



Here is a look at the Butler Wrestling Team in 2022-23

2022-2023 Team Highlights

- 2022-23 Dual Record: 21Wins-2Losses. Section record 5Wins-0Losses. Section 2 Team Champion. North Allegheny Placed 2nd and Pine Richland placed 3rd.
- Butler entered the WPIAL Team Tournament seeded #3 and hosted a playoff site. In the 1st round Butler defeated #14 Peters Township 41-26. Hempfield #11 upset # 6 Trinity in the other prelim. In the quarter final Butler was defeated by Hempfield Area 32-31. Butler had beaten Hempfield earlier in the season 42-30. Hempfield went on to place 3rd at the WPIAL Tournament and qualified for the State Team Tournament.
- Butler received a final WPIAL AAA ranking of 5 and a PA Power State Ranking of #20.
- Chartiers Houston Tournament – 1st place, 32 teams – 1. Butler 180.5, 2. Burgettstown 169.5, 3. General McLane 4. Pine Richland 148. Placewinners: 1st Santino Sloboda 107, 2nd Landon Christie 215, 3rd Levi Donnel 160, 5th Kase Chopp 139, 5th Matt Zinkhann 172, 5th Mickey Kreinbucher 189, 5th Ethan Babay 285, 6th Kelley Schaukowitsch 127.
- Southmoreland Holiday Classic Tournament – 1st place, 33 teams – 1. Butler 255.5, 2. Plum 182, 3. Corry 151.5, 4. United 141, Butler had 5 finalists and won all five titles, and won 8 of 9 medals placement matches. Placewinners: 1st Santino Sloboda 107, 1st Gavin Rush 133, 1st Levi Donnel 160, 1st Mickey Kreinbucher 189, 1st Landon Christie 215, 4th Matt Zinkhann 172, 5th Kelley Schaukowitsch 121, 5th Kase Chopp 139, 5th Ethan Babay 285
- Kiski Cavalier Duals – 1st place (5W-0L) 10 teams – 1. Butler, 2. Waynesburg, 3. Hempfield Area, 4. Ft. LeBoeuf, 5. North Allegheny, 6. Peters Township, 7. Quaker Valley, 8. Kiski Area, 9. Penn Trafford, 10. Yough. Butler defeated #1 ranked Waynesburg Central in the final to hand the Raiders their first loss to a WPIAL Team in over 4 seasons.
- Virginia Duals – American Division – 1st (4W-0L), 16 teams – 1. Butler, 2. Great Bridge, Va, 3. Riverbend, Va, 4. Hempfield (Dist 3), 5. Frank Cox, Va, 6. Grundy, Va, 7. Del Military Academy. Great Bridge won the VA State Title in 4A, Riverbend won the State Title in 5A and Frank W. Cox was 3rd in VA, 5A.
- Clearfield Duals – 3rd (4W-1L) 16 teams – 1. Clearfield (5W-0L), 2. Benton (4W-1L) 3. Butler (4W-1L), 4. Montoursville (3W-2L), 5. (4W-1L) 6. Canton (3W-2L). Butler's 33-31 loss to Clearfield in the semi-finals was the first loss on the season. Butler was 17-0 at the time of that loss. Clearfield, Meadville, Canton and Montorsville were all undefeated going into the duals and all state ranked. Canton went on to qualify for the State AA Tournament.
- Coach Stoner moved to 433 wins and 187 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 25th all-time in Pennsylvania history. Coach Stoner (30 seasons) was voted Section 2 AAA Coach of the Year.
- Coach Powell (13 seasons) was voted Section 2 AAA Coach of the year and WPIAL AAA Coach of the Year for the second time.
- Butler will return 13 of 20 team members, 8 of 13 starters, and 4 wrestlers with over 20 victories.
- Butler graduates the top 5 weight classes and a total of 154 victories between those seniors.
- Butler hosted the following events this season: The Fall Brawl Tournament, A First Year Novice Tournament, The Butler JV Tournament, The Butler Junior High Duals, Two Elementary League Matches, The Butler Spring Open, The 1st and 2nd rounds of the WPIAL Team Championships at the HS. In addition to the annual community Spaghetti Dinner, and in cooperation with football, the Players and Pinners Purse-A-Palooza, and the year-end banquet.

