

Butler Eagle



2021-22

BUTLER

WRESTLING

PRESS RELEASES

Making moves on the mats

December 21, 2021

Butler, SV count on standouts

Each of the six county high school wrestling teams endured unusual campaigns last season. Now, they're underway on the mats, happy to have fans back in the bleachers and get back to the regular format.

Last year's WPIAL runner-up, Seneca Valley is in relatively uncharted waters, dealing with injuries in a few weight classes and trying to fill the shoes of some key graduation losses. "We're trying to get everybody sorted out and at the right weights so we can be as competitive as we can," said Kevin Wildrick, who's in his 11th year with the Raiders. "We have a lot of work to do to reach the level that we were at the last four years." Alejandro Herrera-Rondon, a USA Today boys wrestling all-star in his time at SV, has continued on to Oklahoma. Dylan Chappell and Antonio Amelio are now at Bucknell.

"We're going to be a little light, probably not compete on the team side of things too well, but we'll have some individuals with a good shot to place, for sure," Wildrick said. A few of those wrestlers include Connor Smith (106), winner of the subsection at 113 pounds last year, and Tyler Chappell (120), who won the section, WPIAL, and super regionals on his way to finishing third in the state at 106 pounds a season ago. Liam Volk-Klos (189) enters the schedule with a 72-47 career record and aspirations to study at an Ivy league school. He also notched perfect scores on each the SAT and ACT this fall.

The Golden Tornado's season was cut short last season when they had to pull out of the playoffs due to COVID issues. "It was, probably winning-percentage-wise, one of our best teams at 14-2 at that point," said Scott Stoner, now in his 29th year. Stoner is excited to get rolling with this year's group, which won the Chartiers-Houston Invitational. "This year's team is very much the same (as last year)," Stoner said. "It's got a lot of really top-quality kids and some very stellar seniors. We've got some underclassmen who are really making some noise." Senior Cooper Baxter, with an 89-24 career record at 189 pounds, would have been a state qualifier last year, if not for the different format. Jake Pomykata (285) was a match away from states a season ago. Sophomore Ana Malovich comes off of a 15-5 season as a freshman. She took third in the Chartiers-Houston Invitational.

106-Ana Malovich (soph), 113-Kelley Schaukowitsch (soph), 120-Gavin Rush (freshman), 126-Kase Chopp (freshman), 132-Garrett Walsh (junior), 138-Domenic Vivirito (senior), 145-Levi Donnel (junior), 152-Cade Savochka (senior), 160-Matt Zinkhann (junior), 172-Mickey Kreinbucher (junior), 189-Cooper Baxter (senior), 215-Landon Christie (junior), 285-Jake Pomykata (senior)

Looking For Action

Derek Pyda - December 23, 2021

Butler wrestlers stay hot despite limited matches



Butler's Matt Zinkhann takes control of Moon's James Spellman during the Golden Tornado's 64-12 wrestling victory Wednesday night. Zinkhann had one of six pins for Butler.

BUTLER TWP — The Butler wrestling team's fast start to the season was never threatened Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado tallied six pins in a dominating 64-12 decision over visiting Moon. Butler was crowned champion of the 28-team Chartiers-Houston Tournament Dec. 11 and crushed

Beaver, 78-0, in the first section dual of the year four days later.

Due to forfeits by their opponents, the Tornado wrestled just a combined 14 bouts in the victories over Beaver and Moon. "That's a problem for a lot of the teams in our section," said Butler coach Scott Stoner of empty weight classes on opposing rosters. "New Castle is the same way, they have just three guys. "We can't get a real idea of where we are."

The Tornado led 18-0 Wednesday before a bout was held due to three forfeits by Moon. Kase Chopp set the tone with his pin of Tyler Zubryd in one minute, 43 seconds at 126 pounds.

Domenic Vivirito, Levi Donnel, Matt Zinkhann, Landon Christie and Jake Pomykata also won via fall. In each case, Butler's wrestler scored a takedown early in the first period. "At this time of the year, we're amping up slowly in practice, but I've been disappointed in our level of aggressiveness," Stoner said.



Butler's Levi Donnel reacts while wrestling Moon's Travis Lindsay during the Golden Tornado's 64-12 victory Wednesday night. Joseph Ressler/Butler Eagle

"It was good tonight, though, and I was happy with that." Donnel's pin of Travis Lindsay at 145 pounds came after the former allowed a reversal near the end of the first period, cutting his lead to 8-4. "I tried a move there that didn't work out," Donnel said. "I was frustrated about giving up those two points." But Donnel, a

junior, responded by scoring a reversal of his own and pinning Lindsay just 31 seconds into the second period. He went 4-0 at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament and is now 2-0 in section bouts. "I didn't do too well last year, didn't make it to the section tournament (at 132 pounds)," said Donnel. "I worked a lot over the summer on my technique and my goal is to medal (top eight) at states. "That's setting the bar high, but Stoner believes Donnel is capable of having a great season. "Levi has a tremendous amount of potential," he said. "He doesn't always recognize it and we're trying to get him to open up and try some new things. "He can be so dynamic with his moves. We see that in him, but he needs to use it more often."

Butler will compete at the Southmoreland Holiday Classic Monday and Tuesday.

Butler 64, Moon 12 (Match started at 106 pounds) 106-Brycen Seth (B) won by forfeit; 113-Kelley Schaukowitsch (B) won by forfeit; 120-Gavin Rush (B) won by forfeit; 126-Kase Chopp (B) pinned Tyler Zubryd, 1:43; 132-Khyvon Grace (M) pinned Garrett Walsh, 3:02; 138-Domenic Vivirito (B) pinned Ryan Timber, :37; 145-Levi Donnel (B) pinned Travis Lindsay, 2:31; 152-Cade Savochka (B) major dec. Josh Bladle, 11-0; 160-Matt Zinkhann (B) pinned James Spellman, 1:21; 172-Mickey Kreinbacher (B) won by forfeit; 189-Luis Carrasquillo (M) pinned Braylon May, 1:09; 215-Landon Christie (B) pinned Gabriel Castner, :45; Hwt.-Jake Pomykata (B) pinned Connor Lindsay, 2:38

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®

By Ken Wunderley
Tri-State Sports & News Service
January 29, 2021



When Butler junior Levi Donnel stepped on the mat for the 145-pound final on Tuesday at the Southmoreland Holiday Tournament, more than just an individual title was on the line.

Butler trailed Plum by four points in the team standings. A win via regular decision would earn the Golden Tornados four points and leave the two teams tied for first place. A win by major decision, technical fall, or pin would add bonus points and clinch the title for Butler.

"I told Levi that a win plus bonus points would clinch the team title for us," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "And that's just what he gave us." Donnel scored early and often in his title match against Carlynton's Chase Brandebura and finished with a 16-3 major decision. "Levi came through for us in a big way," Stoner said. "It was really cool to win the team title that way."

Even if Donnel didn't come through with bonus points, Butler still had another chance to clinch the title with junior Mickey Kreinbucher in the 172-pound final. "Mickey's win at 172 was icing on the cake," said Stoner, referring to Kreinbucher's 5-1 win over Somerset's Rowan Holmes which capped Plum's team total at 181.5 points.

Butler's team title in the 29-team tournament was even more impressive when one considers the Golden Tornado was without two of its top wrestlers. Cooper Baxter, a 189-pound senior who placed third in WPIAL Class 3A last season, sat out with an injury sustained in the finals of the Chartiers-Houston Tournament on Dec. 11. "Cooper defaulted in the title match at Chartiers-Houston," Stoner said. "He could have wrestled, but we felt it would be better to give him another week of rest."

The Tornado was also without senior heavyweight Jake Pomykata, who placed sixth in the WPIAL last season. He also finished second at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament. "Jake is in Florida playing the Sousaphone with Butler's band at Disneyworld," Stoner said. Baxter would have been a prohibitive favorite at 189, while Pomykata would have been seeded No. 2 at heavyweight, behind PIAA placewinner Bill McChesney of Greensburg Salem, the eventual champion.

"It was tough sledding for a while without Cooper and Jake, but the other kids picked up the slack," Stoner said. "We had nine kids place (among the top eight in their weight class) including our two backups. Landon Christie placed fifth at 189 and Ethan Babay finished sixth at heavyweight. Both had a great opportunity to pick up varsity experience and made the most of it."

