

Butler Eagle

2015-16



WRESTLING
PRESS RELEASES

Article published December 7, 2015

Butler's Baxter Claims Mat Title

Butler's Caleb Baxter cruised through the 152-pound bracket at the 28-team Chartiers-Houston wrestling tournament over the weekend, earning a pin in the championship match for a first-place finish.

The Golden Tornado finished third as a team behind champion South Fayette and runner-up Peters Township.

Baxter was 4-0 in the tournament.

Justin Johnson (195) also placed third for Butler. After losing his first match, he won five in a row. Christian Sequete (170) finished third as well, going 4-1. Freshmen Braydon Hoffman (106) and Hank Finan (160) each placed sixth.

Butler Eagle

Article published December 10, 2015

Tornado wrestlers clip Mars

By Josh Rizzo, Eagle Staff Writer



Butler's Caleb Baxter takes control of his 152-pound match against Mars' Garrett Reinke during the Golden Tornado's 48-21 wrestling win Wednesday night.

BUTLER TWP — Caleb Baxter isn't sitting back and rocking in his wrestling stance anymore. The Butler 152-pound junior wants to attack, regardless of who is standing across from him. "This year, I'm going out and attacking them, I like it a

lot better," Baxter said.

It's the kind of attitude Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner says more of the kids on his team need to display.

Baxter gave him that effort, pinning Mars freshman Garrett Reinke in 1 minute, 5 seconds during the Golden Tornado's 48-21 Section 3-B win Wednesday at the Butler Intermediate High School.

Baxter, who qualified for WPIALs last season, is off to a 5-0 start this season.

He won the Chartiers-Houston Tournament last weekend.

"I was trying to go out and push the pace and I didn't care who my opponent was," Baxter said. "I had respect for them and wanted to go out and set the tone and make them try to keep up with me."

Stoner didn't feel much of that going on with Butler.

The Golden Tornado (1-0, 1-0) won seven of the 11 contested matches — Mars forfeited at 138, 195 and 285 — but Stoner felt they were lethargic off the whistle.

"We were anemic," Stoner said. "They were much faster than us on the start. Everyone knows that the whistle is going to blow and I have to go. It's embarrassing to get beat off the start that many times."

Golden Tornado 120-pound freshman Jack Codispot was too nervous to be beaten off the whistle.

He was determined to show off his motor from the beginning.

Codispot scored a takedown in the first 20 seconds before quickly working for a fall. He pinned Mars' Jesse Chen in 1:21.

"This is my freshman year, I don't want to put on a bad impression," said Codispot, who went 1-2 at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament. "I don't want to come out here and lose."

Stoner was pleased with the effort from Codispot and Braydon Hoffman, who was pinned by Mars' Noah Hunkele in 2:57 at 106.

"Jack's a goer," Stoner said. "I'm going to like Jack more and more as the years go on. He goes out and does what I ask. He's a young freshman and he's going to make mistakes."

Mars (0-1, 0-1) opened the match with a 4-3 win from Aidan Leshinsky at 132 pounds.

Butler picked up a forfeit at 138 and got pins from Justin Stewart and Caleb Baxter to stretch the lead to 18-3.

Saavon Mosby (220) also picked up a pin for the Golden Tornado.

The Planets never threatened the lead after that. Mars also got a win from Noah Wright at 160.

"I thought it was a good effort," Planets coach Jason Wilk said. "It's the first dual meet of the year and no one in our section is an easy match. A lot of our freshmen got a feel for what it's like. We're heading in the right direction."

Butler 48, Mars 21

(Match started at 132 pounds)

106-Noah Hunkele (M) pin Braydon Hoffman, 2:57; 113-Alex Hornfeck (M) pin Isaiah Christy, 1:06; 120-Jack Codispot (B) pin Jesse Chen, 1:21; 126-Nolan Wicker (M) dec. Shane Culp, 11-7; 132-Aidan Leshinsky (M) dec. Sammy Dietrich, 4-3; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) by forfeit; 145-Justin Stewart (B) pin Cullen Barnes, :50; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) pin Garrett Reinke, 1:05; 160-Noah Wright (M) dec. Hank Finan, 4-0; 170-Christian Sequete (B) dec. Justin Petrilena, 10-5; 182-Jacob White (B) dec. Ryan Barnes, 6-1; 195-Justin Johnson (B) by forfeit; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) pin Jeff DeSantes,3:08; Hwt.-Riley Burdine (B) by forfeit

Article published December 17, 2015

Butler wrestlers bounce back

Golden Tornado answer tough loss by winning at Pine-Richland

By Josh Rizzo, Eagle Staff Writer

GIBSONIA — Following a loss to Peters Township, during a match where the Indians forfeited three weight classes, Butler junior Seth McCrea had a feeling practice wasn't going to be easy. Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner ran a practice last Saturday that was all business.

McCrea knew he had to be focused.

"Our heavyweight got hurt, so I grinded it out because I knew I'd be starting," McCrea said.

"(Practice was) hard and intense."

McCrea found the intensity he needed to pin Pine-Richland's John Folmer in their 285-pound bout, sealing Butler's 44-28 Section 3B win Wednesday night at Pine-Richland High School.

An injury to Riley Burdine opened a spot in the lineup for McCrea, who didn't wrestle in the Golden Tornado's 39-28 loss to the Indians last Friday.

McCrea had an approach in mind for the third period after he and Folmer were scoreless after two periods.

"I was looking for the roll off the whistle," McCrea said. "I was looking to set it up and I got it."

That put the Golden Tornado ahead 38-28 with one match remaining.

The win was a much-needed one for Butler (2-1, 2-0) to stay in the playoff race.

Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner still doesn't feel they are moving at the right pace.

"We want to have a little more energy in our wrestling and how we go about things," Stoner said.

"We're still not where I want to be at this point of the year."

Neither is Pine-Richland (2-5, 0-2).

The Rams were forced to bump nearly everyone up a weight class from 126 on to avoid forfeiting a class.

Pine-Richland had three kids drop out before the season started.

"Because of the football players that didn't come, we have empty spots we have to fill," Rams coach Ben Rings said. "Our depth isn't that great. Our starters are good and we're continuing to improve, but we have to bump to fill spots or we're automatically giving six as a forfeit."

Butler winning the close matches proved to be the difference.

After Butler opened the match with a pin from Isaiah Christy at 113, Pine-Richland won four straight matches to take a 19-6 edge.

Butler's Scotty Dietrich flipped things at 145 by pinning Vittorio Orsini.

Ahead 8-7 in the second, Dietrich hit a throw to put Orsini on his back in the second period.

It was the first of four straight wins for Butler.

Caleb Baxter (152) used two first-period takedowns and a reversal in the third to beat David Kelly, who tripped up Baxter last season.

"I knew he was a good kid and he beat me last year," Baxter said. "We were working on it all day yesterday and I knew what he was going to do. Coach (Fred Powell) helped get me ready."

Hank Finan (160) and Christian Sequete (170) followed with pins to stretch Butler's lead to 27-22.

Pine-Richland was able to tighten the deficit to 32-28 when Brendan Scheller pinned Saavon Mosby.

Mosby led the match 2-1 after the first period.

"I want to make sure this team understands that every time out should be all the energy you have," Stoner said. "There are times where the mental aspect isn't there for us. ... We're not forcing the issue enough."

McCrea's pin was followed by another by Braydon Hoffman (106), giving Butler six on the night. The Golden Tornado felt they needed a better effort. Last weekend's practice was a good reminder.

"We had one rough practice," Baxter said. "I think the kids knew that coach was mad. I felt like at practice we all worked hard that one day."

Butler 44, Pine-Richland 28

(Match started at 113 pounds)

106-Braydon Hoffman (B) pin Ben Neil, 1:36; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) pin John Berger, 1:36; 120-Alex Salas (P) maj. dec. Jack Codispot, 11-2; 126-Hunter Baxter (P) pin Shane Culp, 1:09; 132-Garrett Burnham (P) pin Sam Dietrich, :51; 138-Ben Salas (P) dec. Justin Stewart, 3-0; 145-Scott Dietrich (B) pin Vitorrio Orsini, 3:55; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) dec. David Kelly, 6-1; 160-Hank Finan (B) pin Matt Wood, :38; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pin Luke Ziegler, 3:31; 182-Nick Geyer (P) dec. Thomas Greaves, 5-0; 195-Justin Johnson (B) tech. fall Alec Ewansik, 16-1; 220-Brendan Scheller (P) pin Saavon Mosby, 2:56; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) pin John Folmer, 4:11

Article published December 19, 2015

Baxter knows he's running out of time

Butler graduate wants to make run at NCAA wrestling bid

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Kent State senior Cole Baxter locks up with an opponent during a match earlier this season. Baxter, who is a Butler graduate, would like to make a run at an NCAA bid at 184 pounds this season.

