

John Carroll Captures First MIAA Title in the School's History

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Patriots Led the Field From Wire to Wire; Send Coach Keith Watson Out In Style

John Carroll Head Coach Keith Watson came into his final MIAA Wrestling Tournament thinking his squad had what it took to bring home the school's first ever MIAA crown. Watson's suspicions proved correct as he saw his Patriots take the lead during the first round on Friday and never look back.

McDonogh was just 15 points down at the end of action on Friday. The Patriots extended that lead to 24 after Saturday's first round. The Eagles would narrow the gap during the final round, but couldn't overcome the deficit falling to the Patriots 238.5-227.5.

"Coming into this year's MIAA tournament, I thought that we looked real good on paper," Patriots Coach Keith Watson aka Watty stated. "Tommy (Free) and John (Thornton) had run the numbers and based on the rankings, we should win the tournament. But we still had to make weight, then wrestle and win the matches. When our 220 (Adam Berg) came up sick this week and our back up was injured, I thought, "Okay, here we go. We'll keep it interesting, but without some breaks, we'll fall short."

"Since mid-week I had asked our number three 220, (Steve Thomas) to practice in case Adam was not well enough to compete. I could tell that Steve felt like he was in over his head, having had about 20 JV matches, but he just dove in, practiced hard, and dropped a few pounds, waiting on a call from me on Friday morning. Steve and his 11 points proved to be the difference. I told him all week "All we want is your best", that's what he gave us. I couldn't be prouder of Steve and his effort."

Thomas finished sixth for John Carroll giving them more points from 220 than they expected going into the tournament. The Patriots also got bonus points from Austin Smith (No.4, 138). Smith, who has been out since December with an elbow injury, returned to the mat for the MIAA tournament and tallied two pins before re-injuring the elbow in the semi-finals. He forfeited the rest of his matches, but his sixth place finish was another plus for John Carroll.

Two of the program's cornerstones finished off their careers in grand style. No.1 Chris Almony (170) wasted little time in his championship bout, dropping Glenelg Country School's Reid Chaconas (No.25) just 57 seconds into the match giving John Carroll a boost it needed with six team points. It was Almony's first MIAA title.

"It (the pin) really helped the team out," said Almony. "Honestly we needed those six points to come out of the finals match. I feel like if I didn't start it then nobody would have. We had Dwyer and Austin (Ross) lose, but they put up great matches just didn't earn us the points."

"I feel good about the journey. I hate that it's gonna have to end. I really do, but watching this team grow I can honestly say this is our best team that we've ever had. Watching my brother when he was here and everything else, this is by far the best John Carroll team that's ever been."

Hunter Ritter (No.1) is headed to Wisconsin next fall, but before that stop he notched his third straight MIAA crown with a 5-3 decision over No.5 Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe). Ritter, whose win clinched the championship for the Patriots, is ranked fourth in the nation at 195 by Flo Wrestling.

"I feel good," Ritter said. "I shoulda opened up a little more in that finals match. I had a lot of pressure. Senior year, it would decide who won the tournament, so I just went out and did my best. Do what I could. It's just cool being on this team, riding out for the last four years and seeing everyone improve. And then to come to this point and winning a MIAA title, it's unreal. It's an awesome feeling."

John Carroll had 13 of their 14 wrestlers reach the podium, a tournament high. No. 4 Zach Dwyer (126) and No.8 Austin Ross (160) fell short in their title quests.

Grabbing bronze for the Patriots were Steve Jernigan (145, No.8), Andy Millner (152, No.22) and heavyweight Christian Scott (No.3). Mike McCabe (113), No.4 CJ Skokowski (120), and No.9 Brian Chalmers (132) finished in fourth place. Luke Strappelli (106) took fifth.

"Looking back on things, the tournament was a microcosm of our season; one guy goes down, someone steps up, and we keep on going," Watson added. "This weekend, Berg goes down, Thomas steps up; Austin Smith goes down, Andy Millner has a great tournament and finishes above his seed. Originally I had thought that this would be our first time putting our top 14 guys on the mat. It didn't work out that way, but we managed to get the job done."