Donnel and Kreinbucher were joined in the finals by sophomores Ana Malovich and Kelley Schaukowitsch, who both claimed silver medals. Malovich became the first WPIAL female wrestler to advance to the finals of a tournament with three consecutive pins in the 106-pound weight class. Her title run came to an end in the championship match as Plum's Rylen Campbell pinned her 17 seconds into the third period. "Ana looked a little bit more reserved in the title match," Stoner said. "She may have felt the pressure since she had never been in a match of that significance before. I can't say enough about her other matches. She just dominated all three opponents. It's a great accomplishment to be the first girl to wrestle in a tournament title match. I'm very proud of what she's been able to accomplish." Schaukowitsch followed with a 2-0 loss to Baldwin's Ramil Islamov in the 113-pound final. "(Islamov) reversed Kelley midway through the second period and rode him out in the third period," Stoner said. "He wrestled a tough match, but just couldn't score."

Also placing for Butler were: Gavin Rush (sixth at 120), Cade Savochka (seventh at 152), and Domenic Vivirito (eighth at 138). It was Butler's second team title in three weeks, as the Tornados won the 28-team Chartiers-Houston Tournament the weekend of Dec. 10-11. And it was the second individual title for Donnel.

Plum finished second in the team standings with 176.5 points. Campbell was one of three Mustangs who wrestled in the finals. Vince Citrano joined Campbell atop the winner's platform by posting a 4-3 win over Beth-Center's Kyle McCollum in the 132-pound final. Antonino Walker placed second for Plum after a 2-1 loss to Tussey Mountain's Trevor Husick in the 126-pound final.

McCollum was one of three Beth-Center wrestlers in the finals and the only one to come home with a silver medal. Tyler Berish and Trevor Pettit claimed gold medals. Berish posted a 4-1 win over Elizabeth Forward's Caiden Brock in the 152-pound final. Pettit recorded his 100th career win with a pin of Somerset's Ethan Hemminger in the 160-pound final.

Greensburg Salem also had three finalists. Brothers Christian and Billy McChesney won titles for the Lions, while Caleb Chismar finished second. Christian McChesney registered a 6-0 win over Bethel Park's Landon Hartman in the 189-pound final.



Butler wrestlers get odd 72-0 win

January 06, 2022

In the Section 3 match, the night was brief, yet productive. Butler's wrestling team received pins from Ana Malovich, Kelley Schaukowsch and Kase Chopp in shutting out New Castle, 72-0, on the road Wednesday night. Those were the only three matches contested in the dual. New Castle started a program several years ago and despite encourage numbers in their program at the time, the number of athletes have dramatically declined.

The Golden Tornado returns to section competition next Wednesday at West Allegheny. West Allegheny is ranked the #7 team in the AAA WPIAL currently. They then travel to the Virginia National Duals in Hampton, Va., Jan. 14-15.

Butler wrestlers 3rd at Virginia Duals

January 17, 2022

Butler's wrestling team placed third overall Friday and Saturday in the American High School division of the Virginia Duals.

The Golden Tornado went 5-1, the lone loss being a 36-32 decision to Virginia power Grundy. Butler had a 32-3 lead in that dual. Victories were 72-0 over Miles Godwin (Va.), 58-22 over Hayfield (Va.), 64-15 over Currituck County (N.C.), 43-30 over Skyline (Va.) and 39-25 over Westfield (Va.).

Three Butler wrestlers went 6-0 over the weekend: Ana Malovich (15-2) at 106 pounds, Dom Vivirito (15-4) at 138 and Levi Donnel (17-0) at 145. Malovich had four pins, Donnel three.

Finishing 5-1 for the Tornado were Gavin Rush at 120 pounds, Kase Chopp at 126, Matt Zinkhann at 160, Mickey Kreinbacher (17-3) at 172 and Jake Pomykata (11-2) at heavyweight. Chopp had five pins in the tourney.

Butler travels to West Allegheny Tuesday night before hosting Seneca Valley Wednesday.

Butler wrestlers hold off Raiders

Late Seneca Valley surge falls short in 34-32 Tornado victory

John Enrietto_— January 20, 2022



Butler's Kase Chopp prepares to score a pin against Seneca Valley's Teagan Leighty during the Golden Tornado's 34-32 wrestling win Wednesday night. Joseph Ressler/Butler Eagle 1/19/22

JOSEPH RESSLER

BUTLER TWP — Seneca Valley needed a trifecta. Jake Pomykata made sure it didn't happen. And Butler held on for a 34-32 dual match wrestling win over rival Seneca Valley Wednesday night in the Intermediate High School gym.



Butler's Levi Donnel tangles with Seneca Valley's Evan Vetter en route to securing a 9-0 major decision.

The win was the Golden Tornado's first dual match triumph over Seneca Valley in five years. The Raiders (3-2) trailed 34-17 before receiving pins from Brooks Beres at 189 pounds and Aiden Hayes at 215. That sent Liam Volk-Klos to the mat against Pomykata in the heavyweight bout — the final match of the evening — needing a pin to secure a come-from-behind win for SV.

“They were riding a wave of momentum, but Jake knew what he had to do,” Butler coach Scott Stoner said. “It can be difficult out there, knowing you can’t get pinned, “Liam is a tough, physical kid, a very good wrestler. Jake handled that match very well.” Pomykata (12-3) trailed 4-0 after the first period and 8-5 after the second. He scored a late takedown and dropped a 10-9 decision. Volk-Klos is 5-0 on the year and usually wrestles at 215 pounds.

“Asking a kid to go on the mat and go get a pin, that’s a difficult task,” SV coach Kevin Wildrick said. “Liam never found the opportunity. He gave what he had, but that kid (Pomykata) wrestled well against him.” Pomykata admitted his strategy in the match changed, knowing the team score situation.

“I was careful not to do anything risky when I was up top,” Pomykata said. “I didn’t want to do something where I could get rolled. I know Liam well. He’s a pinner. I had to do that. This was about our team,. The team match is more important than my individual match. “In the third period, I felt the match turning my way. I thought I had a chance to win it late. One more turn, one more takedown ... it just didn’t happen.”

But Butler’s victory did. The Tornado improved to 10-1 on the season and Stoner secured the 403rd career win of his 29-year career. Seneca Valley opened the dual with pins by Connor Smith and Jack Tofanelli in the lighter weights. Tyler Chappell (17-3) scored a technical fall at 126 pounds to give the Raiders a 17-3 lead.

Butler won the next six matches to take command, highlighted by pins at 132 pounds by Kase Chopp, 138 by Domenic Vivirito, 152 by Cade Savochka and 160 by Matt Zinkhann. “Cade and Matt both gave up the first takedowns in their matches,” Stoner said. “Those pins at 152 and 160 were huge tonight.”

Zinkhann (16-6) trailed 6-0 after the first period before rallying to win. “He wore his kid down,” Stoner said. “You respect your opponent, but when you can take his will away late, to the point where he can’t go anymore and you can, that’s a unique and great feeling in wrestling.”

Wildrick figured it’d be a close match, though it didn’t play out quite the way he thought. “We won some matches I thought we wouldn’t, lost some matches I thought we wouldn’t,” he said. “But, ultimately, I knew this would be a close one.”

Butler 34, Seneca Valley 32

106-Connor Smith (SV) pinned Ana Malovich, 5:08; **113**-Jack Tofanelli (SV) pinned Kelley Schaukowitz, 5:25; **120**-Gavin Rush (B) dec. Brody Pirt, 5-2; **126**-Tyler happell (SV) tech. fall over Aiden Plopi, 3:46 (15-0); **132**-Kase Chopp (B) pinned Teagan Leighty, 3:33 ; **138**-Domenic Vivirito (B) pinned Jake Eubanks, 2:36; **145**-Levi Donnel (B) dec. Evan Vetter, 9-0; **152**-Cade Saviochka (B) pinned Aiden Leinenbecker, 1:58; **160**-Matt Zinkhann (B) pinned Marshall Adamson, 4:38; **172**-Mickey Kreinbacher (B) dec. Manuel Santos, 5-1; **189**-Brooks Beres (SV) pinned Landon Christie, 2:43; **215**-Aiden Hayes (SV) pinned Bryalon May, 1:30; **Hwt.**-Liam Volk-Klos (SV) dec. Jake Pomykata, 10-9

Butler Eagle

No stopping Stoner

Butler wrestling coach soars past 400 career dual match wins

John Enrietto_- January 22, 2022



Butler wrestling coach Scott Stoner, right, joins junior high coach and former Golden Tornado wrestler Don Geibel in showing off the plaque Stoner received Wednesday night for his 400th career dual match win.

