



## WALTON-VERONA BEARCATS HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

### *A Tradition of Excellence*

28 REGION CHAMPIONS

91 STATE QUALIFIERS

46 STATE PLACERS

2 GIRLS STATE PLACERS

9 STATE CHAMPIONS

January 3, 2024

It was a very, very busy Christmas break for the Bearcats. The action started with the girls traveling to Jessamine County for the Lioness Tournament where we came home with Sophie Anderson as the champion at 132 lbs and tournament outstanding wrestler, Emma Moore runner-up at 107 lbs, and Emily Stephenson runner-up at 114 lbs. With our small group, this was another event where we finished well as a team (6<sup>th</sup> of 13 teams) while competing against some of the top teams in the state and were only a couple of wrestlers short of bringing home a team trophy.

The very next day the boys traveled to Middletown, OH for the Southwest Ohio Wrestling Coaches Association (SWOWCA) Coaches Classic. This tough 41 team 2-day event included some of the best team in southern Ohio featuring nationally ranked Lasalle. The Bearcats finished in 9<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the small school division behind Legacy Christian Academy. Individual placers were TJ Meyer (2<sup>nd</sup> at 138 lbs), Luke Hyden (2<sup>nd</sup> at 215 lbs), Ben Walton (6<sup>th</sup> at 175 lbs), and Liam Bird (7<sup>th</sup> at 150 lbs).

After a brief Christmas holiday, the Bearcats returned to Ohio for the Greater Miami Valley Wrestling Association (GMVWA) Holiday Tournament. This 2-day tournament is even bigger with 67 teams and included national powerhouse St Paris Graham and nationally ranked Buford (GA). WV finished 13<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> in the small school division. Individual placers were TJ Meyer (2<sup>nd</sup> at 132 lbs), Luke Hyden (3<sup>rd</sup> at 215 lbs), and Brennen East (8<sup>th</sup> at 113 lbs).

It is such an accomplishment to make the podium at one of these events, so it is impressive for these guys to be competing and placing at both.

With school back in session the action will not slow down at all. This Thursday the boys will compete in the Sectional Duals at Newport where they will look to qualify for the State Dual Championship later this month. Also on Thursday the girls will wrestle Simon Kenton and Highlands in a tri meet at SK. Then the girls will be traveling to Owensboro on Saturday for the Daviess County Tournament and a chance to see some western ky competitors as we prepare for the post season.

The following Bearcat wrestlers are ranked in the top 30 of their weight class as the team is ranked #14 in the state:

24<sup>th</sup> @ 106 lbs: Senior Aiden Svec (6-4)

11<sup>th</sup> @ 113 lbs: Freshman Brennen East (13-6)

26<sup>th</sup> @ 126 lbs: Junior CJ Holt (3-5)

2<sup>nd</sup> @ 132 lbs: Junior TJ Meyer (21-2)

24<sup>th</sup> @ 144 lbs: Senior TJ Sulfsted (7-7)

29<sup>th</sup> @ 150 lbs: Senior Liam Bird (10-9)

22<sup>nd</sup> @ 165 lbs: Junior Tyler Kennedy (13-8)

13<sup>th</sup> @ 175 lbs: Junior Ben Walton (9-3)

3<sup>rd</sup> @ 215 lbs: Junior Luke Hyden (16-3)

3<sup>rd</sup> @ 100 lbs: Sophomore Emma Moore (14-2)

1<sup>st</sup> @ 126 lbs: Junior Sophie Anderson (15-0)

Stay tuned for information on home meets and updates on rankings, schedules, and results! Follow us on social media:

Twitter (@WV\_Wrestling1) and Instagram (@wv\_bearcats\_wrestling)

### **WALTON-VERONA ALUMNI ON THE COLLEGE MATS**



Hunter Isaacs (class of 2023) – Thomas More University (141 pounds), first year



Isaac Thornton (class of 2022) – Indiana University (133 pounds)



Zach Watson (class of 2022) – Thomas More University (197 pounds)



Spencer Moore (class of 2021) – University of North Carolina (125 pounds), finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the 2022 ACC Championships as a true freshman; currently ranked #20 nationally in D1



Daulton Mayer (class of 2020) – Thomas More University (285 pounds), 3x NAIA National All American, currently ranked #8 nationally in D2



Ryan Moore (class of 2018) – Thomas More University (transfer - Cornell University) (149 pounds), 3x NAIA National Runner-up, currently ranked #8 nationally in D2