Kent, Ohio — The clock is ticking on Cole Baxter's wrestling career.

And he knows it.

That's why the Butler graduate and Kent State University senior wrestler is aiming for it all in this his final season.

"I want to become an All-American," Baxter said.

"That was my goal when I got here and this is my last shot. I'm just going for it."

Baxter is off to a 13-3 start this season as the Golden Flashes' 184-pound wrestler. He has yet to lose in a dual meet and placed third at the Navy Invitational.

"Cole was ranked third or fourth in the (Mid-American) conference in the preseason at 184, but a lot of that is based on last year," Kent State wrestling coach Jim Andrassy said. "One of the guys ranked ahead of him didn't even place at the Navy

meet.

"Our goal with Cole is to get him through to the national tournament. Once you get there ... Upsets happen. Anything can happen."

Baxter wrestled at 197 pounds last season and finished 17-12. He wrestled with a torn meniscus and a knee brace on his right leg.

He missed all of his second season at Kent after having surgery for the same injury. Baxter was 23-4 his freshman year and was named the No. 1 non-starter at 184 pounds in the country by Amateur Wrestling News.

"He had an outstanding start to his career with us," Andrassy said. "We should have kept him at 184 pounds. If we had it to do over again, we would have re-certified him at 184 last year." Instead, Baxter wrestled at 197 and faced opponents 20 pounds heavier at times.

"I'm performing better now because I'm up against more even competition in terms of size," Baxter said. "I feel like I can use my entire skill set again.

"I'm totally healthy, too, and that's making a big difference."

Baxter said the knee brace didn't bother him last year. The condition of his knee did.

"There were times on the mat when my leg would just lock up and I couldn't execute certain things," he said.

Andrassy believed Baxter performed well regardless.

"He's always been a good wrestler," the coach said. "Some of the issues with the knee last year were mental as much as anything else."

A fifth-year senior, Baxter has a 68-28 career record at Kent State after graduating as Butler's all-time victory leader. He was 160-17 as a high school wrestler and remains the only WPIAL mat champ in Golden Tornado history.

Baxter already possesses a biology degree at Kent. He carries a 3.2 grade point average and is preparing to enter dental school.

"His biggest strength on the mat is his intelligence," Andrassy said. "Cole is great at thinking on his feet and out-thinking his opponent.

"The biggest thing he needs to work on is his ability to wrestle when he's tired."

Baxter is entrenched as the Golden Flashes' 184-pound wrestler. A sophomore at that weight class is out for the season with an injury and the only other wrestler on the roster at that weight class is a freshman.

"I've always felt like that was my spot," Baxter said. "Unfortunately, injuries happen in this sport. They happened to me.

"This is Division I wrestling. Everybody's good in the room. I practice against guys two weight classes higher. I go up against our heavyweights ... anything to get better."

Anything to finish among the best.

"Hopefully, I'll stay healthy and make that happen," Baxter said.

Article published December 24, 2015

Butler wrestlers pull out tight win

The Butler wrestling team needed a big win from Hank Finan.

Finan delivered!

The 160-pounder earned a pin in the final match of the night as the Golden Tornado edged McGuffey 30-24.

Butler coach Scott Stoner said his entire lineup keyed the win, however.

“Even though Finan was the last match and the match was in the balance, there was a lot of things that went our way, a lot of kids that came through,” Stoner said.

Butler (3-1) got several close decisions and a late pin by heavyweight Saavon Mosby to topple McGuffey (7-2).

Butler 30, McGuffey 24

(Match started at 170 pounds)

106-Collyn Bell (M) maj Braydon Hoffman 8-0; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) d. Jack Garriety 4-3; 120-Jack Codispot (B) d. Jett Pattison 7-3; 126-Teague Nicolella (M) tech fall 16-1 Shane Culp; 132-Gage Nicolella (M) pinned Sam Dietrich 3:55; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) d. Aaron Harris 5-1; 145-Donovan Malovich (B) d. Jeff McConn 6-5; 152-Christian Clutter (M) d. Caleb Baxter 6-5; 160-Hank Finan (B) pinned Connor Remestan 1:31; 170-Christian Sequete (B) d. Dillon Richey 7-2; 182-Luke Shingle (M) d. Jacob White 5-2; 195-Tom Greaves (B) d. Colby Deemer 4-3 ; 220-Austin Fisher (M) d. Justin Johnson 5-1; Hwt.-Saavon Mosby (B) pinned Edward Shingle 5:47

Butler places 2nd in event

Tornado wrestlers ready for section test vs. Tigers

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

BUTLER TWP — With perennial WPIAL power North Allegheny next on the schedule, Butler wrestling coach Scott Stoner is liking what he's seeing.

The Golden Tornado are coming off a second-place finish at the 32-team Southmoreland Tournament. They host the Tigers in a dual meet Wednesday.

"North Allegheny has some state-caliber kids, but they're vulnerable in some spots, too," Stoner said. "We've got a young team that's been getting better.

"We'll see where both teams are at health-wise. They've had some guys in and out of the lineup and we've got a couple of kids banged up."

Butler tallied 170 points in the Southmoreland Tournament, trailing only Greenville's 186.5. Greenville has finished first or tied for first in that event three straight years.

McGuffey finished a distant third with 129.5 points.

"I was hoping we could place in the top five there," Stoner said of the tournament. "Greensburg Salem, Hempfield, one of the teams from Virginia ... There were some good wrestling programs in that event."

Butler's lone champion was senior Justin Johnson, who went 4-0 with three pins at 195 pounds. He pinned Nate Ansell of Laurel Highlands in 10 seconds in the championship match.

Tornado junior Caleb Baxter placed second at 152 pounds. His lone loss was a 13-4 decision to Ligonier Valley's Robby Patrick, who placed second in the state last year.

Christian Sequete took third at 170 pounds, winning six of seven matches. His only loss was to top-seeded Anthony Welsh of Beth-Center. Sequete decisioned Jimmy Pierce of Laurel Highlands, 6-1, in the consolation finals.

Donovan Malovich had a strong performance at 145 pounds for Butler. He lost his preliminary match, then rattled off six straight wins to place third.

"He missed about a month with a fractured shoulder and strained LCL ligament," Stoner said.

"Donovan got banged up again in a physical third-place match, so we'll have to see how he feels." Malovich decisioned Dalton Clark of Ligonier, 10-6, in the consolation finals.

Saavon Mosby placed fourth at 220 pounds for the Tornado, winning three of his four matches.

Freshman 120-pounder Jack Codispot was seventh, recording three pins while winning five of his seven matches.

Tommy Greaves placed seventh at 182 pounds, winning three of his five matches.

Butler has never defeated North Allegheny in a dual match. The bouts begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Intermediate High School gym.

Article published January 7, 2016

Short-circuited

Butler wrestlers have rally stopped by pair of Tigers

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Butler's Christian Sequete pins North Allegheny's Jimmy Turici's shoulders to the mat in their 170-pound match Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado wrestlers lost the dual to the Tigers, 39-28.

DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — Both teams had key wrestlers out. But North Allegheny wound up with two wrestlers in key spots.

Jake Woodley at 182 pounds and Francis Duggan at 195 short-circuited a Butler surge by posting a major decision and pin late in Tuesday night's dual match. Those efforts secured the Tigers' 39-28 victory at the Butler Intermediate gym.

"Those were big matches that wound up in our

favor," North Allegheny coach Sanshiro Abe said. "We needed them to win."

The Golden Tornado (3-2) fell behind 24-0 early — losing an overtime decision at 285 pounds to begin the match — before pulling within 29-22 with three matches remaining.

Mike Vought at 145, Caleb Baxter at 152 and Christian Sequete at 170 all picked up pins for Butler during the rally.

Sam Dietrich raised his record at 5-5 with a 14-0 major decision at 132.

"We had some bright spots," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "We were missing some wrestlers and they were missing some, too.

"We weren't aggressive enough at times. We get guys on their backs and let them out of it too much."

Sequete's pin pulled the Tornado within seven, but Woodley (21-2) decided Tom Greaves 13-4 and Duggan (19-3) pinned Jacob White in 2:35 to seal the win for the Tigers.

Butler's Justin Johnson (13-1) won his match by pinfall in 1:27 to close out the evening. Sequete (15-2) has seven pins on the season while Johnson has six. Baxter (11-2) earned his fifth pin of the year.

Vought is a senior who pinned his opponent just 1:03 into the match. It was Vought's first varsity match of the season.

"Mike has been with us for three years now and hasn't gotten a lot of varsity action," Stoner said. "I told him tonight was his opportunity to go out and show me something and he did that."

Vought was in the lineup for Donovan Malovich (8-2), who may miss two weeks with a collarbone injury.

Tornado 120-pound freshman Jack Codispot (8-6 with five pins) may be out two weeks with an injured knee.