John Enrietto/Butler Eagle

BUTLER TWP — His face reacts to every move on the mat, his body cringing with every move during the course of each match. Butler High School wrestling coach Scott Stoner does more than wear the sport on his sleeve. Wrestling is embedded deep in his heart. He has been at the helm of the Golden Tornado mat program for 29 years — or all but two seasons of its existence.

Last weekend at the Virginia Duals, Stoner picked up the 400th dual match win of his career. This places Stoner in the top 30 of all-time among a very elite group of coaches in the hotbed of wrestling in this country. He took a 403-182 career

record into this weekend's Clearfield Duals. He is the active wins leader among all WPIAL wrestling coaches and is one of only five district mat mentors all-time to reach the 400-win plateau. Chuck Tursky, who coached at Burrell and Kiski Area, is WPIAL wrestling's all-time wins leader with 505.

"For anyone not involved in it, it's a hard thing to explain," Stoner, 53, said of the sport. "I've always referred to wrestling as a way of life because that's what it is. It's a firm part of my fiber. It's everything I do. "I wear some type of Butler wrestling item pretty much all the time."



Butler head coach Scott Stoner shouts during the wrestling match against Seneca Valley Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado's 34-32 win was the 403rd victory of Stoner's 29-year career. Joseph Ressler/Butler Eagle

Stoner began his career as a teacher and head coach at Butler after leaving his College Alma Mater Slippery Rock University. Stoner was an assistant coach at "The Rock" from 1991-1993 after finishing his competitive career on the mat there. Stoner took over in 1993 after Bill McClarnon — Butler's

first mat coach — left the program going just 3-20 over two seasons. After 6 years Stoner left Butler and taught at Seneca Valley for a year. He continued to coach at Butler and made the commute back every day to coach wrestling practice. He figured to one day replace Ken Lockey — a legendary coach in his own right — as head coach of the Raider program. Once there, "I felt like I developed the Butler program ... it was mine and I didn't want to leave it." So Stoner returned and has been in Butler ever since. "I felt I didn't want to turn my back on the program and the kids I had been building." "It was my work and I wanted to keep it."

Stoner has coached Butler to 29 tournament championships. He's coached 33 section champions and 174 WPIAL qualifiers. Yet his teams have never won a section championship nor ever produced a state champion.

"I'm honored that my win total ranks pretty high, but I've never considered myself among the best coaches in history around here," Stoner said. "The WPIAL has the best high school wrestling in the country. I firmly believe that. "I take pride in having a consistent, competitive program year after year. Of course, you always strive to get better and I'm still doing that."

His legacy is not lost among the wrestling fraternity. A number of Butler wrestlers have returned to the program over the years to help coach, whether it be at the varsity, junior high or elementary school levels. "Scott is simply a remarkable human being," former Butler wrestler and assistant coach T.J. McCance said. "He built this program. His hands are on it at every level, from elementary on up. "My son calls him Uncle Scott. I love that. Scott is now working on coaching an entirely new generation of wrestlers. He's not slowing down. Not at all. He's as passionate as ever."

Butler athletic director Bill Mylan was an assistant coach under Stoner for 13 years. "He's an ambassador for the sport," Mylan said. "He tirelessly promotes wrestling and he's my best friend in the world. Whenever he does give it up ... we're not going to find another Scott Stoner."

Butler Junior High coach Don Geibel is a former Golden Tornado wrestler who was a basketball player through eighth grade. He said Stoner recruited him for wrestling out of gym class his freshman year. "I didn't join the team until the following year," Geibel recalled. "I weighed all of 95 to 100 pounds. Some of my friends were wrestlers and I came on board. "I picked up his passion. I loved it. When he (Stoner) called me a few years later telling my he had an opening for a junior high coach, I was all in. It didn't take me long to pick up his passion for it."

Geibel pointed out that Butler faces plenty of obstacles in terms of section and WPIAL competition every year. "It's never easy," he said. "North Allegheny has won something like 28 section championships. It's hard to crack that. But Scott has built a community program this town can be proud of." McCance agreed, saying Stoner "has impacted hundreds of kids' lives through the years."

Seneca Valley wrestling coach Kevin Wildrick said he respects Stoner's longevity in the sport. "That program is his. He built it, he maintains it and he's growing it," Wildrick said. "You have to respect what Scott has accomplished there."

Including youth wrestling, Butler hosts six tournaments per year. "That's not just me. It takes a lot of people to run those events," Stoner said. "Former wrestlers, volunteers, parents of kids in the program, they all get involved. It's rewarding to see so many people pitching in to make those tournaments happen. That stuff helps keep me going."

"I see (former Butler wrestlers) Blake Caudill and Alex Evanoff, now 30 or so, come into our room, still willing to get on the mat with these kids. Fred Powell (Butler assistant and Stoner's former coach at Slippery Rock University) is still coaching in his 70's, showing kids things." "You surround yourself with people like that, it's easy to get immersed in this lifestyle," Stoner added.



Butler Places 5th in Tough Clearfield Tournament.

Butler placed fifth out of 16 teams Saturday at the Clearfield Duals, defeating four of the five teams it faced. There were 7 teams, including Butler, ranked in the top 20 in the state in their respective AA or AAA division competing in the tournament. While only having one loss to PIAA 4th place Benton, the loss in the pool style tournament dropped Butler back and only allowed the team to place as high as 5th. Butler lost 37-27 in that match. Benton placed 2nd in the tourney, losing a tight match to Clearfield in the finals.

Butler defeated General McLane 35-31, (PIAA Dist 10 Champion and PIAA State qualifier), Curwensville 42-24, Hempfield Area 39-26 and Canton (PIAA State AA Qualifier) 41-24. Matt Zinkhann, wrestling at 160 pounds, was the lone Butler wrestler to go 5-0. Finishing 4-1 for the Tornado were Kelley Schaukowitsch at 113 pounds, Kase Chopp at 126 and 132, Levi Donnel at 145 pounds and Jake Pomykata at heavyweight.

Falling short

Butler wrestling team bows to NA in section title match, 33-30

Derek Pyda - January 27, 2022



Butler wrestler Michael Kreinbucher battles North Allegheny's Tyler Magorian in the Section 3 team finals Wednesday night. Kreinbucher won the bout by pin, but the Golden Tornado were edged in the team score, 33-30. Nate Black/Special to the Eagle
By Derek Pyda - Eagle Staff Writer

WEXFORD — Leading 21-3 after five bouts, Butler's first-ever section championship in wrestling seemed well within its reach. But that's when North Allegheny gained

traction just in time. The Tigers won six of the final eight bouts — four of them by pin — to edge the Golden Tornado 33-30 for the Section 3-AAA crown Wednesday at North Allegheny High School.

A Butler victory would have not only earned for the Tornado their first section championship, but they would have achieved it by beating the Tigers for the very first time. "Not enough effort or energy from us tonight," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "You need to win as a team and we were flat." When Jake Pomykata pinned NA's Joe Booth at 285 pounds, Butler's lead was back to 18 points at 27-9. But Casey Walker began the Tigers' string of five straight wins when he won by decision at 106. However, NA didn't just need wins, it needed pins. Will Bentrin, Dylan Coy and Nathan Monteparte delivered them at 113, 126 and 132 pounds, respectively.

Monteparte's fall broke a 27-all tie and, in effect, ended Butler's hopes. Butler's Dom Vivirito won by decision in the match's final bout, but had he won by fall, NA would have still claimed the title on criteria (more wins, 7-6). Joining Pomykata in earning falls for Butler were Levi Donnel (145), Landon Christie (172) and Michael Kreinbucher (189).

