowski 5-4 at the Beast of the East in December. The rematch was not as close, but was still a very entertaining bout. The action exploded in the third period when Trybus had an escape and two takedowns, and Skokowski earned an escape of his own. The two battled to the end with Trybus coming out on top 5-1 to make the final score 33-27.

"I thought their effort was excellent," said Mt. St. Joe coach Harry Barnabae. "We knew going into this match each one was going to be close and it was. There were no real surprises. Both teams came out; they were well prepared, well coached. John Carroll was the better team tonight."

“We moved the kids around, just as John Carroll did to get an edge. In some cases it paid off and others it was a little tighter than we expected. I thought our freshman Jahki Hilton stepped up to the plate and gave Jernigan a very, very good match. I thought Logan (Rill) wrestled very well against Hunter Ritter. Both Trybus boys wrestled extremely well. I think overall we did well. Schuster wrestled an excellent match going up to 152. The boys came out, they knew we were gonna move them around and they just went after it.”

John Carroll 33 Mt. St. Joe 27

(Match started at 126)

126-Malik Woody (MSJ) tech-fall Eric Ashton (JC), 26-11
132-Zach Dwyer (JC) won by forfeit
138-Brian Chalmers (JC) dec Shawn Orem (MSJ), 8-4
145-Steven Jernigan (JC) dec Jahki Hilton (MSJ), 8-3
152-Neil Schuster (MSJ) dec Andy Milner (JC), 5-2
160-Sam Rowell (MSJ) pinned Mark Pickett (JC), 5:17
170-Austin Ross (JC) pinned Joey Lucas (MSJ), 2:27
182-Chris Almony (JC) won by forfeit
195-Jimmy Lucas (MSJ) dec Adam Berg (JC), 7-2
220-Hunter Ritter (JC) dec Logan Rill (MSJ), 6-2
285-Christian Scott (JC) pinned Tommy Luc (MSJ), :58
106-Pat Langeluttig (MSJ) dec Luke Strappelli (JC), 7-5
113-Cody Trybus (MSJ) maj-dec Mike McCabe (JC), 10-2
120-Kyle Trybus (MSJ) dec CJ Skokowski (JC), 5-1

Videos (Not all matches were recorded)

138-Brian Chalmers vs Shawn Orem
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vigINJRmFQk>

145-Steve Jernigan vs Jahki Hilton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehRHU8cDjzl>

152-Neil Schuster vs Andy Milner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwaGGBtzRvs>

220-Hunter Ritter vs Logan Rill
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qb8PbFedkE>

106-Pat Langeluttig vs Luke Strappelli
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr9-82u5N6g>

113-Cody Trybus vs Mike McCabe
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KV0ZomwhpMA>

120-Kyle Trybus vs CJ Skokowski
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sltf9rBw-P8>