Butler had to forfeit at 120 with Codispot out.

"That was a huge swing for us," Abe admitted. "We got points there we weren't expecting."

The 120-pound forfeit may have been a 12-point swing.

"You can never count on a pin happening, but the chance was certainly there," Stoner said.



NA's healthy wrestlers carried the load Wednesday. Jake Hinkson (17-6) won a narrow 8-6 decision over Scott Dietrich at 138 pounds, scoring the deciding takedown with 42 seconds left. Abe moved Sean Kalmeyer (16-8) up to 160 pounds — where he decided Hank Finan — to avoid a match with Baxter at 152.

"We still have five starters out with injuries, concussion, illness ... It's been that way all season," Abe said. "The toss-up matches went our way tonight. That was the difference."

The Tigers, who have never lost to Butler, improved to 3-3 in dual meets.

Butler travels to Knoch next Wednesday.

North Allegheny 39, Butler 28

(Match started at Hwt.)

106-Jacob Downing (NA) pinned Isaiah Christy, 1:53; 113-Gabe Faló (NA) pinned Braydon Hoffman, :46; 120-Andrew Wang (NA) by forfeit; 126-Jiantin Qu (NA) dec. Shane Culp, 16-12; 132-Sam Dietrich (B) dec. Kevin Lasch, 14-0; 138-Jake Hinkson (NA) dec. Scott Dietrich, 8-6; 145-Mike Vought (B) pinned Manuel Bautista, 1:03; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Jake Smalley, 3:21; 160-Sean Kalmeyer (NA) dec. Hank Finan, 6-1; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Jimmy Turici, 2:24; 182-Jake Woodley (NA) dec. Tom Greaves, 13-4; 195-Francis Duggan (NA) pinned Jacob White, 2:35; 220-Justin Johnson (B) pinned Kevin Tang, 1:27; Hwt.-Chuck Sanders (NA) dec. Saavon Moseby, 7-5 in OT

Article published January 9, 2016

Aiming high

Butler graduate Sutton gunning for 100 wins, nationals as Thiel wrestler

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Butler graduate Nick Sutton, a senior on the Thiel College wrestling team, has his sights set on 100 career wins with the Tomcats.

GREENVILLE — Referring to Nick Sutton as a late bloomer on the wrestling mat may be an accurate statement.

But he's been making up for lost time.

The Butler graduate and Thiel College senior is closing in on 100 career wins — and a hopeful berth in the NCAA Division III Championships — with the Tomcats.

"He's the hardest worker I've had in my 13 years with the program," Thiel wrestling coach Craig Thurber said. "I always see him in the weight room, lifting, running, doing cardio workouts.

"Nick does these box jumps ... It's unbelievable how high that kid can jump."

Sutton is 12-4 at 149 pounds for Thiel so far this season. His collegiate career record is 83-51. That compares to 69-53 in high school.

Sutton was only 34-43 entering his senior year with the Golden Tornado, when he produced a 35-10 record.

"After my junior year (8-7), I wasn't even thinking about wrestling in college," Sutton admitted.

"Then, suddenly my senior year ... I just got it."

Now he's trying to get something else — a trip to the national tournament.

The top three wrestlers in each weight class of the Mideast Regional advance to the Division III Championships. Thurber has sent a Thiel wrestler to nationals in all 12 years he's been the head coach.

But Sutton has yet to be one of them.

"Nick has come so close — no one deserves it more," the coach said.

Sutton lost a 6-5 decision in the Mideast Regional consolation finals at 133 pounds as a freshman. He lost in the consolation finals at 141 pounds as a sophomore.

Last year, he was seeded third at 141 pounds, but suffered upset losses in the quarterfinal and consolation rounds.

"This is my last shot and I feel good about my chances," Sutton said. "You have to learn from the past and move forward. It didn't work out for me before."

While Sutton has stayed healthy throughout his collegiate career, he admits the wear and tear of wrestling has taken its toll.

"You protect your body the best you can, but I wake up in the morning feeling my knees, my shoulder, my back," Sutton said. "It's my senior year and the (wear and tear) is starting to hit me. "I never thought I'd be able to have this kind of success in college. I want to go out big. I want the 100 wins. I want to end with a flourish."

And Thurber is in his corner.

"It's the nature of this sport. Sometimes you just don't make it through (to nationals)," the coach said. "But Nick just continues to work at it. I'm hopeful he can do it this year. Through four years with us, knock on wood, he hasn't been injured, hasn't missed an event, not even a practice. That is extremely rare.

"He's the type of kid no one wants to wrestle. He's got the long arms, long legs and he's aggressive. His work ethic and attitude make him stand out. Even in our (wrestling) room, the other guys tell me how tough he is."

Carrying a 3.0 grade point average as a business major, Sutton is scheduled to graduate in May. He plans to pursue graduate school elsewhere and be a graduate assistant wrestling coach wherever he goes.

"I'm looking into a couple of options there," he said. "I want to continue to use this sport to further my education."

And help further the wrestling careers of others at the same time.

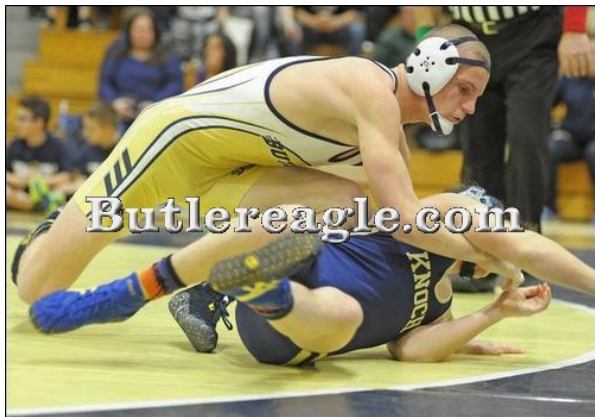
"He'd be fantastic at it," Thurber said of Sutton's coaching prospects. "We've already talked to a couple of coaches who have graduate assistant positions open.

"Nick's knowledge of the sport, his drive and persistence, plus his own personal story — he'd be a great coach."

Article published January 14, 2016

Butler matmen handle Knoch

By [Mike Kilroy](#), Eagle Staff Writer



Butler's Caleb Baxter sets a hold as he pins Knoch's Noah Kison in their 152-pound match Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado won the dual match, 56-9.

JEFFERSON TWP — Hunter Oskin got the Knoch wrestling team off on the right foot at 106 pounds. The middle weights for Butler, though, flexed their muscles.

What resulted was a 53-9 win for the Golden Tornado Wednesday night.

From the 132 pound match down to 182 pounds, Butler got four pins and a major decision. Sam Dietrich earned a pin at 132 in just 1:35. Scott Dietrich (138) earned a 17-5 major decision and Caleb Baxter (152) and Christian Sequete (170) also earned pins.

Baxter's came in just 38 seconds.

"We expected that out of them," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "Sammy is a guy who needed a win tonight. He hasn't had many this year and he basically has to come through for us in the next couple of weeks."

The tone was perhaps set for Butler at 113 pounds where Isaiah Christy battled for three grueling



periods with Knoch's Bill Hockenberry and hung on for a 9-8 win.

Christy, who is just a sophomore, impressed Stoner.

"I thought Isaiah Christy wrestled the best for us tonight," Stoner said. "He's been improving constantly in the room and really working hard. He is getting some focus and learning wrestling instead of just pushing people around. He's just halfway through his second year and we're finally starting to see some actual wrestling technique."

Stoner was most impressed by the way Christy handled himself after falling behind.

"He didn't get rattled once he gave up the first takedown," Stoner said. "He kept wrestling and did a lot of really good things."

While Stoner saw a lot of things he liked, he also saw some things he didn't.

"I would have liked to see a little more assertiveness," Stoner said. "But we got some wins."

Butler (4-2) had been off a week before the match against Knoch.

The Knights were coming off a shutout loss to Kiski Area Tuesday.

Knoch coach Steve Carney said he saw a lot of good things against Butler.

"Last night we didn't win a match, but we took a couple into overtime and were battling," Carney said. "We're a fairly young team and we're still learning. We're getting our mat sense. What we saw tonight — we kept our heads up and we're battling and learning with each match."

Oskin's decision gave Knoch a 3-0 lead out of the gate.

The Knights (2-7) also got a win by pin by Max Freyermuth at 145 pounds.

"There's good things happening," Carney said. "Little Hunter (Oskin), he wanted to get us going and he did that. And Max Freyermuth, he's wrestling well.

"In every match there are small battles that we are winning," Carney added. "We know that. We're getting better."

Butler hopes to get better before a key section clash with Seneca Valley next week.

The win over Knoch helped put the Golden Tornado into a better playoff position, but they need a win over the rival Raiders.