“We knew NA was going to be tough based on the original lineup, but they were without two of their top wrestlers tonight, which really helped us out a lot,” said Stoner. “We just didn’t do enough work to get out on bottom. There were also some bouts where we got an early lead and ended up getting pinned.”

The Tornado reached the final by beating Pine-Richland, 42-30, in a semifinal earlier in the evening while NA took care of West Allegheny, 47-14. Tornado pins against the Rams came from Vivirito, Donnel, Cade Savochka (152), Christie, Kreinbacher and Pomykata.

Despite his team falling short, Pomykata appreciates the motivation he gets from team success. “It pushes you to get the win not just for yourself, but for the rest of the guys,” he said. “It gives you that extra boost, especially late in a bout when you’re tired.” Butler (11-2) will enter the WPIAL team tournament next Wednesday at a site to be determined. “For us, it will come down to getting bonus points when the opportunity is there,” Pomykata said. “And even in bouts that we lose, not getting pinned. I think we have a chance.”

Butler 42, Pine-Richland 30

106-Ana Malovich (B) won by forfeit; 113-Shane Simpson (PR) pinned Kelley Schaukowitsch, 5:00; 120-Dom Ferraro (PR) major dec. Gavin Rush, 11-0; 126-Rocco Campanella (PR) tech. fall Aiden Plopi, 17-0; 132-Anthony Ferraro (PR) pinned Kase Chopp, 2:31; 138-Dom Vivirito (B) pinned Rowan Foster, 1:43; 145-Levi Donnel (B) pinned Nick DeRenzo, 1:22; 152-Cade Savochka (B) pinned Jared Hall, :40; 160-Jacob Lukez (PR) dec. Matt Zinkhann, 5-4; 172-Landon Christie (B) pinned Angelo Samuels, 1:54; 189-Michael Kreinbacher (B) pinned Cole Wilson, 1:57; 215-Dante Cruz (PR) pinned Braylon May, 3:12; 285-Jacob Pomykata (B) pinned Joey Schneck, 5:24

North Allegheny 33, Butler 30

106-Casey Walker (NA) dec. Ana Malovich, 6-0; 113-Will Bentrim (NA) pinned Kelley Schaukowitsch, 2:48; 120-Sam Horton (NA) dec. Gavin Rush, 9-6; 126-Dylan Coy (NA) pinned Aiden Plopi, :12; 132-Nathan Monteparte (NA) pinned Kase Chopp, 1:25; 138-Dom Vivirito (B) dec. Jayson Flener, 6-4 (OT); 145-Levi Donnel (B) pinned Krist Vizcarra, 2:39; 152-Cade Savochka (B) dec. Kellen Buggy, 11-5; 160-AJ Rohan (NA) dec. Matt Zinkhann, 4-0; 172-Landon Christie (B) pinned Anthony Spivak, :51; 189-Michael Kreinbacher (B) pinned Tyler Magorien, 1:43; 215-Aidan Buggy (NA) pinned Braylon May, :15; 285-Jacob Pomykata (B) pinned Joe Booth, 1:31



Butler wrestling falls in WPIAL tourney

February 04, 2022

After a dominating 1st round of the WPIAL Wrestling Team Championships in which Butler defeated Armstrong 49-18, Butler moved to the ¼ final round to face the WPIAL #2 ranked Greater Latrobe Wildcats. Latrobe entered the night's competition ranked the #4 ranked AAA team in Pennsylvania. Two key matchups occurred at 126 and 38 where Butler freshman Kase Chopp, and Butler senior Dom Vivirito put their opponents on their backs and in danger early. "The outcome of the dual would have gone our way if we were able to put those opponents away by securing falls." Stoner said. Chopp went on to secure a win, and Vivirito battled but gave up a fall. "I thought we wrestled with desire and intensity and that created a lot of respect and concern from the Latrobe bench for sure." Butler competed with Latrobe throughout the match keeping it close to in the WPIAL Class 3A quarterfinal, but three falls in the final four bouts earned for the host Wildcats a 39-26 victory. Landon Christie and Jake Pomykata earned pins for the Golden Tornado against Latrobe at 189 and 285 pounds, respectively.

Butler 49, Armstrong 18

106-Ana Malovich (B) tech. fall Maganotti, 15-0; **113**-Kelley Schaukowitzsch (B) dec. A.Formaini, 11-5; **120**-Gavin Rush (B) pinned M.Formaini, 2:41; **126**-Kase Chopp (B) pinned J.Jacobs, 3:18; **132**-Learn (A) dec. Legend Wilkinson, 5-3; **138**-Domenic Vivirito (B) pinned Totin, 1:56; **145**-Levi Donnel (B) pinned Craig, 3:10; **152**-Kinzey (A) pinned Cade Savochka, 3:53; **160**-Matt Zinkhann (B) tech. fall Sekscinski, 16-0; **172**-C.Jacobs (A) major dec. Mickey Kreinbucher, 9-0; **189**-Landon Christie (B) pinned Zablocki, 1:26; **215**-Johnston (A) pinned Braylon May, 1:54; **Hwt.**-Jake Pomykata (B) pinned Petrosky, :52

Latrobe 39, Butler 26

106-Willochell (L) pinned Ana Malovich, :27; **113**-Joseph (L) pinned Kelley Schaukowitzsch, 2:32; **120**-Kilkeary (L) pinned Gavin Rush, 2:26; **126**-Kase Chopp (B) dec. J.Braun, 10-6; **132**-Legend Wilkinson (B) dec. L.Braun, 4-2; **138**-Roth (L) pinned Domenic Vivirito, 5:53; **145**-Levi Donnel (B) tech. fall Golden, 16-1; **152**-Pletcher (L) pinned Cade Savochka, :47; **160**-Schmucker (L) dec. Matt Zinkhann, 4-2; **172**-Mickey Kreinbucher (B) dec. Snyder, 5-2; **189**-Landon Christie (B) pinned Lynch, 3:20; **215**-Boerio (L) pinned Braylon May, :18; **Hwt.**-Jake Pomykata (B) pinned Bailey, :57



Senior Night success on the mat

Butler wrestlers close home schedule with 51-19 win over South Fayette

John Enrietto - February 11, 2022

BUTLER TWP — The match started in a favorable spot for Butler — and the Golden Tornado took advantage. Levi Donnel scored a technical fall at 145 pounds, Cade Savochka, Matt Zinkhann, Mickey Kreinbucher and Landon Christie followed with pins, and Butler had a 29-0 lead en route to a 51-29 dual match wrestling win over South Fayette Thursday night. The victory closed out the Golden Tornado's home schedule. Butler honored seniors Matt Kovocovsky, Domenic Vivirito, Cooper Baxter, Jake Pomykata and Savochka before the match.

"The match started in a good place for them, not for us," South Fayette coach Rick Chussard said. "Our strengths are 113 (pounds) through 145. They just overpowered us early." Only two of Butler's five seniors wrestled in the match. Kovocovsky is not in the regular lineup, Baxter (5-1) has missed most of the season with a shoulder injury sustained early in the campaign. Pomykata (21-4) won by forfeit at heavyweight.

"Jake's not the best athlete, but he knows his strengths on the mat," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "He stays within his wheelhouse and does well. We don't hesitate to start Jake on top in close matches. We trust his skill-set there."

Savochka improved to 16-15 with his pin, which occurred with 49 seconds left in the 152-pound match. It was his eighth fall of the season. Savochka has been in the Butler wrestling program since first grade. "It was very important for me to win on this night," he said. "I love the competition in this sport. My goal is to get to 20 wins this season."

The Tornado (17-4) have seven 20-win wrestlers so far this season. They include Ana Malovich at 106 pounds, Gavin Rush at 120, Vivirito at 138, Levi Donnel at 145, Zinkhann at 160, Mickey Kreinbucher at 172 and Pomykata. Four others — Savochka, Kelly Schaukowitz (19 wins), Kase Chopp (19) and Landon Christie (17) — are on the verge of getting there.

Baxter, with 90 wins in his varsity career and a third-place finisher at the WPIAL tournament last season, certainly would have reached 100 wins had he stayed healthy. "Cooper would have made a difference in some of our close losses this year," Stoner said. "But Landon has gotten a lot more action in Cooper's absence and has really developed as a wrestler."

