

## Reload, not rebuild

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler's Zach Reges (left) wrestles Chad McDade of Mars in a 125-pound match last season. Reges can reach 100 wins for his career with 28 this season.

Eagle File Photo

Butler rebuilds no more.

Despite graduating 10 seniors from last year's 24-5 team that sent 12 wrestlers to the WPIAL Tournament, the Golden Tornado wrestling team has reloaded and is ready for more.

"Maybe we don't have the kind of power throughout the lineup like last year, but we have several weight classes where we're pretty

deep," veteran coach Scott Stoner said.

Two Butler wrestlers — seniors Zach Reges at 132 pounds and Dakota Collins at 160 — have a shot at reaching the 100-win plateau this season. Reges needs 28 wins, Collins needs 19. Cole Baxter and Mike Crawford are now freshman wrestlers at Kent State University and Eric Tuck is likewise at Waynesburg.

"Some first-time guys in our lineup posted impressive records at the junior high level," Stoner said. "It's up to our coaching to make them develop into highly competitive wrestlers at this level."

Two teams — Mars and Seneca Valley — have new coaches this season. Ray Machusko was an assistant under Don Cooley for five years at Mars and takes over this season as Cooley left the area.

Kevin Wildrick, an assistant at WPIAL power North Allegheny the past seven years, replaces Tom Tomeo at Seneca Valley. Tomeo resigned and is running his own wrestling camps.

Here is a look at area wrestling teams this season:

## **Butler**

**Coach:** Scott Stoner

**Season:** 19th

**Prospective Lineup:** 106-Connor Foust (Fr.), 113-Blake Caudill (Jr.) 26-8, 120-Korey Caudill (Jr.) 22-10, 126-Nick Sutton (Sr.) 8-7, 132-Zach Reges (Sr.) 29-11, 138-Jesse Spohn (Sr.) 24-15, 145-Doug DeFrancisis (Jr.) 11-5, 152-Grant Ferrari (Jr.) 1-0 or Zach Raible (So.), 160-Dakoda Collins (Sr.) 32-10, 170-Will Bortmas (So.) or Ryan Hannon (So.), 182-Zach Weaver (Jr.) 2-0, 195-Nick Gibson (Jr.), 220-Taylor Flick (So.) or Ben McKnight (Sr.); Hwt-Austin George (So.)

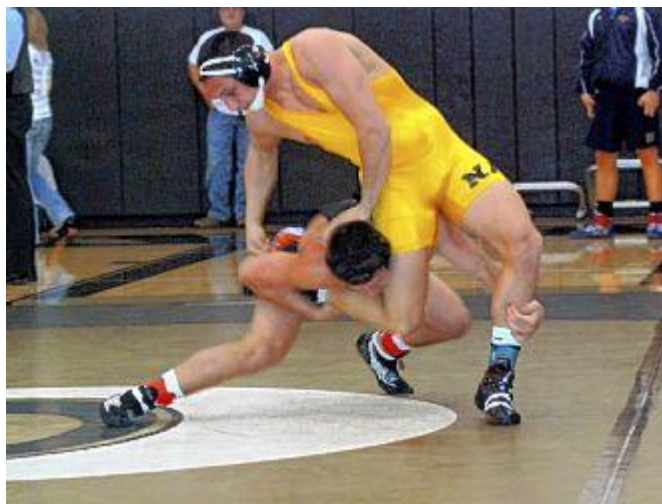
**Stoner says:** "Foust was 19-6 in junior high last year, George was 22-3 ... We have a number of guys ready to turn the corner in this program. We have to coach them up to compete every day and get better. We'll have some interesting competition for starting spots in the room, as well."

North Xtra: Section 3-AAA is a wide-open race

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PREVIEW

Thursday, December 08, 2011

By Ken Wunderley, Tri-State Sports & News Service



North Allegheny's Jared Lux, top, goes against Bethel Park's Nick Bonaccorsi in a 171-pound match at the Eastern Area Invitational last season.

The North Allegheny High School wrestling team has won or shared 11 consecutive Section 3-AAA titles since Jamie Kyriazis became head coach at his alma mater.

The Tigers hope to keep that streak alive as the high school season gets underway Friday.

"When you look at our lineup and our history, on paper you have to give the nod to us," said Kyriazis, when asked if the 2011-12 Tigers should be considered the team to beat in Section 3-AAA. "But titles are not determined on paper. We have to earn the title with hard work in the practice room."

For the second consecutive year, the Tigers will begin the season shorthanded -- but for all the right reasons.

"We have three starters on the football team," said Kyriazis, referring to Jared Lux (30-8 at 171), Alex DeCiantis (25-9 at 160) and Ben Schweiger (11-15 at 135). "It's deja vu. We had to deal with the same thing last year."

DeCiantis qualified for the PIAA Class AAA tournament last season, after placing third in the WPIAL. Lux fell one win short of a PIAA berth. The football trio is among nine returning starters for the Tigers.

