



## **WALTON-VERONA BEARCATS HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING**

**BUILDING A Tradition of Excellence**

February 2, 2018

What a gut-wrenching weekend for the Bearcats at the KYWCA State Dual Championships. Duals are such a different type of event as kids grow up competing virtually in only individual tournaments. The most common quote heard regarding the difference in these formats is "In individual tournaments your best kids matter most, but in duals your worst kids matter most". It definitely takes a full team effort to be successful in the dual format.

After plowing through our pool matches (72-9 over Trigg County and 72-12 over Pikeville) we moved on to the semis against #15 ranked Larue County. While we came into the match as a solid favorite, Larue used some good lineup strategy and we had some bad luck with two very strange illegal slam calls that cost us a couple matches. In the end, it came down to a couple gutty individual efforts to pull out the 42-39 victory and a showdown in the finals against defending state champs and top ranked Union County. All I can say is great team effort. A number of kids stepped up and scored or saved big team points. We lead almost the entire final dual including a 3 point lead after 11 matches (of 14). But after all was said and done, we fell to Union County 39-28, and brought home the State Runner-up trophy.

The team is off this week to rest up and prepare for the Region 6 tournament on February 9-10.

The Bearcats are holding strong at [#2 in the state](#). The following individuals are ranked in the top 25 of their weight class (current record):

2<sup>nd</sup> @ 106 lbs: Freshman Isham Peace (31-6)

1<sup>st</sup> @ 132 lbs: Senior Ryan Moore (39-0)

3<sup>rd</sup> @ 138 lbs: Senior Blake Roth (28-4)

9<sup>th</sup> @ 145 lbs: Sophomore Tristan Spalding (30-9)

17<sup>th</sup> @ 152 lbs: Freshman Brandon Gibson (19-14)

11<sup>th</sup> @ 160 lbs: Sophomore Daulton Mayer (35-9)

1<sup>st</sup> @ 170 lbs: Senior Mason Smith (37-2)

1<sup>st</sup> @ 182 lbs: Junior Braden Mulcahy (39-4)

25<sup>th</sup> @ 195 lbs: Sophomore Colton Maines (17-16)

26<sup>th</sup> @ 220 lbs: Senior Garrett McElroy (18-11)

Mark your calendar for Friday & Saturday, February 9-10 for the Region 6 Championship @ Cooper High School. Come cheer on the Bearcats as we battle the powerhouse big school programs in Northern Ky to bring home our first Region 6 Team Championship! Follow us on twitter @WV\_Wrestling1 for updates on rankings, schedules, and results!