



Here is a look at the Butler Wrestling Team in 2023-24

2023-2024 Team Highlights

- 2023-24 Dual Record: 6 Wins-11Losses. Section record: 1 Win-4 Losses.
- Butler's Dual Meet season was hampered by a number of season-ending injuries as well as a great deal of inexperience in 2023-24. This was the first season since 2017-18 the team failed to qualify for the WPIAL Team Tournament and only the second season in 18 years the team turned in a losing dual meet record.
- Chartiers Houston Tournament – 5th place, 25 teams – 1. Burgettstown 192.5, 2. Plum 173, 3. Bentworth 165 4. Pine Richland 149.5, 5. Butler 148.5. Placewinners: 1st Santino Sloboda 114, 3rd Kase Chopp 139, 4th Nick Savannah 107, 4th Leo Iarrapino 133, 4th Gavin Rush 145.
- Southmoreland Holiday Classic Tournament – 6th place, 33 teams – 1. Corry 202.5, 2. United 171.5, 3. Somerset 152, 4. Derry 136, 5. Plum 131, 6. Butler 127. Placewinners: 1st Santino Sloboda 114, 2nd Kase Chopp 139, 3rd Nick Savannah 107, 6th Leo Iarrapino 133, 7th Gavin Rush 145.
- Kiski Cavalier Duals – 7th place (2W-3L) 10 teams – 1. Penn Ridge, 2. Fort LeBoeuf, 3. North Allegheny, 4. Kiski Area, 5. Peters Township, 6. Waynesburg, 7. Butler, 8. Hempfield, 9. Penn Trafford. 10. Yough.
- Mid-Winter Mayhem – 15th – 58 teams – 1. Bishop McCort , 2. Central Mountain 147.5, 3. Clearfield 138.5 4. Montgomery 127, 15 Butler 96. Placewinners: 1st Santino Sloboda 114, 2nd Kase Chopp 139
- Clearfield Duals – 8th (3W-2L) 16 teams – 1. Montoursville (5W-0L), 2. Clearfield (4W-1L) 3. General McLane, 4. Port Alleghany, 5. Mifflin County 6. Indiana, 7. Brockway, 8. Butler.
- Coach Stoner moved to 439 wins and 198 losses, and is currently 1st in wins among active WPIAL coaches, and 3rd on the WPIAL all-time list. Coach Stoner ranks 5th among active coaches in the PIAA and 21st all-time in Pennsylvania history.
- Butler will return 21 of 24 team members, 8 of 13 starters, and 5 wrestlers with over 20 victories.
- Butler graduates 3 seniors with a combined 24 victories.
- Butler hosted the following events this season: The Fall Brawl Tournament, The 3rd Annual Butler Super Duper First Year Novice Tournament, The 18th Annual Butler JV Tournament, The 1st Annual Butler Girls Tournament, The 18th Annual Butler Junior High Duals, Two Elementary League Matches, The 2nd Annual Butler Spring Open. In addition, The 1st Annual Golf and Wrestling Pinner and Putters Golf Scramble, Meet the Matmen Spaghetti Dinner, and the Players and Pinner's Purse-A-Palooza, and the year-end banquet.

2023-24 Individual Highlights

- The 2023-24 team placed 6 of 10 wrestlers in the Section 3 Tournament and qualified those wrestlers for the WPIAL tournament. Three wrestlers made the Section 3 finals. Sophomore Santino Sloboda claimed his second Section title at 114 pounds, Junior Kase Chopp dropped from 139 to 133 to claim his first section title. Leo Iarrapino moved up from 133 pounds to 145 pounds and reached the finals, but fell short to take 2nd place. Also placing were Nick Savannah 4th at 107, Dawson Davis 4th at 160, and Gavin Rush 5th at 145.
- Butler placed two wrestlers in the WPIAL Individual Tournament. Kase Chopp placed 4th at 133 pounds and earned a ticket to compete in the State Tournament in Hershey. Santino Sloboda won the WPIAL Title at 114 pounds. Sloboda entered as the #1 seed and wrestled the #1 ranked wrestler in the country at his weight at the time, Landon Sidun from Norwin.
- Three seniors will graduate from this year's team, Dawson Davis (160) 14-W-9L was a Section 4th placer and qualified for the WPIAL Tournament. Brycen Seth (152) 8W-17L, and Braylon May (189) 2W-8L.
- Junior Kase Chopp 133-139 pounds, finished with a 35W-9L record on the season, and is 93W-31L on his career. Kase placed 3rd at Chartiers Houston, 2nd at Southmoreland, and 2nd at the Mid-Winter Classic. Kase also won an Individual Section title at 133, and placed 4th in the WPIAL Tournament. His 4th place finish at the WPIAL Tournament also qualified him for the state tournament where he went

1W-2L and did not place. Other highlights included defeating a returning state champion at the Mid-Winter Classic and a finals appearance against the Country's number 1 ranked wrestler Bo Basset from Bishop McCort. Kase also led the team in several individual statistics categories including most takedowns (89) and most pins (24). Kase is a three-time letterwinner.