All six of McDonogh's finalists got the job done as the Eagles went six-for-six in the finals to earn the most gold of any team.

No.4 Sam Martino (145) pulled off the upset of the finals when he scored a late takedown to beat No.1 Tyshawn Williams (Curley) 4-3 and secure his first MIAA crown. Mike Smith (No.1, 220) had one of the more tense matches of the finals. He reversed a loss from last year's MIAA Finals over Loyola's Jake Nordhausen (No.4) securing a takedown in overtime for a 3-1 win and his first MIAA title. Smith will be wrestling at the Naval Academy next year.

Also grabbing his first MIAA title for McDonogh was No.2 Quinn Devaney (132). Devaney registered a 4-1 decision over Dominick Reyes (No.8).

"It's a great feeling knowing the hard work is paying off," Devaney mentioned. "My family, teammates, and coaches have really been pushing me this year and I am very thankful for that. Our schedule is really tough and that helps us in the post season. The competition is brutal as always, but I'm having fun."

Future Virginia Cavalier Cameron Harrell (152, No.1) picked up his second championship as did No.1 Wyatt Cook (285). Harrell is currently ranked 5th in the country by Flo Wrestling.

Flo Wrestling's No.2 182lber Myles Martin earned his third consecutive MIAA crown. Martin (No.1), voted the Outstanding Wrestler, will be heading to Ohio State next year.

Karl Lindsey was third for the Eagles. Freshman Caden Mareno (No.15, 120) placed fifth. No.22 Grant Gorvett (126), Andrew Hurdle (160), and Chris Smith (195) finished in the sixth spot.

Third place Mt. St. Joe (No.6) had four grapplers reach the finals but came away with just two champions, No.3 Malik Woody (126) and No.3 Sam Rowell (160). For both it was their first time atop the MIAA podium.

Woody needed overtime to bring home his crown, but a takedown in the first overtime period secured a 4-2 victory.

"I feel great, man I feel happy," Woody added. "I felt like I did good. It's not the outcome I wanted score wise but I did what I needed to do to win the match. I knew I had to get the takedown at the end. Winning it here gives it a lot of meaning. Wrestling for Mt. St. Joe, it's one of the best schools in the state. I just love wrestling. It's who I am as a person, just go out there and get it."

Rowell put in a workmanlike performance registering a takedown in each period for an 8-3 win over John Carroll's Ross.

"It was pretty thrilling to win my first MIAA title, especially after coming in second last year behind Logan Britenbach," Rowell asserted. "It was exciting winning the MIAA, but the title only makes me more hungry to come back stronger this weekend in high hopes to win the state title. This tournament definitely puts me in place to finish my senior season strongly and dominate my weight class."

Cody Trybus (113, No.9) and Rill had to settle for silver. No.13 Patrick Langeluttig (106), No.2 Kyle Trybus (120), and Shawn Orem (No.10, 132) took home bronze medals. Placing fourth for the Gaels were No.15 Neil Schuster (145), Jimmy Lucas (182), and Alex Barnabae (220).

Loyola placed fourth on the strength of eight place-winners. Finishing second for the Dons were Reyes and Nordhausen. No.9 Nick Moreno (160) and Gregg Amaral (170) were third place finishers. Ryan Thomas (106) was fourth. Marcellus Brown (138) and Austin Hurdle (285) came in fifth. Jason Litvak (145) took sixth.

Fifth place Spalding crowned one champion among its two finalists. Freshman Ryan Garretson (106, No.8) downed Gilman's Cole Brown (No.12) 9-2 to capture the gold. No.13 Mike Pearson finished second at 138.

No.3 Jacob Parker (220) was third for the Cavaliers. No.21 Nick Goray (126), No.14 Joey Eberhard (132), Jack Eberhard (145), Tristan Salazar (152), and Matt McHale (160) all took fifth.

