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*By Mitch Rupert*

## Defender wrestlers beat Muncy, thinking big

TURBOTVILLE—Dan Breech said the magic H-word last night following Warrior Run's 43-26 win over Muncy on Tuesday. It's a word which shows just what the Defenders' intentions are for this season.

The word holds in it not only Warrior Run's goals, but its expectations as well. If the Defenders hope to make their first-ever trip to Hershey for the PIAA Duals tournament, they'll need more performances like they got Tuesday night from its roles players.

With a veteran and talented lineup, Warrior Run knows this may be its best shot at a trip to Hershey, even just five days into the season. But it's going to require a team effort. The onus can't fall just on the shoulders of state qualifiers Eric Hunt and Zack LeBarron, or on the shoulders of fellow state-ranked wrestlers Dan Breech and Brian LeBarron.

It's going to take efforts like Hunter Stroup's gutsy third period. And it's going to take pins like Wes Cupp's, who found himself on top in what looked like a Greco-Roman match for a fall. And it's going to take opportunistic bonus points like the three Matt Kilgus earned when he caught Scott Appleman on his back in a one-point match in the third period.

"To be a team, it takes an effort from everyone. Not only a physical effort, but an effort in learning to pick up technique," said Warrior Run head coach Wayne Smythe, who earned career win No. 509. "We've had great practices. The kids have responded very well. Those weights you mentioned, were some hard-fought matches and wins did not come easy. I'm happy with the way the kids worked to earn those."

The truth is that there are going to be very few night where you can't pencil in bonus points for either of the LeBarrons, Hunt or Breech. Those are the given. A strong dual-meet team is built around those pillars, but they need to be supported.

Stroup is a senior in his second season as a starter for the Defenders and was able to grind out a win at 182 pounds the way Smythe would hope a senior could. He was tough on this feet recording three takedowns. And his third-period reversal provided a little cushion when he gave up a point for a technical violation and an escape in the final minute.

Kilgus is in his third year as a starter for the Defenders and finds ways to keep himself in good position to be able to score. So when a miscue from Appleman provided an opening at 220 pounds last night, Kilgus was able to capitalize and get a fall.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Defenders after splitting the opening two bouts, and it gave them a 30-4 lead over last year's District 4 Duals fourth-place finishers.

"Our middle and upper weights are pretty much all seniors," said Warrior Run's Dan Breech, who picked up a fall at 170 pounds. "When we hit there, we know we're probably going to win at those spots."

"I think we have a good feel for what (Stroup and Kilgus) do," Smythe said. "Matt always makes a strong effort and he works hard to maintain position where he can be effective and score from. Hunter's a bit more of a wild card with the way he wrestles. He's not as disciplined in some areas, but he has a good feel for what he can do, and he tries to stay within what works for him. When he does that, he's usually successful."

But then there's the hammers. When two forfeits and an impressive 13-1 win for Angelo Barberio cut Warrior Run's lead to 30-20, the Defenders were able to salt away the win in their dual-meet season-opener.

Hunt picked up a major decision at 120 pounds. Zack LeBarron scored the 25th fall of his career in the second period against Abien Berry. And Brian LeBarron used three key back points on a tilt at the end of the second period to defeat district qualifier Andy Aguilar, 6-2.

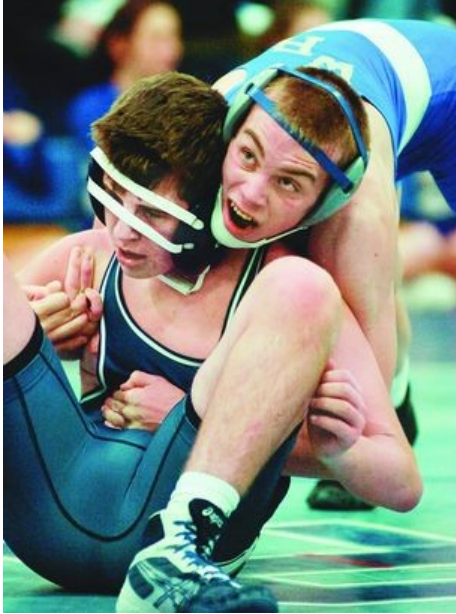
"It's pretty good knowing we have those guys," Breech said. "We pretty much know they're going to go out and win."

"We're proud of the guys who put in the time, whether they're first string, second string or third string," Smythe said. "But we don't rate them that way. It's just a team to us."

106: Jesus Aguilar, M, won by forfeit. 113: Angelo Barberio, M, maj. Dec. Brad Styer, 13-1. 120: Eric Hunt, W, maj. Dec. Abien Berry, 12-2. 126: Zack LeBarron, W, pinned Alex Krah, 2:42. 132: Brian LeBarron, W, dec. Andy Aguilar, 6-2. 138: Cam Good, M, pinned Tyler Hornberger, 3:02. 145: Andy Walker, W, dec. Austin Orr, 3-0. 152: Dakota Nixon, M, maj. Dec. Mason Wagner, 13-5. 160: Elias George, W, won by forfeit. 170: Dan Breech, W, pinned Junior Ramos, 1:54. 182: Hunter Stroup, W, dec. T.J. Moyle, 8-4. 195: Wes Cupp, W, pinned Hunter Gardner, 1:40. 220: Matt Kilgus, W, pinned Scott Appleman, 5:05. 285: Nick Roberts, M, won by forfeit.

Takedowns: Warrior Run 13, Muncy 11. Official Jeff Archey.

Records: Warrior Run (1-0); Muncy (0-1).



Warrior Run's Andy Walker, rear, works Muncy's Austin Orr during their 145-pound bout Tuesday at Warrior Run. Walker won, 3-0. View additional photos at [cu.sungazette.com](http://cu.sungazette.com).