Vivirito (22-9) closed the dual Wednesday with a 15-3 major decision. He has 13 pins on the year after getting 14 last year. He has 69 wins in his varsity career. "I hate going last," Vivirito said of being Butler's final wrestler on the mat. "It wasn't the case tonight, but sometimes a dual can come down to that last match. Still, I really wanted to win this one, my last match at home."

Vivirito's career highlight was going 6-0 at the Virginia Duals this season. "I almost pinned every kid I faced," he said. "That was a fun weekend."

South Fayette fell to 3-4 with the loss. The Lions forfeited to Malovich at 106 pounds in a surprise move, bumping Allen Timco up to 113 to face Schaukowitsch. "Our regular 113-pounder is in COVID-19 protocol and we don't have any backups," Chussard said. "Our only chance there was to try to catch their 113-pound kid by surprise, thinking he didn't have a match." Schaukowitsch pinned Timko in 21 seconds.

Wednesday's win was the 410th dual match victory of Stoner's career. Butler travels to Indiana Friday night.

Butler 51, South Fayette 19

106-Ana Malovich (B) by forfeit; 113-Kelley Schaukowitsch (B) pinned Allen Timko, :21; 120-James Anderson (SF) tech. fall over Gavin Rush, 19-4 (5:59); 126-Jon Baiano (SF) dec. Kase Chopp, 16-8; 132-Domenic Oliastro (SF) dec. Legend Wilkinson, 9-1; 138-Domenic Vivirito (B) dec. Cohlman Carpenter, 15-3; 145-Levi Donnel (B) tech. fall over Talen Mizenko, 16-0 (3:48); 152-Cade Savochka (B) pinned Dominic Diagiaco, 5:11; 160-Matt Zinkhann (B) pinned Travis Watkins, 1:02; 172-Mickey Kreinbacher (B) pinned Landen Schweinberg, :43; 189-Landon Christie (B) pinned Aiden Lockett, 1:54; 215-Anthony Oliastro (SF) pinned Braylon May, 1:19; Hwt.-Jake Pomykata (B) by forfeit



Butler wrestling closes with wins

Golden Tornado go 19-4 in regular season

February 17, 2022

After a non-section road win last week versus Indian 57-15 Butler (#6 ranked) closed out the dual meet season with a win against AAA (#10 ranked) Bethel Park 52-20. Wins for the Golden Tornado versus Bethel Park came from Ana Malovich at 106 pounds, Kelley Schaukowitsch at 113, Dom Vivirito at 138, Landon Christie at 172, Mickey Kreinbacher at 189, Braylon May at 215 and Jacob Pomykata at heavyweight all scored pins for the Golden Tornado. Gavin Rush at 120 and Kase Chopp at 126 were all victorious for Butler (19-4).

The Tornado will compete in the individual section championships Feb. 26 at North Allegheny. The top four placers in each weight class will advance to the WPIAL Championships.

Every matman for himself

Section 3-AAA wrestlers battling for WPIAL tourney berths.

John Enrietto - February 25, 2022



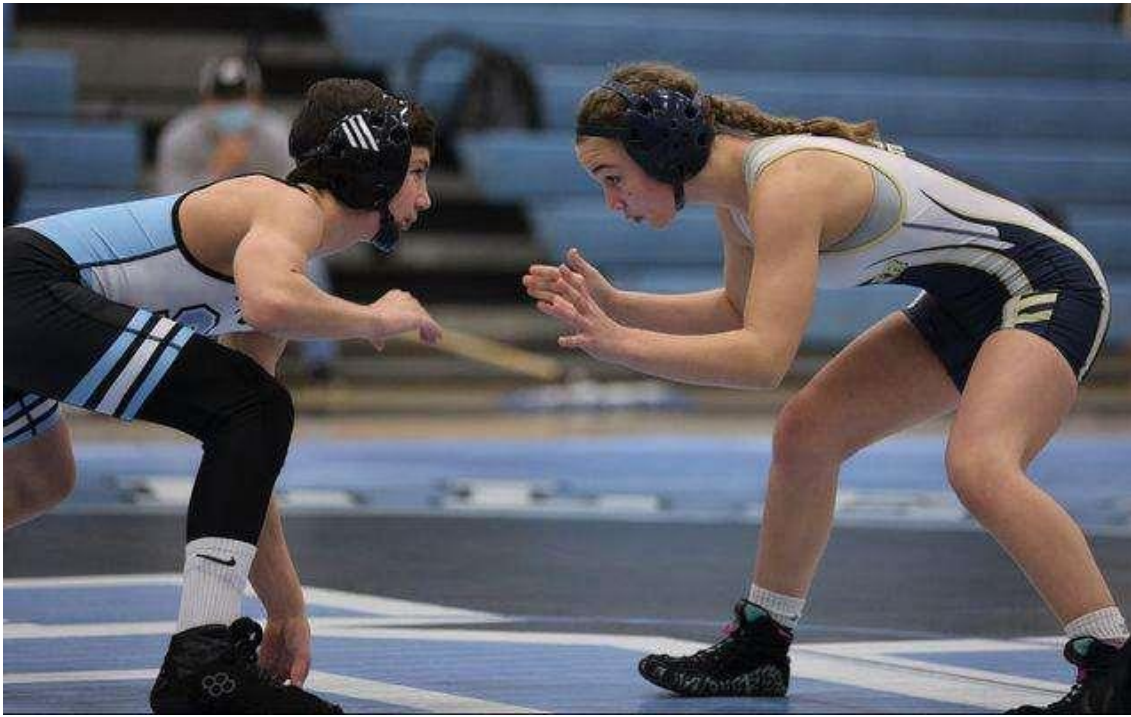
Butler wrestler Landon Christie, battling Pine-Richland's Angelo Samuels here, is seeded No. 1 at 189 points in Saturday's Section 3-AAA tournament. Butler Eagle File Photo

The team season is over. It's time to survive. Such is the mindset 29 wrestlers from Butler, Seneca Valley and Mars will take Saturday as the Section 3-AAA individual tournament takes place at North Allegheny. The top five placers in each weight class will advance to the WPIAL Championships the

following weekend at Canon-McMillan.

"Some weight classes only have six kids or so," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "But that can be deceiving. At 106 pounds, for example, there's only six wrestlers in this tournament, but it's a strong group." The Golden Tornado have 12 wrestlers in the section tourney. Dom Vivirito (23-9) is seeded No. 1 at 138 pounds, Landon Christie (22-10) No. 1 at 189 and Jake Pomykata (23-4) No. 1 at heavyweight. No. 2 seeds for Butler are Levi Donnel (29-2) at 145 and Mickey Kreinbucher (27-7) at 172.

Butler's other seven wrestlers are Ana Malovich (22-8) at 106, Kelley Schaukowitsch (20-11) at 113, Gavin Rush (22-13) at 120, Kase Chopp (21-10) at 126, Legend Wilkinson (5-11) at 132, Cade Savochnka (18-15) at 152 and Matt Zinkhann (24-10) at 160.



Seneca Valley's Connor Smith, left, taking on Butler's Ana Malovich here, is seeded No. 1 at 106 pounds in the section tournament. Butler Eagle File Photo

"I'd love to get them all through," Stoner said.

"Ten would be a solid number ... I don't know. At this time of year, a lot of this comes down to desire, how badly you want to move on and extend your season. Everyone's been going hard for two hours plus a day since before Thanksgiving. How badly do kids still want to go out there and get after it for themselves?"