St. Paul's had two grapplers bring home titles, Daniel Planta (113, No.1) and No.1 Ryan Friedman (120). Planta, a sophomore, secured his second title in two tries. Friedman authored an impressive 7-1 win over No.3 Michael Doetsch (Severn) to join his brother Eric as a four-time MIAA Champion.

"It's a tremendous accomplishment to be an MIAA champion and winning it four times is truly special," said Friedman. "I have been with many of the other wrestlers in the MIAA since I was young and have traveled across the country with them to various events. Being able to experience this with them and watch many of them compete well in this tournament is fun to see."

"Personally MIAA's are always very important in setting the tone and getting on a role for the next two weeks which are the state tournament and national preps. It's important to start well with three tough weeks of wrestling in a row and I've been fortunate enough to do this all four years of my high school career."

Pallotti's Justin Chenault (138, No.5) grabbed the first championship of his career after twice being a runner-up.

Good Counsel gave McDonogh all it could handle at the Ray Oliver Tournament but fell short at the end so the team race at the upcoming Maryland Independent State Tournament should be quite entertaining. John Carroll hopes to repeat this weekend's strong performance and win a state title for their hall of fame coach.

"When I took the job at John Carroll, I had no idea how tough the MIAA was," observed Watson, who is retiring after this season. "My teams at Bel Air were dominant in the nine team Harford County league, but the MIAA was/is a totally different deal. JC was a "B" conference team then. I felt like the "A" conference teams were at a level that we'd never get to. Teams like Curley, St. Joe, McDonogh were playing a different game. Over the years we caught up to Mt. St. Joe and Curley. We had some dog fights with McDonogh, finished a point or two ahead of them at the MIAA's once, but were behind St Joe. So to finally outpace St. Joe and McDonogh feels like John Carroll has finally arrived."

"This being my last year as head coach, and winning the MIAA, I feel like I'm handing things off in good shape, better than when I took over in 2003. Hopefully, my assistant coaches, Tommy Free and John Thornton will be allowed to continue with the program. I built the foundation. They are more than capable of continuing construction. In fact I'd expect them to surpass what I've been able to do."

Team Scores

1-John Carroll 238.5
2-McDonogh 227.5
3-Mt. St. Joe 213.5
4-Loyola 148
5-Spalding 143
6-Gilman 104.5
Tie-St. Paul's
8-Curley 101
9-Boys Latin 67
10-Pallotti 61
11-Glenelg Country School 60.5
12-Calvert Hall 60
13-Severn 59
14-St. Mary's 34
15-Mt. Carmel 29
16-Annapolis Area Christian 24
17-Friends 14

Championship Finals

106-Ryan Garretson (Spalding) dec Cole Brown (Gilman), 9-2
113-Daniel Planta (St. Paul's) dec Cody Trybus (Mt. St. Joe), 5-2
120-Ryan Friedman (St. Paul's) dec Michael Doetsch (Severn), 7-1
126-Malik Woody (Mt. St. Joe) dec Zach Dwyer (John Carroll), 4-2 OT
132-Quinn Devaney (McDonogh) dec Dominick Reyes (Loyola), 4-1
138-Justin Chenault (Pallotti) dec Mike Pearson (Spalding), 4-1
145-Sam Martino (McDonogh) dec Tyshawn Williams (Curley), 4-3
152-Cameron Harrell (McDonogh) pinned Nate Malinowski (Boys Latin), 1:36
160-Sam Rowell (Mt. St. Joe) dec Austin Ross (John Carroll), 8-3
170-Chris Almony (John Carroll) pinned Reid Chaconas (Glenelg Country School), :57
182-Myles Martin (McDonogh) pinned Rocco Bruno (Boys Latin), 5:17
195-Hunter Ritter (John Carroll) dec Logan Rill (Mt. St. Joe), 5-3
220-Mike Smith (McDonogh) dec Jake Nordhausen (Loyola), 3-1 OT
285-Wyatt Cook (McDonogh) maj-dec Kevin Sigwart (Curley), 11-3