"We lost three starters to graduation and another to a season-ending injury," said Kyriazis, referring to Jason Monper (14-8 at 130), who sustained a knee injury while playing football. "This is the second year in a row Jason has had knee surgery."

Lux and DeCiantis are two of five Tigers returnees who had 20 or more wins last season. The others are Dom Forys (34-7 at 103), Jesse Rodgers (24-10 at 119) and Drew Landefeld (23-12 at 125).

"We will have a very solid lineup when our football players come back," Kyriazis said. "Our stiffest competition in the section will come from Hampton and Butler. Hampton is a sleeper team. [Talbots coach Joe Bursick] has almost everybody back."

Hampton has all but one starter returning from last year's squad, which placed third in the section.

"It's tough to beat the University of North Allegheny," Bursick said, jokingly. "Jamie always has one of the top teams in the WPIAL and this year is no different."

Hampton has nine returning starters who registered 16 or more wins. Talbots with 20 or more wins are Peter Craig (25-8 at 125), Kevin Synan (34-8 at 130), Brian Estep (32-11 at 145), Colin Siford (24-16 at 152), Jake Hart (33-7 at 189) and Nick Yaroszewski (24-5 at 215).

"We are a little thin in the lower and upper weights and stacked in the middle," Bursick said. "We will have a couple kids in the middle who will not have a spot in the starting lineup."

Butler has made consecutive appearances in the Section 3-AAA title match, but lost narrow decisions to North Allegheny in both. The Golden Tornado must replace six starters who graduated, including three-time WPIAL finalist Cole Baxter.

"We lost a good group of seniors, but have a lot of talent coming back," Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

Butler has six returnees who had 20 or more wins last season, Cody Houston (27-7 at 103), Blake Caudill (26-8 at 112), Corey Caudill (22-10 at 119), Zach Reges (29-11 at 125), Jesse Spohn (24-15 at 130) and Dakota Collins (32-10 at 152).

Fox Chapel has all but two starters back from last year's squad, which placed sixth in the section. The Foxes have four returnees who registered 20 or more wins last season, Jared Rice (22-15 at 103), Sam Molina (23-4 at 130), Shane Bialowas (24-6 at 140) and Anthony Brooks (30-10 at 189).

North Hills, last year's fifth-place finisher in the section, had two starters who combined for 205 career victories graduate. The Indians have five returnees who recorded 20 or more wins last year, Anton Martinez (29-12 at 103), Tyler Walker (31-7 at 119), Drew Walker (28-17 at 125), Jonathan Avon (26-14 at 140) and Alen Turcinhodzic (27-10 at 189).

"We lost two big guns to graduation," North Hills coach Jose Martinez said. "We have kids returning with experience, but also have kids with little or no varsity experience. Our goal is to make it back to the WPIAL playoffs."

# Butler Eagle

## Butler Places Second at 22-Team Chartiers Houston Tournament

Butler junior Blake Caudill went 4-0 and captured first place in the 113-pound weight class at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament, which concluded Saturday.

Caudill's effort featured three pins.

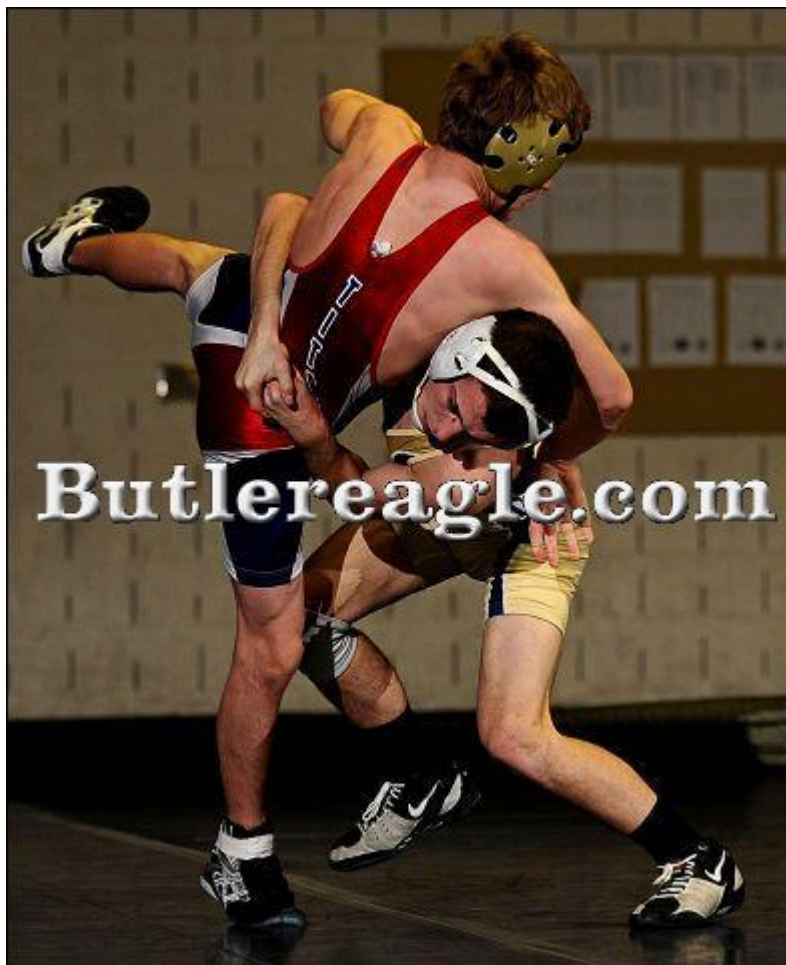
The event included 22 teams. Butler placed second, one half of a point behind Peters Township.