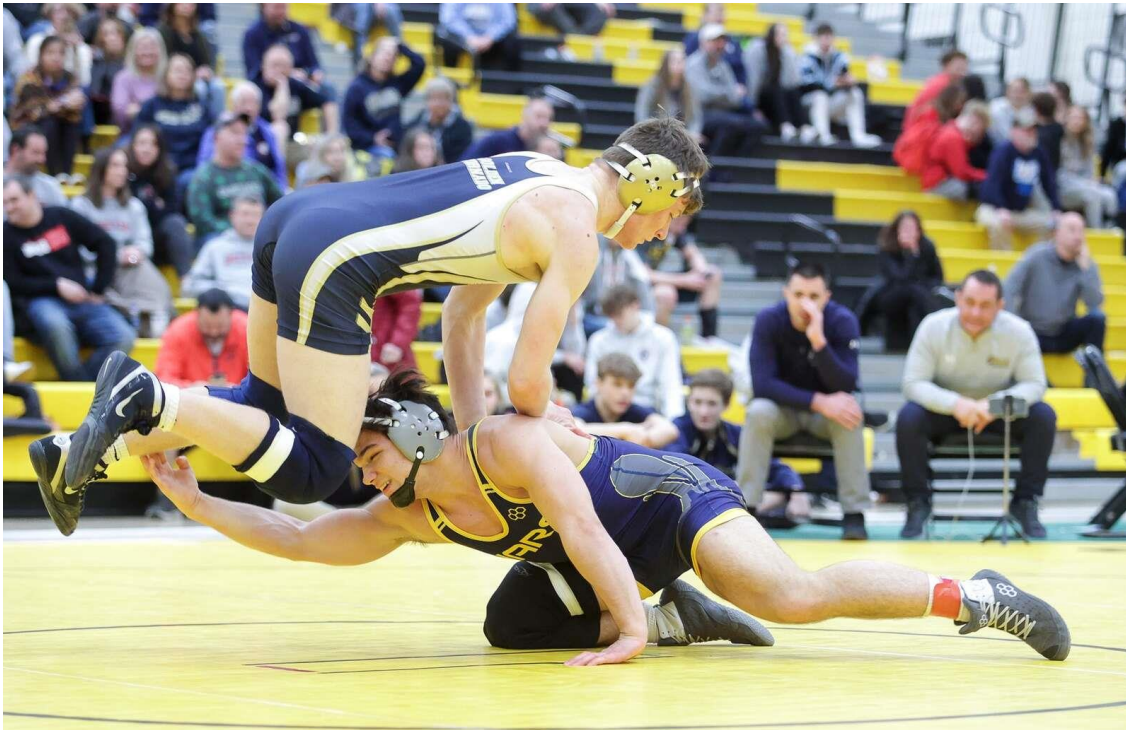
"Dom's run to a section title is very doable. Jake will likely have a tough match in the finals. Landon has been quite a story at 189. He got a lot more varsity time this season with Cooper (Baxter) being out and he's taken advantage of it."

Donnel is a No. 2 seed despite his 29-2 record because he lost during the season to West Allegheny's Ty Watters, who sports a 26-2 record.

Memorable day on mats

Butler qualifies 12 of 12 for WPIAL wrestling Tournament

John Enrietto - February 28, 2022



Mars wrestler Christian Scheller goes for a takedown of Butler's Mickey Kreinbucher in the 172-pound WPIAL Section 3-AAA wrestling finals at North Allegheny Saturday. Scheller won the match, 12-2.

WEXFORD — Combining for five individual champions at the Section 3-AAA Championships Saturday at North Allegheny, Butler, Seneca Valley and Mars advanced 20 wrestlers to this weekend's WPIAL Class 3A Championships.

A dozen of those belong to the Golden Tornado, including 138-pound champion Domenic Vivirito. The senior claimed his first-ever section crown. "I've been working the last four years for this," Vivirito said. "It was pretty emotional for me out there. Seeing all the people who came to this tournament to support me ... I started crying." Vivirito improved to 26-9 on the season. His first match, against Beaver's Nick Thompson, didn't start the way he would have liked. "I got taken down early by the eighth-seeded kid," Vivirito said. "I guess I was a little nervous at the start and he caught me. But I got it together after that."

Vivirito was not scored upon the rest of the day. He wound up pinning Thompson 25 seconds into the second period, then pinned Pine-Richland's Rowan Foster in 40 seconds before winning the title by a 5-0 decision over North Allegheny's Jason Flener.

Four other Golden Tornado wrestlers — Levi Donnel at 145, Mickey Kreinbucher at 172, Landon Christie at 189 and Jake Pomykata at heavyweight — lost in the finals. "That last round was

disappointing overall,” Butler coach Scott Stoner admitted “But we did get five kids to the finals and all 12 of our guys qualified for the WPIAL. We’ve never qualified every wrestler from the section tournament before. “Yeah, I’ll be busy next weekend (at Canon-McMillan for WPIAL tourney), but as long as I’m going, I may as well be working.”

The top five placers in each weight class qualified for the WPIAL tourney. Other Butler WPIAL qualifiers are third-place Kase Chopp at 126 and Cade Savochka at 152, fourth-place Ana Malovich at 106, Kelley Schaukowitsch at 113 and Matt Zinkhann at 160, fifth-place Legend Wilkinson at 132.

Wilkinson entered the tourney as the ninth-seed with a 5-11 record. “It’s just as important for Legend to finish fifth as it was for Dom to finish first,” Stoner said. “I’m proud of both of those guys. All of our kids did what they had to do. Our next goal is to get them all a win at the WPIAL Tournament.”

While Seneca Valley had three section champions, the Raiders only qualified one other wrestler. Manuel Santos took fourth place at 172 pounds. “Having three section champs is nice, but we were hoping to qualify a few more kids,” SV coach Kevin Wildrick said. “We had some standout performances and I think we can fare well next weekend.”

Smith scored a technical fall over Malovich in the semifinals at 106 and pinned Casey Welker of North Allegheny in 1:40 of the championship match. Chappell made quick work of his opponents at 113, pinning Caiden Herbert of West Allegheny in 44 seconds and NA’s Will Bentrin in 1:38.

Volk-Klos stayed unbeaten at 215 by pinning Andrew Szymczak in 3:48 and decisioning Aiden Buggy of North Allegheny, 7-5, in the finals. “I got a takedown early in the third period and was able to ride him out,” Volk-Klos said of his final match. “I’d had success against Buggy before. I just had to wrestle a smart match.” Volk-Klos has been wrestling with a torn meniscus and missed the first three weeks of the season. “I’m not having any trouble with it,” he said of the knee. “I was always confident I’d be strong and competitive enough once I got back. My goal is to medal at the state tournament. I can’t do that if I’m worrying about my knee.”

Mars senior Scheller captured his first section title while wrestling with a torn ACL. He missed nearly half of this season while rehabbing and strengthening his knee.

The WPIAL tourney is Friday and Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School.

WPIAL Section 3-AAA Finals

106-Connor Smith (Seneca Valley) pinned Casey Walker (North Allegheny), 1:40; **113**-Tyler Chappell (Seneca Valley) pinned Will Bintrim (North Allegheny), 1:38; **120**-Dominic Ferraro (Pine-Richland) pinned Tyler Zubryd (Moon), 3:24; **126**-Dylan Coy (North Allegheny) dec. Anthony Ferraro (Pine-Richland), 8-4; **132**-Khyvon Grace (Moon) dec. Nathan Monteparte (North Allegheny), 3-1; **138**-Domenic Vivirito (Butler) dec. Jason Flener (North Allegheny), 5-0; **145**-Ty Watters (West Allegheny) dec. Levi Donnel (Butler), 6-1; **152**-Kelvin Laffey (Pine-Richland) dec. Nico Taddy (West Allegheny), 7-1; **160**-Shawn Taylor (West Allegheny) dec. Adam Rohan (North Allegheny), 5-2; **172**-Christian Scheller (Mars) dec. Mickey Kreinbacher (Butler), 12-2; **189**-Matt Serwatka (North Hills) pinned Landon Christie (Butler), 1:58; **215**-Liam Volk-Klos (Seneca Valley) dec. Aidan Buggy (North Allegheny), 7-5; **Hwt.**-Joey Schneck (Pine-Richland) pinned Jake Pomykata (Butler), 5:29

Butler Eagle

Stating cases for states

Butler, Seneca Valley, wrestlers look to get through WPIAL Tournament

John Enrietto - March 03, 2022



Butler wrestler Levi Donnel is tied up by West Allegheny wrestler Ty Watters during their Section 3-AAA championship match last weekend. Nate Black/Special to the Eagle

Get into the top four, get to Hershey. That is the mindset for 20 Butler County wrestlers as the WPIAL Class 3A Tournament takes place Friday and Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School. The top four placers in each weight class advance to the state tournament the following weekend.