Third Place

106-Patrick Langeluttig (Mt. St. Joe) dec Ryan Thomas (Loyola), 4-1
113-Karl Lindsey (McDonogh) dec Mike McCabe (John Carroll), 1-0
120-Kyle Trybus (Mt. St. Joe) dec CJ Skokowski (John Carroll), 4-2
126-Braeden Alevizatos (Gilman) dec Kahlan Lee-Lermer (Boys Latin), 4-3 OT
132-Shawn Orem (Mt. St. Joe) dec Brian Chalmers (John Carroll), 2-1 OT TB
138-Chase Pappas (St. Mary's) dec Jordan Brown (St. Paul's), 5-3
145-Steve Jernigan (John Carroll) dec Neil Schuster (Mt. St. Joe), 11-6
152-Andy Millner (John Carroll) dec Eddie Howlette (Glenelg Country School), 8-7
160-Nick Moreno (Loyola) pinned Kai Lee (Curley), 2:59
170-Gregg Amaral (Loyola) dec Aaron Cranston (Gilman), 3-1
182-Joe Scott (Calvert Hall) dec Jimmy Lucas (Mt. St. Joe), 3-2 OT TB
195-Dalton Negm (Calvert Hall) dec John Urban (St. Paul's), 5-1
220-Jacob Parker (Spalding) dec Alex Barnabae (Mt. St. Joe), 1-0
285-Christian Scott (John Carroll) pinned Mansur Abdul-Malik (Pallotti), 4:11

Fifth Place

106-Luke Strappelli (John Carroll) pinned Raj Malvlya (Glenelg Country School), :40
113-Jared Butler (Pallotti) dec Ian Budny (Curley), 4-3
120-Caden Mareno (McDonogh) pinned Josh Laubach (Curley), 2:31
126-Nick Goray (Spalding) dec Grant Gorvett (McDonogh), 8-6 OT
132-Joey Eberhard (Spalding) won by forfeit by Griffin Welsh (St. Paul's)
138-Marcellus Brown (Loyola) won by forfeit by Austin Smith (John Carroll)
145-Jack Eberhard (Spalding) pinned Jason Litvak (Loyola), 2:45
152-Tristan Salazar (Spalding) pinned Jordan Leikin (Severn), 1:49
160-Matt McHale (Spalding) dec Andrew Hurdle (McDonogh), 7-1
170-Ian Park (Calvert Hall) pinned Luke Vauters (St. Mary's), 3:57
182-Jake Brummett (Gilman) pinned Gavin Cauley (Severn), 1:40
195-James Geer (Curley) won by forfeit by Chris Smith (McDonogh)
220-Henry Gregory (Annapolis Area Christian) pinned Steve Thomas (John Carroll), 2:50
285-Austin Hurdle (Loyola) dec Jahee Jackson (Gilman), 5-4

Finals Videos (285 was not recorded)

106-Ryan Garretson vs Cole Brown
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgceUjbb28w>

113-Daniel Planta vs Cody Trybus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pszyu8k4A2w>

120-Ryan Friedman vs Michael Doestch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOi7xC_f4_0

126-Malik Woody vs Zach Dwyer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFEY1VapezQ>

132-Quinn Devaney vs Dominick Reyes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLssDVCMsAw>

138-Justin Chenault vs Mike Pearson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0YE4EsEdXg>

145-Sam Martino vs Tyshawn Williams
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ttvurd_Vwc

152-Cameron Harrell vs Nate Malinowski
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atyuxM9Fmck>

160-Sam Rowell vs Austin Ross
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4fHtAJXy4g>

170-Chris Almony (John Carroll) vs Reid Chaconas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5PDiccvYQk>

182-Myles Martin vs Rocco Bruno
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPdRNsKTI1c>

195-Hunter Ritter vs Logan Rill (Missing the beginning)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmGHLogz3_g

220-Mike Smith vs Jake Nordhausen (Missing the beginning)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJsfDnRKU9o>