Following are the Butler wrestlers who placed in the top six in their respective weight class, along with their record.

**106**-Conner Foust (3rd, 3-1), **113**-Blake Caudill (1st, 4-0), **120**-Korey Caudill (5th, 4-2), **126**-Nick Sutton (3rd, 5-1), **132**-Zach Reges (4th, 3-2), **138**-Jesse Spohn (3rd, 4-1), **160**-Dakota Collins (3rd, 3-1), **170**-Will Bortmas (6th, 2-3), **182**-Zach Weaver (3rd, 4-1), **285**-Austin George (6th, 2-3)

## Not bad for openers

*By Sam Tallarico*, Eagle Staff Writer



Butler's Blake Caudill takes Shaler's Jordan McMonagle to the mat during their 113-pound wrestling match Thursday night. The Golden Tornado won the dual match, 75-6.  
Dave Prelosky/Butler Eagle

BUTLER TWP — In Butler's season-opening dual wrestling match, the Golden Tornado didn't need to be perfect — they just needed to be there. The Tornado used six pins and six forfeits to cruise past Shaler, 75-6, in a Section 3A match Thursday at the Butler Intermediate High School. The Titans contested just eight of the 14 bouts. "With their junior high kids, we know it's a sign of things to come for them," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "They have some tough

kids coming through."

None, however, were able to help as the Tornado opened the match with a fall by sophomore Ryan Hannon, whose pin over Evan Sciuлло was followed by two forfeit wins to open up a quick 18-0 lead.

"Ryan's not as technical, but he's physical," Stoner said.

The Titans picked up their only win on the night when Nick Carey pinned sophomore Austin George at 1:18.

"For Austin, the one nice thing, even in a loss, is he's athletic. He only started last year," Stoner said.

After a Blake Caudill 7-1 decision over Jordan McMonagle gave the Tornado a 27-6 lead, the Tornado took the last eight matches via forfeit or pin, with no bout going into the third period.



"Blake really didn't feel well and struggled a bit," Stoner said. "He's been cutting a lot of weight.

Korey Caudill (120), Zach Reges (132), Jeremiah Bortmas (145), Grant Ferrari (152) and Will Bortmas (170) all recorded pins down the stretch.

"We had a couple of other kids we could have brought up," Stoner said. "We have some depth and some experience. We'll have to compensate by me coaching my butt off."

The Tornado had opened the season last weekend with a runner-up finish at the 22-team Chartiers-Houston Tournament. Peters Township won the tournament with 183 points, one-half point ahead of the Tornado.

Still, despite the early-season success, Stoner is curious to see where this year's squad can go.

"We definitely have some inexperience," Stoner said. "I didn't think we'd contend last weekend. We had a couple of kids knocked out early, but a lot of times we did contend.

"I can't get a feel for where we're at. It may take until we get into the meat of our season," Stoner added.



**Notes:** Butler will return to action at Mars next Wednesday before heading to the Wheeling Park Duals Dec. 28-29 ... The George "Doc" Phillips Junior Varsity Tournament will be held starting at 10 a.m. Saturday at the intermediate high school.

### **Butler 75, Shaler 6**

#### **Match started at 182**

**106 pounds:** Connor Faust (B) won by forfeit; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) dec. Jordan McMonigle, 7-1; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Austin Hein, 3;45; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) won by forfeit; **132:** Zach Reges (B) pinned Zach Drzmiecki, 3;54; **138:** Jesse Spohn (B) won by forfeit; **145:** Jeremiah Bortmas (B) pinned Nico D'Amico, 2:31; **152:** Grant Ferrari (B) pinned Jeff Nix, 1:10; **160:** Dakota Collins (B) won by forfeit; **170:** Will Bortmas (B) pinned Sean Bartolowits, 1:20; **182:** Ryan Hannon (B) pinned Evan Scullo, 3:54; **195:** Zach Weaver (B) won by forfeit; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) won by forfeit; **285:** Nick Carey (S) pinned Austin George, 1;18.

## **Pinning down victory Tornado wrestlers score 9 falls in defeating Mars, 61-12**

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler's 120-pound Korey Caudill (left) puts Mars wrestler Chris Lorch to the mat and scores one of nine Golden Tornado pins in a 61-12 wrestling victory Wednesday night at Mars.  
MIKE SCHNELLE/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

ADAMS TWP — Butler junior 113-pounder Blake Caudill was given the night off Wednesday. A number of his Golden Tornado teammates wanted to join him. Butler wrestlers recorded nine pins — all within the first three minutes of the match — in posting a dominant 61-12 dual match victory at Mars.