"It's really important in the section standings," Stoner said. "We still have to win a few more matches and obviously the match against Seneca is very important. They already beat North Allegheny this year. Hopefully we'll be ready for it. We'll see what happens."

Butler 53, Knoch 9

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Hunter Oskin (K) dec. Brandon Hoffman 9-8; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) dec. Bill Hockenberry 9-8; 120-Double forfeit; 126-Shane Culp (B) by forfeit; 132-Sam Dietrich (B) pinned Chris Butler 1:35; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) maj. dec. Lucas Laughner 17-5; 145-Max Freyermuth (K) pinned Michael Vought 2:49; 152-Caleb Bowser (B) pinned Noah Kison :38; 160-Hank Finan (B) dec. Eric Green 5-4; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Matt Walter 3:54; 182-Thomas Greaves (B) pinned Alex Walter 4:10; 195-Justin Johnson (B) dec. Dalton Ashton 3-2; 220-Seth McCrea maj. dec. Cameron Ashton 9-0; Hwt.-Saavon Mosby (B) by forfeit

Article published January 21, 2016

Pinning down the title

SV wrestlers jump on Butler early in 42-32 win

By [Derek Pyda](#), Eagle Staff Writer



Alex Lynch of Seneca Valley gets control of Butler's Shane Culp in their 126-pound match Wednesday night. Lynch went on to pin Culp and the Raider wrestling team posted a 42-32 victory to remain unbeaten in the section.

BUTLER TWP — Early and often.

That was the manner in which Seneca Valley's wrestlers went on the offensive in Wednesday's Section 3-A match against Butler.

Excluding a pair of forfeits at 285 and 120 pounds, the Raiders managed the initial takedown in the first period in four of the first five bouts.

The first five matches competed for all went Seneca Valley's way via pin and the Raiders registered a 42-32

victory over the Golden Tornado at Butler Intermediate High School.

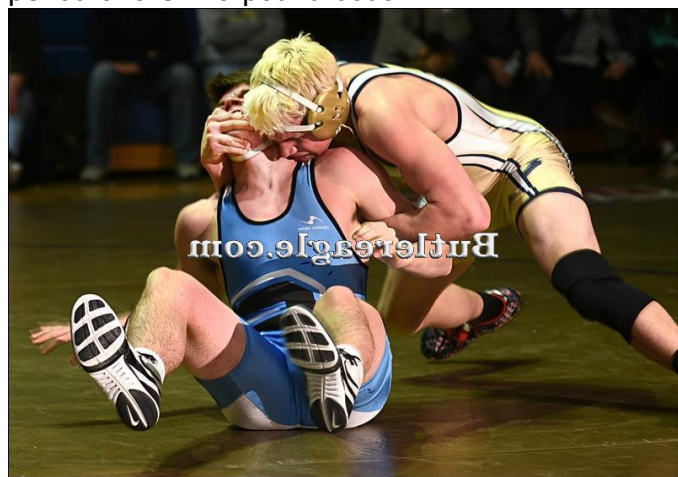
Luke Chieppor (220 pounds), Jason Geyer (106), Louis Newell (113), Alex Lynch (126) and Nick Montalbano (132) each earned a fall as the Raiders jumped out to a 36-6 lead. Butler's lone win in that span was a forfeit victory credited to Seth McCrea at 285.

"You have to caution kids against being too aggressive," said Raider coach Kevin Wildrick, "but in theory, we tell our guys to attack. We want them to have that aggressive nature and to go after pins."

SV's win clinches for the Raiders (7-3, 5-0) first place in the sub-section. They will compete in the Section 3 team tournament, facing North Hills Wednesday at Shaler High School.

"The top two teams from each subsection go and we already had clinched at least second place," said Wildrick, "but going with a 5-0 record helps give us more confidence."

Chieppor started the Raiders off on the right foot when he pinned Butler's Saavon Mosby in the second period of the 220-pound bout.



"I didn't know anything about him," said Chieppor of his opponent, "but I like going in to a match blind and just wrestling."

The action soon turned to the lightweights, which includes most of SV's top wrestlers. Newell's pin of Braydon Hoffman came in 44 seconds and Montalbano ended Sam Dietrich's night in 48 seconds.

"Starting at 106, that is the strength of our lineup," Wildrick said.

"It's disappointing to see us take a loss like this," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "Some of our kids are doing whatever they want to do and you see how it's

working. Something has to change.

"As disappointed as I am in my team's performance, I have to hand it to Seneca Valley," he added. "They kicked our rear-ends tonight. They were more aggressive and beat us up."

The Golden Tornado (4-3, 3-2) earned victories with Scott Dietrich (138), Caleb Baxter (152), Hank Finan (160) and Christian Sequete (170), the last two coming by pin. Sequete, just a sophomore, improved to 17-2.

The night's closest match came at 145 pounds between SV's Tyler Gross and Butler's Donovan Malovich. The latter scored a pair of takedowns and led 5-2 entering the third period. Gross faced a 6-5 deficit late, but earned a takedown with seven seconds left to pull out a 7-6 decision.

"You could see the momentum shifting toward Tyler," said Wildrick. "His confidence went up during the match."

Both teams will compete in tournaments Saturday. The Raiders will travel to the Brooke (W.Va.) Classic while Butler will appear at the Clearfield Duals.

Seneca Valley 42, Butler 32

(Match started at 220 pounds)

106-Jason Geyer (SV) pinned Isaiah Christy, 3:17; 113-Louis Newell (SV) pinned Braydon Hoffman, :44 ; 120-Ben Lynch (SV) won by forfeit; 126-Alex Lynch (SV) pinned Shane Culp, 3:00; 132-Nick Montalbano (SV) pinned Sam Dietrich, :48; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) dec. Alex Fischer, 4-2; 145-Tyler Gross (SV) dec. Donovan Malovich, 7-6; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) tech. fall John Siwiak, 3:52; 160-Hank Finan (B) pinned Gavin Funovits, 3:01; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Zach Cowell, :51; 182-Dustin Moniot (SV) dec. Tom Greaves, 9-2; 195-Justin Johnson (B) won by forfeit; 220-Luke Chieppor (SV) pinned Saavon Mosby, 3:50; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) won by forfeit.

Butler Eagle

Article published January 25, 2016

Butler's Christian Sequete won all five of his bouts, including three pins, at 170 pounds to lead the Golden Tornado to a fifth-place finish at the Clearfield Duals.

Butler went 3-2 at the event, defeating DuBois Area (40-38), James Coughlin (48-33) and Port Allegany (42-30) while losing to General McLane (45-23) and West Branch (41-30).

Earning a record of 4-1 for Butler were Justin Johnson (195 pounds) and Scott Dietrich (138). Going 3-2 were Sam Dietrich (132), Caleb Baxter (152), Tom Greaves (182), Saavon Mosby (220) and Seth McCrea (285).

The competition included 10 teams.

Butler will next wrestle at Fox Chapel on Wednesday in the Section 3 fifth-place match against the Foxes. A win would send the Golden Tornado to the WPIAL team tournament.

Article published February 2, 2016

Butler wrestlers advance

Tornado get 6 pins, defeat Montour in WPIAL team event

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

BUTLER TWP —When Butler wrestlers won Monday night, they won big.

The Golden Tornado rode six pins and an injury default to a 55-20 triumph over Montour in a WPIAL Team Tournament preliminary match. That win puts Butler (9-5) into a first-round match at No. 2 seed Kiski Area Wednesday night.

"This was a good team performance," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "We came out aggressive and we won the matches we should have won."

They even won a match they weren't expected to win.

Butler junior Tom Greaves, 8-7 at 182 pounds, won by injury default over Colin Funkhouser (22-4) midway through the third period. Greaves had recovered from a 4-1 deficit to build an 8-6 lead when the bout was stopped.

Funkhouser is one of the top two matmen on Montour's roster.

"Colin's had a bad knee and I was contemplating not wrestling him tonight," Montour coach Jason Bombardier said. "I didn't want to see him aggravate that injury and it happened."

Stoner was hoping the match could have gone the distance.

"It's still a nice win for Tom, but I would have liked to have seen how it would have played out," he said.

"It's a confidence builder, for sure."

Tornado pins came from Braydon Hoffman at 106 pounds, Isaiah Christy at 113, Jack Codispot at 120, Sam Dietrich at 132, Hank Finan at 160 and Christian Sequete at 170.

Hoffman, Christy and Codispot registered successive pins after Butler forfeited at 285 pounds to start the dual, Saavon Mosby (13-10, 8 pins) is out of the lineup with a skin infection.

Finan (11-11) scored his seventh pin of the season after falling behind in his match, 2-1, through one period. His pin-fall occurred midway Period 2.

"When I see my opponent lift his leg up, I go for it," Finan said. "It's something I'm conscious of out there. I've gotten four or five pins that way this year."

Sequete, a sophomore, improved to 24-2 on the year with his 13th pin of the campaign. He leads the Tornado in wins and pins this season.