“It’s a big event and a big stage,”

Butler coach Scott Stoner said of the WPIAL tourney. “We’ve got two freshmen and two sophomores among our (12) kids heading down there. Getting a chance to experience this tournament as a younger wrestler definitely helps in the development for next year.”

The Golden Tornado have four seeded wrestlers. Levi Donnel (30-3) is seeded fourth at 145 pounds, Mickey Kreinbucher (29-8) sixth at 172, Jake Pomykata (25-5) sixth at heavyweight and section champion Domenic Vivirito (26-9) eighth at 138. Donnel, Kreinbucher and Pomykata were all runner-ups in the section tourney.



Mars senior Christian Scheller, center, stands atop the podium after winning the Section 3-AAA title at 172 pounds. Butler's Mickey Kreinbucher, second from left, finished second and Seneca Valley's Manuel Santos, far left, was fourth. Nate Black/Special to Eagle

“Dom’s seed is a little low for a section champion, but the WPIAL weighs a lot of things in its seeding process,” Stoner said. “Two returning state-placers may have to face each other in section,

things like that. Dom does have a couple of bad losses this year and that factors into the seeding. “Levi has our best won-loss record, but he lost twice to the No. 1 seed (Ty Watters of West Allegheny) this year and his other loss is to the third-seeded kid. He’s seeded about where we figured.”

Pomykata lost to Joey Schneck of Pine-Richland in the section finals. Schneck wound up with the No. 4 seed at the WPIAL tourney. “If Jake wins that (section final), he’s probably seeded third or fourth right now,” Stoner said. “He has beaten the Pine-Richland kid this season, so he’s certainly capable of getting through this bracket.”

The tournament gets underway with pigtail and preliminary round matches at 5 p.m. Friday. Quarterfinals and first-round consolations are at 7:30 p.m. Action resumes Saturday with second-round consolations at 10 a.m., semifinals and third-round consolations at 11:30 a.m., fourth-round consolations at 1:30 p.m. The consolation and championship finals begin at 4 p.m.

WPIAL 3A Tournament Preliminary and 1st round matches

Opening Matches (number indicates seeds)

106 pounds-Ana Malovich (Butler) vs. Tanner Mizenko (Canon-McMillan); 4-Connor Smith (Seneca Valley) vs. Charlie Colantonio (Central Catholic) **113-1**-Tyler Chappell (Seneca Valley), bye; Kelley Schaukowitsch (Butler) vs. Nico Sarnic (Franklin Regional) **120**-Gavin Rush (Butler) vs. James Anderson (South Fayette) **126**-Liam Hein (Mars) vs. Aden Stout (Bethel Park); Kase Chopp (Butler) vs. 6-Hayden Coy (Penn-Trafford) **132**-Legend Wilkinson (Butler) vs. A.J. McGarrity (Peters Township) **138**-8-Domenic Vivirito (Butler) vs. Logan Bechtold (Kiski Area) **145**-4-Levi Donnel (Butler), bye; Jaden Fotta (Mars) vs. Cordan McDonnell (Bethel Park) **152**-Cade Savochka (Butler) vs. 6-Mark Gray (Kiski Area) **160**-Matt Zinkhann (Butler) vs. Austin Hoffman (Belle Vernon) **172**-Manuel Santos (Seneca Valley) vs. Ty Shields (Upper St. Clair); 4-Christian Scheller (Mars), bye; 6-Mickey Kreinbucher (Butler) vs. Trevor Katz (Fox Chapel) **189**-Landon Christie (Butler) vs. George Shultz (Connellsville) **285**-Riley Lefcakis (Mars) vs. Zachary Werner (McKeesport); 6-Jake Pomykata (Butler) vs. Tyler Gallis (Connellsville)

Pomykata, joins PIAA wrestling tourney

John Enrietto - March 07, 2022



Butler senior heavyweight Jake Pomykata placed fourth at the WPIAL Class 3A Wrestling Championships Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School, earning himself a berth in the state tournament.

CANONSBURG — From fighting for the finals to fighting for your season. Butler heavyweight Jake Pomykata and Seneca Valley 215-pounder Liam Volk-Klos experienced that scenario during the WPIAL Class 3A Wrestling Championships Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School. Both survived and earned berths in this

weekend's state tournament in Hershey.

Pomykata dropped a 6-3 decision in the semifinal round while Volk-Klos took his first loss of the season, getting pinned with one second left in the second period of his semifinal bout. Those losses threw both wrestlers into fourth-round consolation bouts. Neither Pomykata nor Volk-Klos had any problem getting there. Volk-Klos dominated Chartier's Valley's Joshua Sarasnick, winning by a 10-2 decision. Pomykata had to get through Pine-Richland's Joey Schneck, who pinned him in the section finals.

Pomykata got revenge, putting Schneck's shoulders to the mat just 20 seconds into the second period. "Jake pulled off a swim move to the back of his (Schneck's) head," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "You just don't see heavyweights do that move. That was very unexpected, very reactionary. "I'm thrilled for Jake. He's one of the most complete individuals I've ever coached. He plays football. He plays in the band. He carries a 4.4 grade point average and will be going to Johns Hopkins. He's on my Wall of Fame for the rest of my life."

Pomykata (28-7) said his goal was to find a way to get to the state tourney. "Only the best in the state go there and I wanted to be among the elite," he said. "I had to learn from my last match against (Schneck). I beat him earlier in the season before that match. I knew if I could take him

down, he'd pick his head up and that swim move would be a way I could get him. "I didn't land the cradle, but I got enough of it."

Butler 145-pounder Levi Donnel dropped a 7-3 decision to nemesis Ty Watters of West Allegheny — his third loss to Watters this season — in the semifinals. Donnel's stellar season ended at 32-5 when he was pinned by Highlands' Jake Burford 53 seconds into their fourth-round consolation match. "That was a tough one," Stoner said. "Levi just got in a little too deep and the kid chin-lifted him. Levi had never wrestled him before. It's just something he'll have to learn from."

Kreinbucher finished his season with a 32-11 record. "He was around .500 last year and to return for his junior year and put together a 30-win season through plain hard work ... He's a great story," Stoner said of Kreinbucher. Stoner received the WPIAL Class 3A Coach of the Year Award prior to the championship round.

WPIAL WRESTLING RESULTS

Consolation Finals

285 pounds-Stone Joseph (Kiski Area) pinned Jake Pomykata (Butler), 1:46

5th-6th Place

145 pounds-Levi Donnel (Butler) dec. Nate Jones (Waynesburg), 9-1

172 pounds-Christian Scheller (Mars) dec. Mickey Kreinbucher (Butler), 12-5

Semifinals

145 pounds-Ty Watters (West Allegheny) dec. Levi Donnel (Butler), 7-3

285 pounds-Noah Tustin (Waynesburg) dec. Jake Pomykata (Butler), 6-3

4th-Round Consolations

145 pounds-Jake Burford (Highlands) pinned Levi Donnel (Butler), :53

172 pounds-Connor Jacobs (Armstrong) dec. Mickey Kreinbucher (Butler), 6-0; Logan Hoffman (Belle Vernon) pinned Christian Scheller (Mars), 2:08

285 pounds-Jake Pomykata (Butler) pinned Joey Schneck (Pine-Richland), 1:20

Butler's Stoner WPIAL Wrestling Coach of Year

29-year veteran mat mentor completing memorable season

John Enrietto - March 09, 2022



Scott Stoner displays his WPIAL Wrestling Coach of the Year award. John Enrietto/Butler Eagle

CANONSBURG — Consistency, passion, desire — all of those words have been used to describe Scott Stoner's career as wrestling coach at Butler. Now in his 29th year with the Golden Tornado, Stoner has put together one of his most memorable seasons in 2021-22. He secured his 400th career dual match victory. He sent all 12 of his section qualifiers on to the WPIAL Tournament.

And he was named WPIAL Class 3A Coach of the Year prior to the district tournament's championship round Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School. "It's been a good year," Stoner said. "We had good showings at the Clearfield Tournament and Virginia Duals, we won the Chariters Houston Tournament (28 Teams) and the Southmoreland Hokiday Classic (29 Teams). We qualified all 12 of our weights down here (at WPIAL tourney)

... Our body of work has been solid."