"It's all about mat time," Mars coach Ray Machusko said. "They have it and we don't. We have a lot of first and second-year wrestlers and it showed."

Senior Ben McKnight had the Tornado's quickest pin, winning the 220-pound match in 14 seconds. His opponent, sophomore Trey Turnblacer, lost his headgear just as the match started and never had a chance to restore it to proper position.

Another Butler senior, 160-pounder Dakota Collins, put his foe's shoulders to the mat in 44 seconds.

Prior to either of those matches, Butler (2-0) had pins at 120, 126, 132 and 138 pounds that put the overall match away — right after Mars freshman Richie Boeh scored the Planets' lone pin of the night at 113 pounds.

"We decided to give Blake a rest tonight," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "He's been going at it hard since summer and I wanted him to have a little time off."

Boeh took a 4-0 lead on Butler sophomore Zach Hutchinson in the first period before recording the pin at 3:21.

"Richie is one of the guys to come up through this (elementary) program," Machusko said.

"Though he's a freshman, he's been in plenty of matches and is pretty seasoned."

So are Butler's Korey Caudill, Nick Sutton, Zach Reges and Jesse Spohn, who trumped Boeh's pin with four falls of their own. Sutton got his the quickest, winning the 126-pound match in 1:02.

"Nick has really been wrestling well," Stoner said. "He's primed to have a banner season.

"Those four guys (three seniors and a junior) are my meat. We have a lot of experience at



those weight classes.”

Still, Stoner wasn't totally pleased with his team's performance. He said pins are about applying consistent pressure and “some of our guys backed off at times they shouldn't have.” “It's like Dancing With the Stars. Moves have to be transitional, executed with smoothness, or the (dancers) get scored a 4 or a 5. Wrestling moves have those same traits. One move follows another.”

Rounding out Butler's pins were sophomores Will Bortmas at 170 pounds, Ryan Hannon at 182 and Austin George at heavyweight.

Mars (1-1) did pick up a couple of third-period decisions. Senior James Flinn trailed Butler freshman Jeremiah Bortmas 1-0 before taking Bortmas down with eight seconds left and riding out a 4-1 win at 145.

At 152, the Planets' Ryan McMahon broke a scoreless tie by escaping from Zach Schultz with 58 seconds remaining, then took him down with 10 seconds left.

“Our guys fought hard tonight, even the ones who got pinned. They exerted plenty of effort trying to get off their backs,” Machusko said. “Butler is one of the best programs out there. We can only benefit from getting on the mat with them.”

Stoner said Bortmas made a “rookie mistake” in surrendering the lead late in his match.

“He was in control, but put his head down to try to complete a move and the kid turned him over,” Stoner said. “Keeping your head up in those situations is a fundamental thing.”

Both teams will compete in the 40-team Wheeling Park Duals in West Virginia Dec. 28-29.

### **Butler 61, Mars 12**

**106 pounds:** Connor Foust (B) dec. Jimmy Ronczka, 10-0; **113:** Richie Boeh (M) pinned Zach Hutchinson, 3:21; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Jake Snyder, 2:36; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) pinned Chris Lorch, 1:02; **132:** Zach Reges (B) pinned Chad McDade, 2:49; **138:** Jesse Spohn (B) pinned Andy Selker, 2:39; **145:** James Flinn (M) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas, 4-1; **152:** Ryan McMahon (M) dec. Zach Schultz, 3-0; **160:** Dakoda Collins (B) pinned Noah Jocuns, :44; **170:** Will Boertmas (B) pinned Alex Grosso, 2:37; **182:** Ryan Hannon (B) pinned Nathan Bair, 2:50; **195:** Zach Weaver (B) dec. Austin Bitzer, 9-3; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) pinned Trey Turnblacer, :14; **285:** Austin George (B) pinned Brandon Schriver, 1:26.

## Butler produces talent for college wrestling programs

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



There are currently seven Butler High School graduates wrestling in college, including four at the Division I level. Front row, from left: Butler head coach Scott Stoner, Josh Pascazi (Pitt), Mike Crawford (Kent State) and Jon Sanko (Waynesburg). Second row, from left: Alex Evanoff (Waynesburg), Chris White (Lock Haven), Eric Tuck (Waynesburg) and Cole Baxter (Kent State).  
JUSTIN GUIDO/BUTLER EAGLE

**BUTLER TWP** — With the curtailing of NCAA programs throughout the country, college wrestling opportunities aren't exactly plentiful.

But they exist. Just ask Butler.

The Golden Tornado wrestling program has seven alumni currently competing on college teams. Four of those — Cole Baxter and Mike Crawford at Kent State, Josh Pascazi at Pitt and Chris White at Lock Haven — are with Division I programs.

The other three — Alex Evanoff, Jon Sanko and Eric Tuck — are with Division III Waynesburg.