"Christian has developed into one of our anchors," Stoner said.

Sequete and Jacob Bombardier (19-8) wrestled to a scoreless first period. Sequete took a 3-1 lead into the final period and pinned Bombardier with 29 seconds left.

Junior Caleb Baxter improved to 18-4 with a 2-0 decision at 152. He took down Dante Presutti in the first period.

Senior 195-pounder Justin Johnson improved to 20-4 when he won by forfeit. Scott Dietrich moved to 14-5 with a 10-1 decision at 138. Montour's Geno Silvat picked up his team's only pin of the night at 126 pounds.

"Our strength is in the upper weights," Coach Bombardier said. "We had to at least hold our own in the lighter weight classes to give ourselves a chance and we didn't do that."

Butler 55, Montour 20

(Match started at 285 pounds)

106-Braydon Hoffman (B) pinned Corey Shumann, 2:34; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) pinned Ryan Reconnu, 3:07; 120-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Mikel Battles, 1:21; 126-Geno Silvat (M) pinned Shane Culp, 4:58; 132-

Sam Dietrich (B) pinned Anthony Schnepf, 1:39; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) dec. Jacob McCain, 10-1; 145-Nick Marsico (M) dec. Mike Vought, 12-1; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) dec. Dante Presutti, 2-0; 160-Hank Finan (B) pinned John Wegley, 3:07; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Jacob Bombardier, 5:31; 182-Tom Greaves (B) by injury default over Colin Funkhouser, 4:54; 195-Justin Johnson (B) by forfeit; 220-Roman Macek (M) dec. Seth McCrea, 16-7; Hwt.-Zack Jablonski (M) by forfeit

Article published February 5, 2016

Sequete sets wrestling goals high

Butler sophomore looking to impact Golden Tornado record books on mat

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Butler sophomore wrestler Christian Sequete, taking control of North Allegheny's Jimmy Turici in this recent match, is 25-2 with 14 pins so far this season.

BUTLER TWP — While he is only a sophomore, Butler wrestler Christian Sequete isn't shy about his goals on the mat.

He wants it all.

"I want to place at the state meet this year and eventually win a state championship," Sequete said. "I want Cole Baxter's record here, too, but last year may have cost me my shot at that."

Baxter, a senior at Kent State University, is the Golden Tornado's all-time wins leader with 160. Sequete was 15-10 his freshman season,

missing six weeks with a torn meniscus.

He was able to return to action in time to qualify for the WPIAL Tournament, where he reached the third round.

"What hurt Christian was losing a lot of that critical varsity experience as a freshman," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "The year before that, he was wrestling eighth-graders.

"Wrestling varsity as a freshman is always an adjustment period, especially when you're a freshman at an upper weight class. You're wrestling kids two or three years older and with a lot more experience."

That hasn't bothered Sequete so far this season. Despite being a "young" sophomore at age 15 and wrestling at 170 pounds, he leads the Golden Tornado with a 25-2 record, 14 pins and 127 team points.

Justin Johnson is second on the team with 20 wins and 96 team, points while Caleb Baxter has 10 pins.

"Christian is one of our top dogs," Stoner said. "As he gets physically stronger and his body continues to mature, he will get that much better."

Sequete was 25-6 with 15 pins as an eighth-grader. He reached the junior high state tournament in seventh and eighth grade. He placed sixth at the state meet as a sixth-grader.

He knows all of the numbers in terms of Butler wrestling history.

"Just getting 100 wins would be a big accomplishment for me," Sequete said. "We'll see where it winds up. I just want to win as many matches as I can and wrestle for as long as I can."

He's already learned that injuries can cause setbacks.

"I missed most of the summer (before his freshman season) and wasn't as sharp as I could have been," Sequete said.

This year has been a different story.

Both of Sequete's losses have been by decision to the same opponent — Anthony Welsh of Beth-Center — who placed fifth in the PIAA meet last season with a 36-6 record. A senior this year, Welsh has more than 4,600 career yards and 80 touchdowns as a running back in football.

That has been the only athlete to derail Sequete so far this season.

"I know I have to wrestle better on my feet and harness my shooting so it's more consistent," Sequete said. "I've got plenty of room to get better."

That could be bad news for the competition.

Stoner said Sequete could wind up as one of Butler's all-time best wrestlers by the time he's through.

"He needs to get a little tighter with some of his technique, but, absolutely, all of the tools are there," the coach said. "It will come down to how hard he wants to work at continuing to get to that next level.

"It's all in front of him. He's having a great year."

Article published February 10, 2016

Senior's night

Finan picks up pin in 31 seconds during Butler's 52-16 win

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

BUTLER TWP — On Senior Night, leave it to a senior to lead the way.

Butler 160-pound wrestler Hank Finan had one of four Golden Tornado pins Tuesday night — recording his in 31 seconds — in helping his team post a 52-16 dual match victory over Armstrong. “For a while now, I’ve been hyping to our kids the importance of coming out aggressive and getting the first takedown,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “The numbers show that whoever gets the first takedown in a match wins 65 percent of the time.”

Finan took that advice to heart Tuesday.

He took down Garrett Kelly almost immediately and never let him escape.

“I’ve been working hard at going hard right at the first whistle,” Finan said. “I’ve been working hard at my wing, too. I got him in it and it worked.

“Getting a quick pin tonight ... This was the best thing I could possibly do.”

The win improved Finan to 15-14 on the season. The pin was his ninth of the year.

Braydon Hoffman at 106 pounds, Scott Dietrich at 138 and Christian Sequete at 170 also recorded pins for the Golden Tornado (13-8). Sequete’s pin was his team-leading 16th of the campaign as the sophomore improved to 28-4.

Finan and fellow seniors Mike Vought, Levi Spohn, Luke Hyde and Justin Johnson were recognized in a brief ceremony before the match. Johnson scored an 8-4 decision at 195 pounds to improve to 24-6 on the year.

Johnson’s career varsity record was 31-24 coming into this season.

“It’s my final year and I want to get to states,” Johnson said. “I had to step my game up.

“Coach has been emphasizing that first takedown and it meant a lot to me to do that tonight. He (Armstrong’s Ogden Atwood) was a tough kid to put away.”

Stoner described Johnson’s mat skills as having “plenty of speed and explosiveness,” but stressed that his senior needs to use that skill set to his advantage more often.

“It’s like you have a thoroughbred and a Clydesdale racing alongside each other and the thoroughbred is just keeping pace, jogging alongside rather than just blowing his doors off,” Stoner said.

No Tornado wrestler was pinned Tuesday night. The only time Butler surrendered six points was in choosing to forfeit to Armstrong standout heavyweight Jacob Robb (26-1) at heavyweight.

Robb is ranked No. 2 in the state at his weight class.

Butler’s Caleb Baxter improved to 24-5 with a 3-0 decision at 152 pounds. Dietrich moved to 19-7 with his pin at 138 and Saavon Mosby improved to 16-13 with a 12-4 major decision at 220.

Tom Greaves slipped to 9-9, but wrestled a strong match against Armstrong’s Nate Vukovich (19-5) at 182. Greaves took Vukovich down with 20 seconds left, but couldn’t follow up with any back points in dropping a 4-3 decision.

Armstrong slipped to 6-7 with the loss. Coach Brandon Newell refused comment after the match. "We're near the end of the season here and we're trying to peak everybody at the same time," Stoner said. "Overall, we did pretty well."

The Tornado wrestle at Bethel Park Thursday night before hosting Hampton Feb. 18 in their final dual match of the season.

Butler 52, Armstrong 16

(Match started at 132 pounds)

106-Braydon Hoffman (B) pinned Tyler Malia, 1:48; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) by forfeit; 120-Jack Codispot (B) by forfeit; 126-Shane Culp (B) pinned Matt Reitler, 2:43; 132-Brendon Malia (A) dec. Sam Dietrich, 2-0; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Austin Pinkerton, 3:31; 145-Matt Vukovich (A) dec. Mike Vought, 10-1; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) dec. Nick Croyle, 3-0; 160-Hank Finan (B) pinned Garrett Kelly, :31; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Kain Acierno, 5:22; 182-Nate Vukovich (A) dec. Tom Greaves, 4-3; 195-Justin Johnson (B) dec. Ogden Atwood, 8-4; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) dec. Joel Tack, 12-4; Hwt.-Jacob Robb (A) by forfeit

Article published February 19, 2016

Butler wrestlers cruise in finale

Tornado matmen defeat Hampton, 59-9, begin preparations for section tournament

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

BUTLER TWP — Two pins, two nice memories — for two different reasons.

Christian Sequete and Mike Vought both put their opponents' shoulders to the mat Thursday night during Butler's runaway 59-9 dual match victory over Hampton.

