

Bulldogs, Defenders, Muncy face each other at JS Duals

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By Jake Felix

JERSEY SHORE—Matchups in wrestling dual meets can even leave veteran coaches shaking their heads trying to explain the results.

Jersey Shore, Muncy and Warrior Run found themselves in the same championship pool on Saturday at the Jersey Shore Duals after each placed second in the initial round-robin rounds, and in the afternoon session of the tournament, the three District 4 schools took turns beating on one another. The Bulldogs handled Warrior Run, 45-27, Muncy edged Jersey Shore, 38-33, and the Defenders bounced back for a 51-24 win over the Indians.

“It was crazy, especially the score differentials between us three,” Jersey Shore coach Shawn Weaver said. “You don’t ever see that really, but it’s high school sports and a kid can go from a total high to a total low with a flip of a coin.”

All three teams finished a long day of wrestling with 3-2 records against a well-rounded 11 team field.

“It was interesting there if you compared the scores,” Warrior Run coach Wayne Smythe said. “Just because Team A beats Team B and Team B beats Team C doesn’t necessarily mean Team A will beat Team C. It just shows you how you wrestle is extremely important and not how you wrestled against someone else.”

Greensburg Salem, Cedar Cliff and Wyoming Valley West were the pool winners. Greensburg Salem opened up the championship round with a 33-27 win over Cedar Cliff before clinching the tournament title with a 31-30 win over Valley West. The victory over Valley West was determined by Criteria H (Most first points scored). Valley West then lost another tight one in what became the match for second place, losing to Cedar Cliff, 34-30.

Valley West entered the tournament ranked No. 18 in the Class AAA dual meet rankings by papowewrestling.com, while Greensburg Salem and Cedar Cliff were honorable mention selections.

“Our goal when we started this tournament was to make it better every year and bring some good teams in here,” Weaver said. “I feel like the top six or seven teams here can compete and we all can get some quality matches for one another and that is the point of a dual meet tournament.”

The Defenders (9-4), who wrestle four times this coming week, beat Muncy for the second time this season. Warrior Run jumped out to an 18-0 lead on the strength of their lower weights before Muncy tied the score with three consecutive victories. Warrior Run answered with a six-bout streak which included Muncy forfeits at 160, 195, and 220.

Elias George bumped up to 170 pounds for the Defenders and picked up a first-period fall that made the score 30-18 with five bouts remaining.

The senior went 5-0 for Warrior Run during the tournament, making the bump to 170 pounds twice.

“I’ve been surprised by what I have been able to do this year because I’ve always been uptight about it,” George said. “This year is my senior year so I don’t have another year left, so I have to go out and get it.

“I want to make this year memorable and make it as far as I can.”

The youthful Indians (10-7), who expect to have a full lineup next week for the first time this season, went 3-2 during the 10-hour day and clinched a berth in the District 4 Duals tournament. Muncy hung with pool champion Valley West for the majority of their match before falling 44-29, but did earn an impressive 38-33 win over Jersey Shore.

“We had a good day today,” Harer said. “We did better than I expected because we don’t have everybody back yet.”

State-ranked Dakota Nixon beat Jersey Shore’s Colton Killion, 6-5, at 152 pounds which helped the Indians build a 35-9 lead against the Bulldogs that nearly vanished. Nixon surrendered the opening takedown but took a 4-3 lead after two periods and added a takedown in the third period.

“Neither one of those guys were at full strength today,” Weaver said. “I know Dakota was pretty sick and didn’t look like himself and Colton’s ankle is pretty sprained. It was neat to see those guys gut it out and it was good wrestling.”

Jersey Shore closed to 35-33 after a Muncy forfeit at 220 pounds because of an injury to Scott Appleman, but 285-pounder Nick Roberts cemented the Muncy win with a 7-3 decision.

The Bulldogs did complete their rally against Warrior Run after falling behind 21-9. Killion again was in the middle of a hard-fought match at 152 pounds and this time he came up with a narrow 4-2 victory that tied the match at 21-all with five bouts remaining. George gave Warrior Run the lead one final time before the Bulldogs closed with four consecutive falls.

The Bulldogs’ rally against the Defenders was set in place by buzzer-beating wins by Bryce Charles at 285 pounds and Chris Bashaw at 138.

Canton picked up its lone pool victory after receiving a forfeit from Phoenixville. Phoenixville dropped out of the tournament earlier this week.

The Warriors lost to Central Dauphin East (41-37) and Wallenpaupack (42-26) during the championship rounds.

Cantons’ Conner Route earned his 100th career victory during the tournament.

Pool A Standings: Greensburg Salem 3-0; Jersey Shore 2-1; Canton 1-2; Phoenixville 0-3

Note: Phoenixville forfeited out of the tournament.

Pool A scores: Greensburg Salem 34, Jersey Shore 24; Jersey Shore 46, Canton 19; Canton forfeit over Phoenixville; Greensburg Salem forfeit over Phoenixville; Jersey Shore forfeit over Phoenixville; Greensburg Salem 53, Canton 21.

Pool B Standings: Cedar Cliff 3-0; Warrior Run 2-1; Central Dauphin East 1-2; Tunkhannock 0-3.

Pool B Scores: Cedar Cliff 42, Warrior Run 27; Central Dauphin East 55, Tunkhannock 17; Cedar Cliff 39, Central Dauphin East 33; Warrior Run 60, Tunkhannock 15; Cedar Cliff 52, Tunkhannock 15; Warrior Run 45, Central Dauphin East 22.

Pool C Standings: Wyoming Valley West 3-0; Muncy 2-1; Wallenpaupack 1-2; Clarion 0-3.

Pool C Scores: Valley West 49, Wallenpaupack 24; Muncy 47, Clarion 21; Valley West 68, Clarion 6; Muncy 36, Wallenpaupack 33; Wallenpaupack 33, Clarion 27; Valley West 44, Muncy 29.

Championship Pool Scores

(1st through 3rd): Greensburg Salem 33, Cedar Cliff 27; Greensburg Salem 31, Valley West 30 (Greensburg Salem wins on Criteria H, most first points scored); Cedar Cliff 34, Valley West 30.

(4th through 6th): Jersey Shore 45, Warrior Run 27; Muncy 38, Jersey Shore 33; Warrior Run 51, Muncy 24.

(7th through 9th): Central Dauphin East 41, Canton 37; Wallenpaupack 42, Canton 26; Wallenpaupack 43, Central Dauphin East 30.

(10th through 12th): Clarion 39, Tunkhannock 31; Phoenixville forfeit.

(Other score): Jersey Shore 50, Tunkhannock 21.

First place: Greensburg Salem; Second Place: Cedar Cliff; Third place: Valley West.