"Just seeing their success and desire to continue on pumps me up," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Every time one of their parents calls to tell me about how they're doing, I feel the adrenaline rush. ... It's like I'm coaching my own team."

During the 1970s, there were more than 800 college wrestling programs in the United States, ranging from NAIA through NCAA schools. Today, there are fewer than 400 overall and less than 100 NCAA mat programs.

"The percentage of opportunities for these kids isn't as high now, which makes what they're doing that much more impressive," Stoner said.

College freshmen can red-shirt and still compete in invitationals. Baxter is doing that and is 22-3 at 184 pounds for Kent State.

Crawford has competed in three invites and is winless thus far.

"You just have to keep working at it," Baxter said. "Now we're in the room against older and stronger guys.

"I go up against our 184-pound starter, Casey Newburg, in practice every day. He's definitely making me better."

Crawford was plagued by shoulder injuries his final two high school seasons, but says he's been OK physically so far this year.

"I've always wanted to wrestle in college and I wanted to challenge myself," Crawford said. "Wrestling is a part of me. There's no way I was going to let it go."

College seniors Evanoff and Pascazi have that same motivation.

Pascazi signed with Duquesne out of high school and started two years for the Dukes, posting records of 12-12 and 27-17. But Duquesne dropped the sport after his sophomore year.

"I was determined to land somewhere else," Pascazi said. "It was discouraging when Duquesne dropped it, but Pittsburgh is a strong wrestling community.

"(Pitt assistant) Coach Matt Kocher did a lot of work to get a spot for me at Pitt. I'm not a starter, but I'm doing OK."

Pascazi is 5-5 this year at 149 pounds and recently placed eighth in a 64-wrestler bracket at the Penn State Open.

Evanoff has been a four-year starter at Waynesburg, but is sidelined with a knee injury that will require surgery. Stoner said he is out for the season.

Evanoff is thinking otherwise.

"I've got a torn meniscus and sprained MCL, plus I tore an ACL last year that I never had surgery for," Evanoff said. "I'm having surgery on the meniscus in a couple of weeks, then I can come back in three weeks. ... That gives me two weeks to get ready for the regional.

"I was never hurt in high school. In college, I've broken my hand, had a sprained ankle, the knee stuff, but I'm not ready to be done yet. I feel like there's more wrestling left in me."

Sanko (6-6 this year) is a fellow senior at Waynesburg who's been caught in a numbers game. He's one of eight 165-pounders on the roster.

"All of us could start for other teams," Sanko said. "But our coach is good about getting us all mat time.

"Once you get started in this sport, it's hard to stop. By the end of each season, you feel miserable from cutting weight, you're all banged up. Then you can't wait for the next season to roll around."

Tuck is a freshman 157-pounder at Waynesburg who is 3-6 thus far.

"The difference in the caliber of competition in the room is unbelievable. It can't be described," he said of college wrestling. "Everybody in there is good enough to be at that level. It's fierce every day in practice."

Lock Haven is coached by Rob Waller, a former NCAA national champion at Oklahoma. The Bald Eagles practice twice a day on occasion.

"We're in there at 6:30 a.m., then come back at 4 p.m.," sophomore 197-pounder White (3-6) said. "The biggest difference in college is the intensity of the workouts. You have to love the sport to keep doing this."

These wrestlers have used the sport as well.

They are majoring in such fields as environmental science, business administration, communications, physical therapy and biblical studies.

"I know where I've gained the most in life from — it's wrestling," Sanko said. "Some of the (Butler) guys here ... we've been wrestling together for more than a decade growing up. "These are the guys who have pushed me, made me believe in myself over the years. That stuff carries over into everyday life and I'm grateful for it."

### **WHERE THEY LANDED**

Here are the seven Buter High School graduates currently wrestling in college:

#### **Name Class Wt. School**

Alex Evanoff Sr. 174 Waynesburg

Josh Pascazi Sr. 149 Pitt

Jon Sanko Sr. 165 Waynesburg

Chris White Soph. 197 Lock Haven

Cole Baxter Fr. 184 Kent State

Mike Crawford Fr. 157 Kent State

Eric Tuck Fr. 157 Waynesburg

# Butler Eagle

Article published December 31, 2011

## Butler 3<sup>rd</sup> at 40-team Mat Tournament

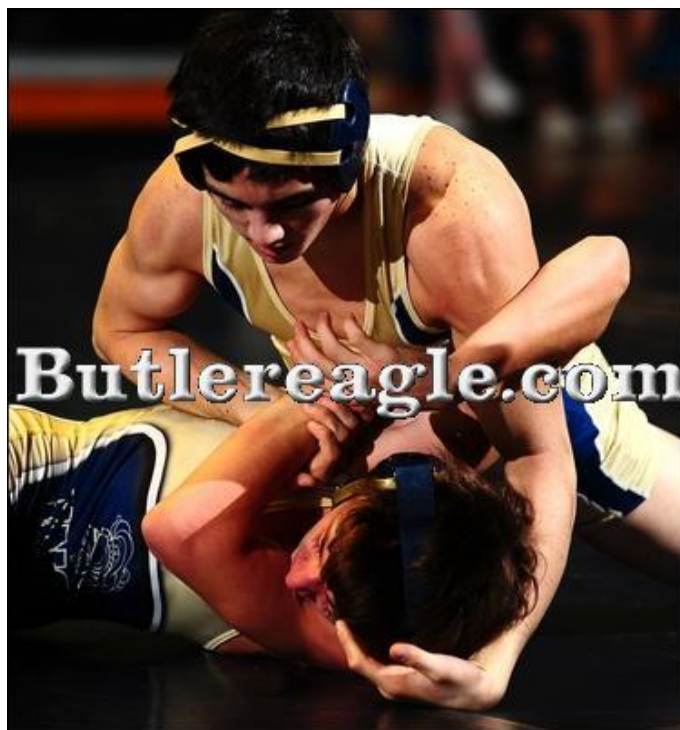
The Butler High wrestling team featured five grapplers who went undefeated as the Golden Tornado placed third out of 40 teams at the Wheeling Park Duals Tournament Dec. 28-29. Butler defeated

Blake Caudill, Korey Caudill, Nick Sutton, Zach Reges and Dakoda Collins each went 8-0 to win their respective weight classes.

Blake Caudill (six) and Collins (seven) tallied 13 pins between them.

Will Bortmas went 7-1 for the Tornado, Ryan Hannon went 6-2 while Jesse Spohn, Zach Weaver and Connor Foust all managed a 5-3 record.

Butler hosts a non-section match against Connellsville tonight.





# Butler Eagle

## Butler wrestlers power their way by Knoch, 69-6

*By John Enrietto , Eagle Sports Editor*

BUTLER TWP — Build a wave of momentum and ride it.

Butler's wrestling team did so Wednesday night, using seven pins — including falls in the final four matches — to roll past Knoch, 69-6, in the Intermediate gym.

"You like to ride out momentum, keep it rolling throughout the rest of the lineup," Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner said. "I feel like we did that tonight." Scoring pins for Butler (10-2, 3-0) were Korey Caudill at 120 pounds, Jesse Spohn at 138, Dakota Collins at 152, Will Bortmas at 160, Ryan Hannon at 170, Zach Weaver at 182 and Nick Gibson at 195.

Nick Sutton won by technical fall at 126 pounds, improving his record to 17-1. Only Blake Caudill (12-0 at 113) has a better won-loss mark for Butler.

"Nick's really put it together this year," Stoner said. "He's learned how to use his body on the mat and he's mastering other phases of the sport as he goes along."

Caudill (16-2), 132-pounder Zach Reges (15-2), Collins (14-2) and Hannon (10-2) are other Tornado wrestlers with stellar records thus far.

Stoner lauded the performance of freshman 106-pounder Connor Foust (11-5), who decisioned Knoch sophomore Dillion Holben 9-1 Wednesday.

"It can be tough starting a freshman at the varsity level, even at the lightest weight class," Stoner said. "You don't want to see that deer in headlights look. You want every kid to take the attitude of going out there and doing his best on the mat, regardless of whom he's up against.

"Connor is succeeding at his transitions out there. He's executing the basics. That kid (Holben) beat him in junior high two years ago and tonight, Connor took it to him."

Knoch (1-3) picked up its lone victory at heavyweight, as senior Ian Adkins pinned Austin



Butler's Nick Gibson prepares to pin Knoch's Mark Morrison in their 195-pound wrestling match Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado defeated the Knights, 69-6, to improve to 10-2 this season.  
Dave Prelosky/Butler Eagle

George in 3:42.

Adkins placed fourth at the Southmoreland Tournament over the weekend while 132-pound junior Blaine Elliott placed fifth. Knoch is in its sixth year as a varsity wrestling program.

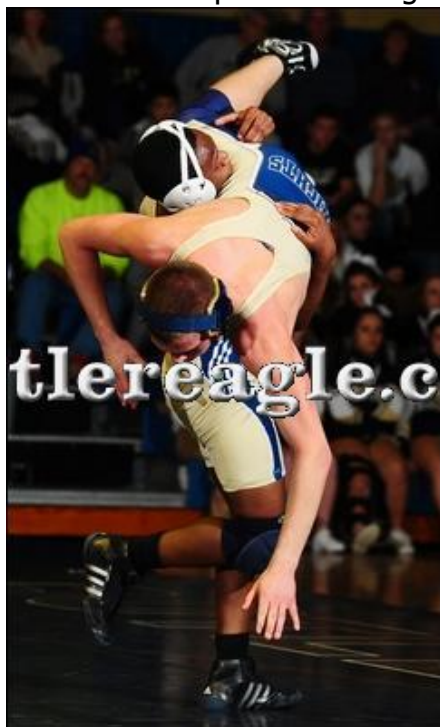
"Every time we come over here, all I want our kids to do is battle and wrestle hard," Knoch coach Mark McLaughlin said. "The score doesn't show it, but I think we did that tonight.