Sequete, a sophomore, built a 16-2 lead on Zach Boggs midway through the second period before registering the pin at 3:29 of their 170-pound match. The pin was his team-leading 17th of the season and improved his record to 30-5.

"Yeah, the 30th is a big one for me," Sequete said. "I worked a lot harder this past offseason. I wanted to have a big year.

"I can't say I expected 30 wins (as a sophomore), but I can't say I'm surprised, either. I have confidence in what I can do on the mat."

Butler coach Scott Stoner has confidence in what Sequete can do as well.

"No doubt, he's developed into one of our thoroughbreds, one of our leaders," Stoner said.

Golden Tornado senior 145-pounder Mike Vought entered Thursday's match with just a 2-11 record, but scored a sudden reversal and pin of Garrett Rieger 34 seconds into the second period.

The pin was Vought's second of the season and came in the final home match of his career.

"Michael's been with our program for a long time and he's shown flashes of things like this," Stoner said. "It just never totally happened for him.

"To see him get a pin like that in his final regular season match ... Hopefully, he'll ride that momentum into sectionals. It's a nice memory for him, absolutely."

Thursday's match ended the regular season for Butler (15-8). The Tornado will next compete in the Section 3 Individual Championships Feb. 27 at Fox Chapel.

Scott Dietrich recorded a pin Thursday at 138 pounds for Butler, improving his record to 21-7 this season. He had a 9-2 lead after the first period and pinned Jacob Seymour with just two seconds left in the second period.

Hampton ended the regular season at 8-7, losing by lopsided scores to Seneca Valley and Butler on successive nights.

"We graduated 15 seniors from this program in the past two years," Hampton coach Joe Eisel said. "We're young, but we've got some good freshmen and sophomores.

"There are younger wrestlers coming through the system ... We should be back up there in another year or two."

The Tornado received major decisions from Jack Codispot (15-10) at 120 pounds and Caleb Baxter (25-6) at 152. Justin Johnson (25-5) recorded his 25th win of the year by forfeit at 195.

The two most competitive matches of the night were at 113 and 285 pounds. Butler's Isaiah Christy (14-12) scored a reversal with 1:17 left for a 2-1 decision at 113.

Tornado heavyweight Seth McCrea (16-7) scored a reversal and near-fall points in the final seconds of the first period, then held on for a 6-5 decision over Jesse Berzonski (16-7).

"Jesse is a sophomore, a first-year wrestler who is green," Eisel said. "And he makes first-year mistakes. That's what cost him tonight."

Stoner said McCrea and Saavon Mosby (18-13) will wrestle-off to determine which will take the 220-pound slot in the section meet.

"The winner will wrestle at 220, the loser at heavyweight," Stoner said. "But both have a chance to do well in the section."

Butler 59, Hampton 9

(Match started at 106 pounds)

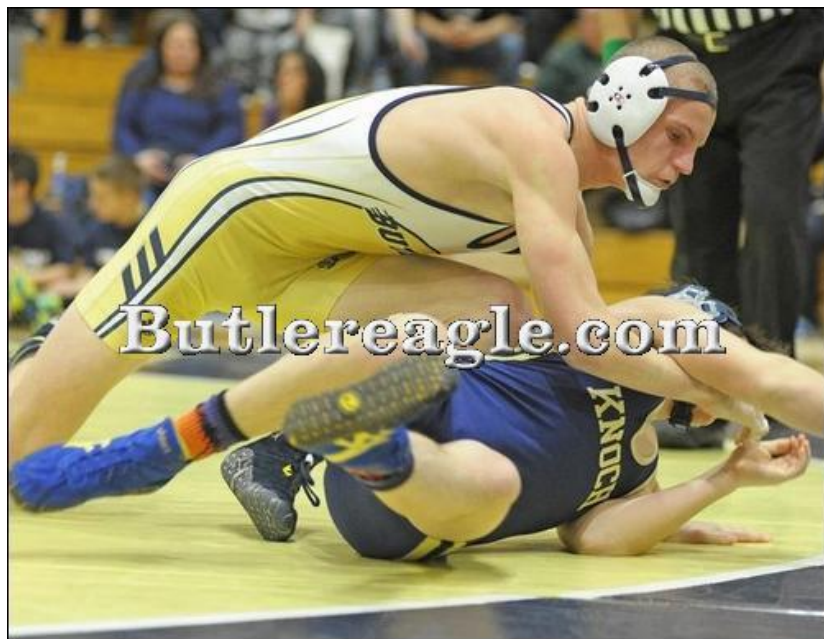
106-Josh Campbell (H) dec. Braydon Hoffman, 5-1; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) dec. Daxonn Erynei, 2-1; 120-Jack Codispot (B) dec. Liam Helon, 10-0; 126-Shane Culp (B) by forfeit; 132-Sam Dietrich (B) dec. Alex Orkwis, 6-3; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Jacob Seymour, 3:58; 145-Mike Vought (B) pinned Garrett Rieger, 2:34; 152-Caleb Baxter (B) dec. Caleb Mattson, 13-3; 160-Chad Scherer (H) pinned Luke Hyde, 1:16; 170-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Zach Boggs, 3:29; 182-Tom Greaves (B) by forfeit; 195-Justin Johnson (B) by forfeit; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) by forfeit; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) dec. Jesse Berzonski, 6-5

Article published February 23, 2016

Ready to ride

Butler matman Baxter anxious to begin journey to state meet

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Butler junior Caleb Baxter is taking a 25-6 record at 152 pounds into Saturday's individual section wrestling championships at Fox Chapel High School.

EAGLE FILE PHOTO

BUTLER TWP — A shattered elbow shattered any hope of Caleb Baxter approaching his older brother's win total on the wrestling mat.

The Butler junior has been making up for lost time nonetheless.

While older brother Cole has put together a 20-win season as a senior at Kent State this year — following a record 160-win wrestling career at Butler — Caleb is 25-6 as the Golden Tornado's 152-pounder this season.

He is 52-17 in two years entering the individual section championships Saturday at Fox Chapel.

"No wrestler has ever reached 100 career wins at Butler while wrestling varsity for only three years," Baxter said. "Cole did it, but he wrestled here for four years.

"My goal is to definitely get to 100."

He still has work to do. But he's improving as a wrestler virtually every day.

"You never stop learning in this sport," Baxter said. "Growing up behind Cole, he was always my role model. We talk wrestling all the time. I still pick his brain on things."

The younger Baxter's maturation process on the mat was delayed somewhat when he shattered his elbow playing football his freshman year. That injury took away his freshman wrestling season.

He had been undefeated (25-0) during the regular season of his eighth-grade year in junior high.

"Freshman year is usually when a wrestler establishes himself and transitions into varsity wrestling as opposed to junior high," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Caleb was robbed of all that."

One thing Baxter has never been robbed of is his thirst for learning and working out in the room. He believes that is what enabled him to make up for his year off the mats.

"That was so strange, not wrestling that (freshman) year," Baxter said. "I mean, I've been doing this since I was 4. As soon as I was cleared to return, I got in one-on-one time with the coaches."

Baxter has spent time before and after practice with Stoner and assistant coach Fred Powell, who has spent decades in the sport.

"I sponge up all I can from Coach Powell," Baxter said. "He's always showing me new moves and he's careful not to throw everything at me all at once."

"Once I pick up on one thing he shows me, he shows me another."

Stoner appreciates that as well.

"Coach Powell is an encyclopedia of information, but you have to be willing to use it," Stoner said. "Caleb is one of those kids who does. He'll stay a good 45 minutes to an hour after practice for one-on-one time.

"I'll get out on the mat with him and we'll go. That's what's different about wrestling. The coach can demonstrate to you exactly what he's talking about."

Baxter finished first at 152 pounds at the 28-team Chartiers-Houston Tournament this season. He placed second in the 32-team Southmoreland Holiday Classic.

He will enter the section tournament tied for second on the Golden Tornado roster in wins. He is also second with 13 pins, second in takedowns and near-fall points.

"I want to win at the section meet, place at WPIALs and find a way to place at states," Baxter said. "I'm pretty strong in the neutral position, but I have to improve my technique on top and bottom.

"I feel like I'm hitting my stride at the right time."

Stoner agrees.

"Caleb is capable of winning his weight class in the section and I do feel like he can place in the WPIAL meet," the coach said. "He just needs to be assertive on the mat.

"Cole has provided a good shadow for Caleb. He's stepping out of that now and it's fun to watch."

Article published February 26, 2016

Survival mode

Area wrestlers battling for WPIAL berths Saturday

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor



Butler senior Justin "J.J." Johnson will wrestle at 182 pounds Saturday and is one of the Golden Tornado contenders to reach the WPIAL Tournament. The top five placers in each weight class of Saturday's individual section meet at Fox Chapel advance.

It's every man for himself — survival mode, if you will.