The Coach of the Year honor is voted upon by WPIAL wrestling coaches. Each section votes for its respective Coach of the Year, Stoner won Section 3. Those winners are then voted upon by the entire district for the overall WPIAL Coach of the Year honor. "The fact it's voted on by the other coaches, really means a lot," Stoner said. "I haven't accomplished some things that other coaches in the WPIAL have, but we've built a strong program over the years and have been consistent.

“Our wrestlers have come back to help coach and we’ve developed the sport in the community at the youth level. That’s far from just me. A lot of people deserve credit for that.” One of the former Tornado wrestlers to return to the program is Alex Evanoff. Alex is an assistant coach who has been back with the team for four seasons now. Alex was a standout wrestler at Butler compiling over 100 career victories before having an equally successful wrestling career at Waynesburg.

“It’s the consistency of the program that impresses me,” Evanoff said. “Since I wrestled for Coach Stoner, I was gone about 10 years. I came back and the program is still run the same way. Nothing’s really changed and that’s a good thing. “He models consistency day after day. He sinks a lot of time into every wrestler on the team.”

Retired Slippery Rock University wrestling coach and Butler County Area Sports Hall of Famer Fred Powell coached Stoner at SRU. He’s been a member of Stoner’s staff at Butler for 12 years now. “Scott was always intense as a wrestler and a little reckless at times,” Powell said. “He was highly competitive then and he’s highly competitive now. He became a technician on the mat and that’s spilled over into his coaching.”

Powell said he respects the way Stoner has grown the sport of wrestling in Butler. “The work he’s put into the junior high and elementary programs speak for itself,” he said. “Now he’s got the Legacy (Wrestling) Club started up. Wrestling has grown in the Butler community and Scott is primarily responsible for that.”

Stoner said he and Butler wrestling “still have work to do.” “The day I leave, I want Butler wrestling to carry on,” he added. “I want to make sure it’s in a position to do that for the next coach.”

Stoner’s work isn’t done this season. Butler heavyweight Jake Pomykata is competing in the PIAA Tournament this weekend. Seneca Valley 113-pounder Tyler Chappell and 215-pounder Liam Volk-Klos will be in Hershey as well.



SV wrestlers place at PIAA tourney

Volk-Klos, Chappell claim 5th, 7th, in respective weight classes

[John Enrietto - March 14, 2022](#)

HERSHEY — Seneca Valley wrestlers Liam Vol-Klos and Tyler Chappell placed in their respective weight classes Saturday during the WPIAL Class AAA Championships at the Giant Center.

Volk-Klos (25-4) placed fifth at 215 pounds while Chappell (36-6) took seventh place at 113. Chappell was the highest WPIAL finisher in his weight class.

Butler heavyweight Jake Pomykata was eliminated from the tournament Friday, but went 2-2 in Hershey to end his season at 30-9. Pomykata was knocked out of the tourney by an 8-4 loss to Clearfield's Oliver Billotte in consolations. Billotte wound up placing fourth.

"That kid was probably six inches taller than Jake," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "He was a lanky, athletic heavyweight and was a tough matchup for him. But Jake hung in and fought him hard.

"We didn't get the draw out here we would have preferred. Jake definitely showed that he belonged. He wrestled a very competitive tournament.

One of Pomykata's state tourney wins was a 3-1 decision of Kiski Area's Stone Joseph, who beat him at the WPIAL tourney.

Pomykata carries a 4.4 grade point average, plays football and is a thrower on the Butler track and field team, and played in the high school's marching band.

"He's just an incredible person," Stoner said. "Jake is a role model to everybody, the way he runs his life. I've enjoyed coaching him."

Hats off to 2 top coaches

March 22, 2022

How important are the coaches of high school sports teams? Recent announcements of coaching being given state and national awards have given us pause to consider the role the coaches play in our student-athletes' lives. Wrestling coach Scott Stoner and track coach Mike Seybert, each of Butler Area High School, have been honored by their associates across the state for their talents this year. As persons who know them, they each deflected attention to include the staffs, as well as the athletes in earning the award.

Of course no one expected them to say, "I would win it every year if I had better players." But these two guys are sincere humble men. It has been our blessing to observe them for many years without having a child on either of the squads they coach.

During the almost two decades that our children attended Butler schools and participated in activities, ranging from choir and theater to cheerleading and basketball, we had more than a hundred conversations that Coach Seybert would almost always initiate. Always calling us Mr., although sometimes with an abbreviated nickname following, we would get the question: How are the girls? He always took the time to engage in a conversation about them and to remind us that in his opinion they were great kids.

Remember, they did not participate on his squads. Coach Stoner, too, always showed interest in the girls' lives, even though not only did they not wrestle, there were no female wrestlers at Butler High at that time. Yet one of those girls, to this day, would tell you she thought he was a great role model and supporter of everything she and her friends did.

Coaching, like teaching, gets harder all the time. These guys have been at it a long time and been very successful from the start, and right up to today. Their dedication and commitment to helping all kids succeed is both evident and remarkable. Through good seasons and bad they have held up their responsibility to the school district and the students. We want to stress that it is not just their athletes but every kid that matters to them.

Many people question why a coach takes on such a grueling job. It certainly isn't for the money. It certainly isn't because they wouldn't rather be home. These men are touching lives in a very special way and you can see the satisfaction they get when a student passes by and offers a "Hi Coach." That little "Hi Coach" means thank you. We hope that Coach Seybert and Coach Stoner know how much they are appreciated. When you see them, will you please tell them so? A simple "Hi Coach" will do.

— RV



2021-22 WPIAL AAA Individual Qualifiers

Front L-R: Coach Caudill, Ana Malovich, Kase Chopp, Domenic Vivirito, Legend Wilkinson, Gavin Rush, Kelley Schaukowitz, Coach McMaster.
Back Row L-R: Coach Stoner, Cade Savochka, Matt Zinkhann, Mickey Kreinbacher, Jacob Pomykata, Landon Christie, Levi Donnel, Coach Evanoff, and Coach Powell.





A well-deserved congratulations goes out to both the junior high and varsity GT Wrestling Teams, coaches, parents, and particularly the seniors, on a great season! Here are some this year's team & individual highlights.

VARSITY TEAM – 19 Wins – 4 Losses (82.61%)

1st Chartiers Houston Tournament - 29 Teams

1st Southmoreland Holiday Classic – 28 Teams

3rd Virginia Duals – 16 Teams – 6 Wins - 1 Loss

5th Clearfield Duals – 16 Teams – 4 Wins 1 Loss

2nd Place Section 3 AAA - #6 in AAA WPIAL

The varsity program & Coach Stoner each reach their 400 career win marks!

WPIAL's!

JUNIOR HIGH TEAM – 15 Wins – 1 Loss (93.75%)

1st - South Fayette Tournament – 28 Teams

1st Seneca Valley Duals – 5 Wins – 0 Losses

2nd Butler JC Smith Duals – 4 Wins – 1 Loss

2nd North Allegheny Tournament – 2nd - 27 Teams

7th WPIAL District Tournament – 50 Teams

Coach Geibel reaches the 200 win mark in his career.

Santino Sloboda & Diamond Cantera win

The Butler Wrestling Program was established in 1991. The program has approximately 75 elementary, 30 junior high, and 25 varsity wrestlers on the mats in Butler!

2021-2022 BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO VARSITY WRESTLING



Front Row Seated L-R: Bailee Kauffman-Stats, Kelley Schaukowsch, Brycen Seth, Kase Chopp, Aiden Plopi, Gavin Rush, Ana Malovich, Skylar Rhodes-Stats.

Second Row Kneeling L-R: Coach Nate McMasters, Dawson Davis, Braylon May, Jeff Wood, Domenic Vivirito, Levi Donnel, Matt McCombs, Garret Walsh, Mark Kovocovsky, Owen Davis, Coach Blake Caudill.

Back Row Standing L-R: Coach Scott Stoner, Cade Savochka, Ethan Babay, Mickey Kreinbucher, Jacob Pomykata, Matt Zinkhann, Landon Christie, Legend Wilkinson, Nicanor Andrada, Coach Alex Evanoff, Coach Fred Powell.

Missing from Photo: Evan Camissa, Cooper Baxter and Trainer Holley Forbes.