"A sixth-year program is going to go through nights like this. I understand that and so do the kids."

The Knights will compete in the Valley Duals this weekend.

"We've got a couple of seniors, but we're mostly freshmen and sophomores," McLaughlin said. "I have no problem with where we're at and I like where we're headed."

Butler will compete in the eight-team Fort LeBoeuf tournament over the weekend.



Blake Caudill is out of the lineup with a hamstring injury. A few other Tornado wrestlers are battling nagging ailments.

"You get banged up in this sport," Stoner said. "After a tough loss to Connellsville (Tuesday), it was important for us to come out aggressively and have a good performance tonight. That was nice to see."

### **Butler 69, Knoch 6**

**(match started at 195)**

**106 pounds:** Connor Foust (B) dec. Dillion Holben 9-1; **113:**

Zach Hutchison (B) by forfeit; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Joel Hixon, 1:29; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) tech. fall over Ryan Grossman

18-2, 4:00; **132:** Zach Reges (B) dec. Blaine Elliott 5-0; **138:**

Jesse Spohn (B) pinned Col McLaughlin, 5:48; **145:** Xavier Bennett (B) dec. Matt Steinmiller 11-8; **152:** Dakoda Collins (B)

pinned Tyler Hlebiczki, 1:55; **160:** Will Bortmas (B) pinned Ben

Nowicki, 3:29; **170:** Ryan Hannon (B) pinned Bailey Savage, 3:27;

**182:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Brian Mowry, 1:16; **195:** Nick

Gibson (B) pinned Mark Morrison, 1:00; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) by forfeit; **285:** Adkins (K) pinned Austin George, 3:42.

# Butler Eagle

Article published January 4, 2012



## Falcons pin Butler

BUTLER TWP — Butler was riding a wave of momentum during its wrestling match against Connellsville Tuesday.

Then the Falcons quickly grabbed it back. Butler used a major decision by Korey Caudill at 120 pounds and pins by Nick Sutton (126) and Zach Reges (132) to take a 25-18 lead, but the Falcons captured the final five matches to pull away with a 42-25 victory.

"There was some excitement with some matches," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "That's the center of our lineup. That's where we have the most experience," said Connellsville coach Tom Dolde Jr. "From 138 to 145 to 152 to 160 to 170, those

kids are seniors except one, who's a freshman."

With the match starting at 182, Stoner bumped up Ryan Hannon from 170 and got a 3-2 decision to start the Tornado on the right foot, while Zach Weaver moved from 182 to 195 and lost a tough 4-2 decision.

The teams exchanged second-period pins in the next two matches, as the Tornado's Ben McKnight pinned A.J. Caviler and Gunnar Lynch pinned Austin George to knot the match at 9. "Ben McKnight came out late, but for him to win a big match like that, that's important for him," Stoner noted.

A decision and a forfeit at 113 would open up an 18-9 lead for Connellsville before the Tornado made their move.

Caudill rolled up an impressive 11-0 victory over Colton DeWitt, then Sutton used a reversal to pin Nick Beneke at 2:32. Reges was cruising with an 8-0 lead before securing the pin over Tyrone Brown at 3:17 to give the Tornado the seven-point lead.

"Beneke came out with a physicality," Stoner said, "and Sutton didn't get rattled. That's the sign of a senior. He's 16-1 now and his only loss was by one point to a state qualifier. He's doing well in all facets.

"Zach rode the momentum that Nick created," Stoner added.

"We have seven freshmen out of our 14 wrestlers," Dolde noted, "and when you have freshmen in the lineup, even if they're good, they're going to make freshmen mistakes." The Falcons, however, responded, with a 19-3 technical fall by Ethan Kenney over Xavier Bennett.

Stoner would bump his wrestlers up to the next weight class for the final four bouts, but the Falcons still rolled.

Brandon Umbel (145) earned a pin, Tanner Wiltrout (152) won by major decision, Dale Provance recorded a pin over Dakota Collins and Jeremy Basinger (170) defeated Will

Bortmas 10-4 to close out the match.

"This was a match that we needed," said Dolde. "Butler's a solid team and Coach Stoner gets them ready. I knew it would be a dogfight. It was a great match to gear up for."

Said Stoner, "We were happy to get a powerhouse on our schedule, a team with a lot of success. The bottom line is we appreciated them coming up here.

"It's a good sign that we have some respect by teams. But, it's not enough to compete in these matches. We want to win them."



### **Connellsville 42, Butler 25**

#### **Match started at 182 pounds**

**106 pounds:** Daniel Leonard (C) dec. Connor Foust, 5-2; **113:** John Berardenelli (C) won by forfeit; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) major dec. Colton DeWitt, 11-0; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) pinned Nick Beneke, 2:32; **132:** Zach Reges (B) pinned Tyrone Brown, 3:17; **138:** Ethan Kenney (C) tech. fall over Xavier Bennett, 19-3; **145:** Brandon Umbel (C) pinned Jesse Spohn, 3:30; **152:** Tanner Wilttrout (C) major dec. over Jeremiah Bortmas, 13-3; **160:** Dale Provance (C) pinned Dakota Collins, 2:57 **170:** Jeremy Basinger (C)

dec. Will Bortmas, 10-4; **182:** Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Matt Butler, 3-2; **195:** Josh Fremd (C) dec. Zach Weaver, 4-2; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) pinned A.J. Caviler, 2:58; **285:** Gunnar Lynch (C) pinned Austin George, 3:13.