2022-23 Individual Highlights

- The 2022-23 team placed 8 of 11 wrestlers in the Section 3 Tournament and qualified those wrestlers for the WPIAL tournament. A total of 4 wrestlers made the Section 3 finals. Freshman Santino Sloboda claimed the only title at 107 pounds. Sophomore Kase Chopp 139, & Seniors Levi Donnel 160 & Mickey Kreinbucher 189, all finished second. Also placing 3rd were Sophomore Gavin Rush 133, Senior Matt Zinkhann 172, Senior Landon Christie 215, and Senior Ethan Babay 285.
- For the first time ever the WPIAL Tournament wrestled to 8 places and 6 Butler wrestlers placed in the top 8. Santino Sloboday placed 2nd at 107, Heavyweight Ethan Babay Placed 5th just one place from qualifying for states. Kase Chopp, Mickey Kreinbucher and Landon Christie all placed 7th while Matt Zinkhann placed 8th.
- Senior Levi Donnel, 160 pounds, finished with a 113W-19L career record (85.6%), and his senior season 33W-6L (84.6%). Levi currently ranks # 5 all-time in victories for the Golden Tornado. 61 of Levi's 113 wins came by fall. Levi won the Charters Houston Tournament 2 times and the Southmoreland Tournament 3X in his career. Levi is a 2X WPIAL AAA Qualifier and is a 4X letter winner.
- Senior Matt Zinkann, 172 pounds, finished with the season with a 30W-13L (69.8%) season record and a 57W-27L (67.9%) career record (67.3%). Matt placed 3rd in the Section 2 Tournament this season and was a 2x WPIAL Qualifier. Matt placed 4th at Southmoreland, 5th at Charters Houston, 3rd at the Section 2 AAA Tournament an 8th at the WPIAL Tournament. Matt was a @X WPIAL AAA Qualifier and a 3X letter winner.
- Senior Mickey Kreinbucher, 189 pounds, finished with a 30W-9L (76.9%) season record and a 75W-32L (70.1%) career record. Mickey was a Soutmoreland tournament Champion for the second year in a row this year, placed 5th at Charters Houston, 2nd in Section 2 AAA Tournament, and 7th at the AAA WPIAL Tournament this year. Mickey is a 3X WPIAL AAA Qualifier and 40 of his 75 pins came by fall. Mickey is a 4X letter winner.
- Senior Landon Christie, 215 pounds, finished the season with a 26W-14L (65.0%) season record, and a 51W-25 L (67.1%) career record. 43 of Landon's 51 wins came by fall. Landon placed 2nd at the Charters Houston Tournament, was 1st at the Southmoreland Tournament, placed 3rd at Section 2 AAA Tournament and 7th at the WPIAL AAA Tournament. Landon was a 2X WPIAL AAA Qualifier and a 2X letter winner.
- Senior Ethan Babay, 285 pounds, finished the season with a 35W-11L (76.1%) season record in his first year as a regular starter. Ethan tied the school pin record with 26 falls. And ranks tied for 6th in single season wins in Butler Wrestling history. Ethan placed 5th at Charters Houston and Southmoreland, placed 3rd in the Section 2 AAA Tournament and placed 5th at the WPIAL AAA Tournament.
- Junior Ana Malovich, 114 pounds, went 13W-17L this season and was a 3X letter winner. Ana is currently 51W-30L (60.0%) in her career. Ana won the Soutwest Regional Women's Tournament, and the Southwest State Qualifier. Ana placed 3rd at the Women's State Wrestling Championships at Central Mountain High School.
- Junior Kelley Schaukowitzsch, 121 pounds, finished the season with 23W-11L (67.6%) record, and is currently 57W-31L (64.8%) in his career. Kelley placed 6th at Charters Houston and 5th at Southmoreland. Kelley is a 3X letter winner.
- Sophomore Gavin Rush, 133 pounds, finished the season with a 24W-14L (63.2%) and currently has a 50W-30L (62.5%) career record. Gavin won the Southmoreland Tournament, and placed 3rd at the Section 2 AAA Tournament. Gavin also won the Norhtwest Keystone State 16U Tournament and placed 4th at the Keystone State Tournament. Gavin is a 2X WPIAL Qualifier and 2X letter winner and this year's Team Outstanding Character Award Winner.
- Sophomore Kase Chopp, 139 pounds, finished the season with a 34W-9L (79.1%) record and a 58W-22L (72.5%) career record. 21 of Kase's 34 wins came bay fall this season, and 35 of his 58 career wins have come by fall. Kase placed 5th at Charters Houston and Southmoreland, placed runner-up in Section 2 AAA and was 7th at the WPIAL AAA Tournament. Kase is a 2x WPIAL Qualifier and a 2X letter winner.

- Freshman Santino Sloboda, 107 pounds, Santino placed 1st at both the Chartiers Houston and Southmoreland Tournament. Santino took a 34-0 record and a #1 seed into the WPIAL AAA Individual Tournament. Santino placed 2nd in the AAA WPIAL Tournament, and went on to place 4th at the PIAA State Tournament. He finished with a 40W-3L (93.0%) record. Santino won the team's Outstanding Wrestler Award.
- There were 19 wrestlers on the roster in 2022-23, 7 seniors, 5 juniors, 6 sophomores, & 1 freshmen.
- Bailee Kauffman (Sr) & Julia Rush (Fr) were this year's managers & stat girls.
- Butler Coaches were Scott Stoner (30), Fred Powell (14), Alex Evanoff (5), Blake Caudill (4).
- Mrs. Holly Forbes was the Athletic Trainer.