- Junior Leo Iarrapino 133 and 145 pounds, went 25W-14L on the season and was a Section Runner-Up qualifying him for the WPIAL Tournament. Leo also placed 4th at Chartiers Houston and 6th at Southmoreland. Leo is a two-time letterwinner.
- Junior Gavin Rush 145 pounds, went 22W-13L on the season at 145 pounds. Gavin is 70W-40L on his career. Gavin placed 4th at the Chartiers Houston Tournament, and 7th at Southmoreland. Gavin's success this season was hampered by a torn labrum which he had surgically repaired at the conclusion of the season.
- Junior Diamond Cantera 285 pounds, went 15-W-14L and lettered in his first season in the starting line-up.
- Sophomore Santino Sloboda 114 and 120 pounds, went 38W-3L on the season and is currently 78W-6L on his career. Santino's accomplishments this season outstanding and numerous. Santino won the Chartiers Houston Tournament, and the Southmoreland Tournament again this season. Santino also claimed a championship at the 58 team Mid-Winter Mayhem Tournament. He won his second Section title, his first WPIAL Title, and claimed a 6th place medal at the State Tournament. Santino's WPIAL win over the top ranked wrestler in the country with only seconds left on the clock was a classic win that earned him the WPIAL Tournament Outstanding Wrestler Award. His state semi-final loss occurred with just three seconds left on the clock.
- Freshman Nick Savannah 107 pounds, went 26W-13L and lettered in his first season as a varsity wrestler. Nick placed 4th at Chartiers Houston, 3rd at Southmoreland, and was a 4th place finisher in the Section tournament qualifying him for the WPIAL Tournament.
- Freshman Sullivan Stutz 114 and 120 pounds, went 15W-14L his first season and earned a varsity letter.
- There were 24 wrestlers on the final roster in 2023-24, 3 seniors, 9 juniors, 10 sophomores, & 3 freshmen.
- Julia Rush (So) and Kayla Gold (Fr) were this year's managers & stat girls.
- Butler Coaches were Scott Stoner (31), Fred Powell (14), Alex Evanoff (6), Blake Caudill (5).
- Mrs. Holly Forbes was the Athletic Trainer.

PIAA Coaches with 350 wins

(Compiled by Ken Wunderley, Norm Palovcsik & Ron Garrison)
(Including 2023-24 season, **-active)

Rank	Coach (Schools)	Years	Wins	Losses	Ties
1	Carl Schnellenbach (Ridley)	54	767	224	7
2	Bill Sexton (Towanda) **	44	740	256	3
3	Ron Kanaskie (Danville)	42	668	255	4
4	Dave McCollum (Bermudian Springs) **	46	649	246	3
5	Dave Crowell (Easton, Wilson, Nazareth) **	38	602	147	1
6	Jeff Sweigard (Susquehanna Township, Central Dauphin) **	39	589	168	0
7	Terry Conover (Western Maryland, Hanover)	38	572	225	3
8	Wayne Smythe (Radnor, Warrior Run)	45	560	312	8
9	Steve Powell (Easton)	32	534	126	3
10	Sam Lovello (Wilson, Brandywine Heights)	39	533	226	3
11	Bob Craig (Newport, Cedar Cliff)	41	513	131	9
12	Chuck Tursky (Burrell, Kiski Area)	36	505	143	2
13	Vic Stanley (Council Rock, Arch. Wood, Neshaminy, Pen Argyl, LaSalle College)	46	501	190	5
14	Scott Gold (Oxford)	50	497	385	7
15	Duane Maurer (Pine Grove, Schuylkill Valley)	37	477	223	4
16	Ray Nunamaker (Nazareth)	34	468	95	7
17	Dana Balum (Wilkes-Barre Couglin, Wilkes)	35	461	185	2
18	Tom Dolde Sr. (Connellsville)	34	448	137	6
19	Robert Martin (Upper Darby)	40	445	202	7
20	Jim Jones (Marple Newtown, Haverford)	51	440	311	5
21	Scott Stoner (Butler) **	31	439	197	0
22	Gary Gerber (Ridgway)	31	434	94	0
22	Tim Seislove (Pottsgrove, Spring-Ford)	30	434	174	0
24	Ron Frank (Fox Chapel)	38	420	290	7
25	Mark Caffrey (McGuffey)	28	417	108	0
26	Richard Lumley (Townville, Keystone Oaks, Meadville)	40	412	159	4
27	Joe Kiefer (Pennsbury)	25	411	115	0
28	Jody Karam (Delaware Valley, Bethlehem Liberty)	29	409	161	3
29	Tony Iasiello (Bethlehem Catholic)	38	408	226	3
30	Mike Capozzoli (Newport) **	36	406	280	0
31	Chad Shirk (Saucon Valley) **	20	405	74	0
31	Dave Caslow (Warrior Run, Philipsburg-Osceola)	37	405	171	4
33	Dick Rhoades (Bald Eagle Area)	32	399	129	10
34	Richard Shoemaker (Radnor)	41	396	282	4
35	Don Rohn (Hazleton, Northampton)	24	392	75	0
35	Ken Lockey (Seneca Valley)	33	392	158	13
37	Ed Margie (Union City)	37	387	202	3
37	Jeff Madden (Wissahickon, Pottsgrove) **	40	387	288	1
39	Clair Rudisill (Northern York)	28	383	118	5
40	Dave Kling (Keystone Oaks)	30	381	152	2
41	Leonard 'Gus' DeAugustino (North Allegheny)	34	380	104	2
42	John Creamer (Central Dauphin)	35	377	251	7
43	Richard Chulada (Honesdale)	32	376	196	3
44	Brian Hills (Reynolds)	25	370	39	1
45	Joe Ferarri (Reading) **	32	367	354	0
46	Jeff Karam (Delaware Valley, Bethlehem Freedom, Bethlehem Cath.)	30	366	116	0
	John Reynolds (Greenville)		363	92	
47	Ron Spinner (Stroudsburg)	33	358	188	5
48	Joe Cesari (North Schuylkill)	23	357	31	2
48	Bob Gano (Delone Catholic, Biglerville)	24	357	152	1
48	Bob Lorence (Plymouth-Whitemarsh)	33	357	180	6
51	Jim Clark (Chestnut Ridge)	32	350	161	3
51	Tom Hontz (Pope John Paul II)	27	350	208	1