The Section 3-AAA Individual Wrestling Championships take place Saturday at Fox Chapel High School. The top five placers in each weight class advance to the WPIAL Championships next weekend at Penn Hills.

"Each wrestler is fighting for himself now," Mars coach Jason Wilk said.

Butler, Seneca Valley, Mars and Knoch are involved in the Section 3 tourney. Four area wrestlers — Seneca Valley's Louis Newell (29-4) at 106 pounds, Butler's Caleb Baxter (25-6) at 152 and Christian Sequete (30-5) at 170, and Mars' Noah Wright (26-4) at 160 — are seeded No. 1 in their respective weight classes.

"All season long, it's all about the team," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "The team element is over. Now it becomes individual. Some kids respond to that, some kids don't."

Butler has three other wrestlers — Scott Dietrich (21-7) at 138, Justin Johnson (24-6 at 182) and Saavon Mosby (18-12) at 220 — as No. 2 seeds.

The Golden Tornado have 11 wrestlers with winning records in the field. Seneca Valley has eight, Mars seven and Knoch four.

"You love to have your seniors finish strong and ours have a good chance of doing that," Stoner said. "It's a long day of wrestling and you want to get off to a positive start in that first match.

"Our goal is to always get double-digits into the WPIAL tournament. A couple of years ago, we got

13 of 14 through, the most in the WPIAL. It's a tough thing to figure out. Often times, someone you don't calculate getting there works his way through. Someone you figure will get through, doesn't."

Besides his top seeded wrestlers, Stoner sees heavyweight Seth McCrea (16-7), Isaiah Christy (14-12), who dropped down to 106, and Jack Codispot (15-12) at 120 as other key contenders.

"Isaiah has been at 113 most of the year. Jack missed a month with a knee injury and he's been coming on," Stoner said. "It'd be great to see him get to WPIALs as a freshman. And Saavon (Mosby) could win his weight class as a freshman."

There are only eight wrestlers in the 220-pound and heavyweight divisions.

The Knights' top wrestler is Brandon Yobst (23-5) at 152 pounds.

Wilk is particularly high on Wright, who is only a junior.

"He's worked so hard for this," the Mars coach said. "Not only at all of our practices, but he gets in extra practices with the Pitt wrestling club.

"Noah has been involved with this sport since he was a little kid. He's capable of going well beyond this. He's good enough to win the WPIAL title."

Planet sophomore Alex Hornfeck (26-2) at 113 and "sleepers" Justin Petriema (5-5) at 170 and Nick Schriver (12-11) at 182 could also make an impact Saturday.

"Justin has been injured all year and is only 0-1 in section matches," Wilk said. "Nobody really knows about him, but he's healthy now and could make a run.

"Nick is a football player, very athletic and is just in his second year of wrestling. I feel like he's turning the corner. Alex could get through to the state level. I feel like he's ready."

Besides Newell, Seneca Valley has four 20-win wrestlers in Jason Geyer (24-12) at 113, Ben Lynch (23-10) at 120, Alex Lynch (26-10) at 126 and Alex Fischer (21-14) at 138.

Besides Yobst, Knoch's top wrestlers are Dalton Ashton (20-8) at 195, Eric Green (14-9) at 160 and Max Freyermuth (13-10) at 145.

Weigh-ins are at 8 a.m. Saturday with matches scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The finals are at 6 p.m.

Butler Eagle

Article published February 29, 2016

Butler mats produce 3 champs

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

FOX CHAPEL — The quantity may not be there. The quality clearly is.

Butler produced three champions — Caleb Baxter at 152 pounds, Christian Sequete at 170 and Saavon Mosby at 220 — during the Section 3-AAA Individual Wrestling Championships Saturday night at Fox Chapel High School.

Seneca Valley sophomore 106-pounder Louis Newell captured a section tile as well.

The Golden Tornado and Raiders are both sending seven wrestlers on to the WPIAL Championships this weekend at Penn Hills. Mars advanced four wrestlers and Knoch one.

“It’s about the numbers at this time of year and we’d like to send more,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “It just didn’t work out that way this time.

“But this is the first time in a number of years we’ve had three champions come out of here. We’re pretty proud of that.”

Baxter, a junior, improved to 27-6 on the year when he pinned David Kelly of Pine-Richland just 1:36 into their 152-pound title bout. Baxter decisioned Kelly 7-1 during the regular season.

“I got in deep with a single-leg and just rolled him,” Baxter said. “When I got on top, I was able to hold and I squeezed him.

“This feels great. To go from not wrestling at all as a freshman (shattered elbow) to winning the section as a junior ... I’m pretty happy with that.”

Sequete continued his impressive sophomore season, improving to 33-5 with a 2-0 decision over Fox Chapel’s Derrin Deitz in the 170-pound finale. Sequete scored a reversal in the second period and made it stand up.

“You always want to build on a lead and I was trying to do that,” Sequete said. “When a match is that close, one mistake can cost you late.

“I felt comfortable I could get the guy, but he was wrestling defensively. He kept backing away.”

Mosby, a freshman at 220 pounds, decisioned Brendan Scheller of Pine-Richland 14-6 in the finals. Mosby is 21-12 on the season.

Mosby was the No. 2 seed in the bracket, Scheller (18-14) was No. 1.

“The only reason I wasn’t seeded higher is that he caught me on my back and pinned me during the season,” Mosby said. “I wanted to prove I was the better wrestler today.”

Mosby became only the second Butler freshman to ever win a section title. Mike Crawford did so at 119 pounds in 2008 and went on to become a three-time section champion.

The Golden Tornado’s Scott Dietrich (23-8) placed second at 138 pounds, losing a 7-2 decision in the finals. The Tornado also advanced Jack Codispot (third at 120), Justin Johnson (fourth at 182) and Seth McCrea (fifth at 285).

(top 5 advance to WPIAL)

106 pounds: Final-Louis Newell (Seneca Valley) dec. Shane Kelley (Cent. Catholic) 14-0; 3rd-4th-Jacob Downing (North Allegheny) pinned Tony DiNinno (Plum) 1:13; 5th-6th-Josh Campbell (Hampton) dec. Bill Hockenberry (Knoch) 10-3

113: Final-Gage Curry (North Hills) pinned Alex Hornfeck (Mars) 1:12; 3rd-4th-Alex Salas (Pine-Richland) dec. Ian Scarberry (Shaler) 5-0; 5th-6th-Daxon Emyei (Hampton) dec. Tallon Auth (Plum) 4-0

120: Final-Hunter Baxter (Pine-Richland) pinned Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley) 3:51; 3rd-4th-Jack Codispot

(Butler) dec. Tony Patsy (Cent. Catholic) 5-3 in OT; 5th-6th-Dylan Winters (Shaler) pinned Nick Pepe (North Allegheny) 2:46

126: Final-Luke Landefeld (North Allegheny) pinned Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley) 1:57; 3rd-4th-Eric Warren (Shaler) dec. Andrew Kopco (Fox Chapel) 3-0; 5th-6th-Mike Nagy (Cent. Catholic) by forfeit

132: Final-Mike Heini (Shaler) dec. Tommy Zummo (Plum) 3-1; 3rd-4th-Dom Means (Cent. Catholic) dec. Zach Stedeford (North Allegheny) 8-0; 5th-6th-John MacPherson (North Hills) dec. Nick Montalbano (Seneca Valley) 6-4

138: Final-Jake Hinkson (North Allegheny) dec. Scott Dietrich (Butler) 7-2; 3rd-4th-Dominic Davido (Plum) dec. Alex Fischer (Seneca Valley) 3-1; 5th-6th-Garrett Reinsfelder (Shaler) dec. Austin Pisano (Fox Chapel) 7-0

145: Final-Jake Hartman (Shaler) dec. AJ Boeh (North Allegheny) 3-1; 3rd-4th-Keagan Lawson (North Hills) dec. Ty Gross (Seneca Valley) 11-3; 5th-6th-Billy Myers (Fox Chapel) pinned Mike Vought (Butler) :16

152: Final-Caleb Baxter (Butler) pinned David Kelly (Pine-Richland) 1:36; 3rd-4th-Jake Pollak (Shaler) pinned Jon Hoover (North Allegheny) 2:44; 5th-6th-Brandon Yobst (Knoch) pinned Mike Duray (Fox Chapel) :54

160: Final-Sean Hoover (North Allegheny) dec. Noah Wright (Mars) 3-1; 3rd-4th-Nick Geyer (Pine-Richland) dec. Tristan Houser (Fox Chapel) 4-0; 5th-6th-Nathan Mankey (North Hills) by forfeit

170: Final-Christian Sequete (Butler) dec. Derrin Deitz (Fox Chapel) 2-0; 3rd-4th-Jacob Fritsch (North Allegheny) dec. Jim Demore (Shaler) 1-0; 5th-6th-Justin Petrilena (Mars) pinned Zac Cowell (Seneca Valley) 2:43

182: Final-Jake Woodley (North Allegheny) dec. Mike Mahon (Fox Chapel) 10-1; 3rd-4th-Devon Cuda (North Hills) dec. Justin Johnson (Butler) 9-3; 5th-6th-Nicholas Schriver (Mars) dec. Dustin Moniot (Seneca Valley) 6-5

195: Final-Francis Duggan (North Allegheny) dec. Zach Carcy (Fox Chapel) 6-0; 3rd-4th-Ron D'Amico (Shaler) dec. Keyshawn Smith (Plum) 4-0; 5th-6th-Jacob Stotz (North Hills) dec. Tom Greaves (Butler) 3-2

220: Final-Saavon Mosby (Butler) dec. Brendan Scheller (Pine-Richland) 14-6; 3rd-4th-Nate Hoff (Plum) dec. Gabe Miller (Seneca Valley) 1-0 in OT; 5th-6th-Derek Devine (North Allegheny) pinned Jim Clark (Shaler) 1:45

285: Final-Sean Bright (North Hills) dec. Jared Pegher (Fox Chapel) 2-0; 3rd-4th-Charles Sanders (North Allegheny) pinned Dante Santelli (Seneca Valley) 2:12; 5th-6th-Seth McCrea (Butler) dec. Jesse Berzonski (Hampton) 3-1

Article published March 3, 2016

SV's Newell true jewel

Raider sophomore seeded No. 2 in bid for state tourney

By [John Enrietto](#), Eagle Sports Editor

Louis Newell is in exclusive company.

Seneca Valley's sophomore 106-pounder is one of only four wrestlers from Section 3-AAA seeded among the top two in their respective weight classes for this weekend's WPIAL Class AAA Championships at Penn Hills High School.

Newell (32-4) joins Gage Curry (35-0) of North Hills at 113 pounds, Jake Hartman (12-1) of Shaler at 145 and Jake Woodley (33-3) of North Allegheny at 182 as the only other Section 3 first or second seeds.

"I thought the overall seeding was fair. Nothing really jumps out at me."

Sophomore Job Trisko (27-1) of Penn-Trafford is seeded No. 1 at 106.

Newell, who placed eighth in the PIAA meet last year, enters the WPIAL tourney as a section champion. Butler's three section champs — Caleb Baxter at 152, Christian Sequete at 170 and Saavon Mosby at 220 — are seeded seventh, fifth and eighth, respectively.

Golden Tornado 138-pound section runner-up Scott Dietrich is seeded sixth.

"Their work is cut out for them," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "I can't complain about the seedings. Our section wasn't as strong this year compared to some of the others."

Seneca Valley's two section runner-ups — Ben Lynch at 120 and twin brother Alex at 126 — will face high seeds should they win their first matches. Ben Lynch would get No. 1 seed Spencer Lee (40-0) of Franklin Regional in the quarterfinals while Alex would get No. 2 seed Ethan McCoy (27-2) of Latrobe.

"Win the first one and go from there," Wildrick said. "Anything can happen at WPIALs. Sometimes a kid can get on a roll in consolations and beat people he might not beat during the regular season."

Seven Butler County wrestlers — including 152-pounder Brandon Yobst (25-7), Knoch's lone qualifier — will compete in the pig-tail round at 9:30 a.m. Friday. Losers in that round are out of the tournament.

"Six of our seven (WPIAL) qualifiers are back next year," Stoner said. "Our senior is J.J. (Justin Johnson) and he's wrestled very well at times this season. We just haven't seen that consistency."

"But if he wrestles like he can ... I look at that field and he can navigate his way through."

Johnson's first-round opponent, Da'Quan Frazier of McKeesport, is 15-6 on the year. A win there puts him against No. 2 seed Colin McCracken of Waynesburg, who has nine losses on the campaign.

"This level of competition has to be experienced," Stoner said. "Once you're in the consolation round, make the most out of it. Get what you can."

The top four placers in each weight class advance to next weekend's state tournament in Hershey. The WPIAL quarterfinal round begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday. Semifinals are at noon Saturday with consolation finals at 6 p.m., championship finals at 7:30 p.m.

WPIAL CLASS AAA TOURNAMENT Early Pairings

Pigtail Round

- 145: Ty Gross (Seneca Valley) 16-17 vs. John Wertz (Upper St. Clair) 18-10
- 152: Danny Clements (West Allegheny) 15-11 vs. Brandon Yobst (Knoch) 25-7
- 170: Justin Petrilena (Mars) 8-7 vs. Teegan Hahn (Greensburg Salem) 31-6
- 182: Dawson Leavines (Trinity) 8-10 vs. Nicholas Schriver (Mars) 14-13
- 220: David Ainscough (Canon McMillan) 16-20 vs. Gabe Miller (Seneca Valley) 9-11
- 285: Seth McCrea (Butler) 17-9 vs. Jay Pollock (Upper St. Clair) 25-11; David Orosz (McKeesport) 22-9 vs. Dante Santelli (Seneca Valley) 17-16

First Round

- 106: AJ Walker (Hopewell) 18-13 or Mason Jobe (Greensburg Salem) 13-12 vs. Louis Newell (Seneca Valley) 32-4
- 113: Alex Hornfeck (Mars) 28-3 vs. Logan Seliga (Belle Vernon) 21-17
- 120: Matt Hunsberger (Moon) 22-14 vs. Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley) 25-11; Dom Devine (Thomas Jefferson) 29-7 vs. Jack Codispot (Butler) 18-13
- 126: Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley) 28-11 vs. Ty McGeary (West Allegheny) 25-7
- 138: Doug Gudenburr (Ringgold) 32-4 vs. Alex Fischer (Seneca Valley) 23-16; Cameron Zuber (McKeesport) 17-7 vs. Scott Dietrich (Butler) 23-8
- 152: Caleb Baxter (Butler) 28-6 vs. Dante Presutti (Montour) 27-10
- 160: Jimmy Pierce (Laurel Highlands) 20-5 vs. Noah Wright (Mars) 28-5
- 170: Christian Sequete (Butler) 33-5 vs. Jacob Bombardier (Montour) 27-10
- 182: Da'Quan Frazier (McKeesport) 15-6 vs. Justin Johnson (Butler) 26-8
- 220: Jake Slinger (Upper St. Clair) 29-9 vs. Saavon Mosby (Butler) 21-12

Article published March 5, 2016

Newell rolls to semis

Seneca Valley wrestler advances with big night

By Nathan Bottiger, Eagle Staff Writer

PENN HILLS — Seneca Valley's Louis Newell entered the WPIAL Southwestern AAA Regional riding on a season-long momentum.

That momentum continued as Newell, who is now 34-4 on the season, advanced to the semifinals with two pins Friday at Penn Hills High School.

Newell said he hadn't anticipated pinning his opponents in the earlier rounds, but he was confident heading into the tournament.

"I knew I could make it to the semis," he said. "I think I could definitely place top four."

Newell said he was more hesitant about his quarterfinal match, but felt better after opportunistic scoring gave him the lead. Once on top, an arm bar sealed his place in the semifinal.

"I kept cool and kept doing what I had to do to win," Newell said. "As soon as I had him on his back, I knew it was a tight (arm) bar, and it was gonna be the end of the match."

Newell is the only Butler County wrestler to advance to the semifinals for a chance at a WPIAL title.

Four Seneca Valley wrestlers have dropped into the consolation bracket to fight for a third- or fourth-place finish, which would qualify them for the PIAA tournament.

Butler had a rough night.

All of Golden Tornado contending wrestlers will begin Saturday in the consolation bracket.

"There's not much to write about," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "You can't survive at this point without aggression and confidence."

Stoner said he saw a lack of intensity in almost every match in the later round in which Butler's Scott Dietrich (24-9) at 139 pounds, Caleb Baxter (29-7) at 152, Christian Sequete at 170 (34-6) and Justin Johnson (27-9) at 182, lost their quarterfinal bouts.

Both Dietrich and Baxter ended their quarterfinal matches without scoring any points.

Stoner said Baxter performed at a high level during his first match, which he won by fall in 49 seconds. Stoner said Baxter's aggression disappeared in the second match, and he failed to take advantage of opportunities to quicken the match's pace.

Sequete also struggled after a quick takedown by his opponent, Matt McGillick of Penn Trafford High School. McGillick controlled the match and was winning 11-3 before Sequete was unable to continue because of a knee injury.

Stoner said a trainer checked Sequete's knee and said it may be a torn meniscus, but nothing is certain. He said he will have to see how Sequete is feeling in the morning before allowing him to wrestle, but Sequete's return to the tournament seems unlikely.

"I'd be surprised if we wrestled him tomorrow," Stoner said.

Including Sequete, Butler has five wrestlers competing in the consolation rounds Saturday.