**Today:** Knoch at Butler



## Wrestling: Five coaches closing in on 200 victories

Friday, December 30, 2011

By Ken Wunderley, Tri-State Sports & News Service

Hampton High School coach Joe Bursick remembers his 100th victory. "It came during the 2003-04 season," he said. "We had a very talented team that season, but Burrell was a clear favorite. On paper, [Burrell] should have demolished us. We wrestled our best match of the season and upset Burrell. When we went into the locker room, the team threw me in the shower."

Fast-forward to the 2011-12 season, and Bursick is approaching his 200th victory. The Talbots have opened the season with nine consecutive victories, which gives Bursick a 197-120-career record. "Our next three dual meets are against Fox Chapel [Jan. 6], Mars [Jan. 11], and Butler [Jan. 18]," said Bursick, who is in his 18th season. "It could come down to the Butler match, if we can win the first two."

If Hampton can beat Fox Chapel and Mars, the Butler match could decide the Class AAA Section 3A title. The Talbots and Golden Tornado are tied for first place with a 2-0 record, and are expected to be unbeaten when they meet. "It would be great if it came down to that match," Bursick said. "[Butler coach] Scott [Stoner] has done a great job with his program. Butler would have to be considered a slight favorite since the match is at Butler."

Bursick is one of five WPIAL coaches closing in on the 200-victory plateau. All five entered the season with 180 or more career victories. The others are:

- Burgettstown coach Terry Havelka who entered his 18th season with a 193-78 career record. The Blue Devils have since won two of three matches.
- Indiana's Craig Miller began his 24th season with a 184-205-1 record. The Little Indians have since posted a 2-5 mark.
- Connellsville's Tom Dolde Jr. has averaged 20.2 victories per season in his first nine years. He entered the season with a 182-40 mark and the Falcons have recorded three victories.
- Albert Gallatin's Duane Dupont took a 180-124 record into his 19th season. The Colonials have since lost two of three matches.

The WPIAL's 200-win club has 29 members, including five who have 300 or more wins. The only current coaches with more career wins are: Kiski Area's Chuck Tursky (447-132-2), Fox Chapel's Ron Frank (340-245-7), Avonworth's Tim Giel (307-194-0), Butler's Stoner (232-122-0) and Latrobe's Marc Billett (210-97-0).



## Wrestling

**Butler 57, Fox Chapel 13** — The Golden Tornado tallied eight pins in crushing the host Foxes.

Butler moves to 11-2 overall (4-0 in the section) and will host Hampton at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

### **Butler 57, Fox Chapel 13**

**106 pounds:** No match; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) pinned Rice, 4:35; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Imhoff, 3:10; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) pinned Licolescu, 1:47; **132:** Zach Reges (B) pinned Firoz, 1:23; **138:** Cialowas (FC) dec. Jesse Spohn, 3-1; **145:** Sam Molina (FC) major dec. Jeremiah Bortmas, 12-2; **152:** Dakoda Collins (B) dec. Heasley, 9-7 OT; **160:** Will Bortmas (B) pinned Mahon, 2:45; **170:** Ryan Hannon (B) pinned Freisnugh, 1:23; **182:** Anthony Brooks (FC) pinned Zach Raible, 3:23; **195:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Giovanetti, :49; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) pinned Novacic, 1:16; **285:** Taylor Flick (B) won by forfeit.

## Wrestling



Blake Caudill pinned George McGuire of Fort LeBoeuf in 1:59 in the 113-pound weight class to win an individual title at the Fort LeBoeuf Bison Brawl wrestling tournament over the weekend. Fort LeBoeuf won the team title with 231 points. Butler was second with 205½.

Caudill went 5-1 in the tourney, his only loss coming against McGuire a day earlier.

"It was quite a statement on his part," said Butler wrestling coach

Scott Stoner of Caudill's performance in the final.

Butler had 12 of its 14 wrestlers place in the top four in the tournament.

Jesse Spahn finished second in the 138-pound weight class and Nick Gibson bounced back from an 0-3 record in pool play to finish second at 195 pounds.

Third-place finishers for Butler were Korey Caudill (120), Nick Sutton (126), Dakoda Collins (152), Ryan Hannan (170), Zach Weaver (182) and Ben McKnight (220).

Fourth-place finishers for the Tornado were Connor Foust (106) and Will Bortmas (160). Collins' victory in his third-place bout was the 100th of his career.



Article published January 19, 2012

## Memorable mat time

*By John Enrietto , Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler wrestlers congratulate drained 132-pounder Zach Reges, center, after his 6-5 decision that gave the Golden Tornado a 32-31 dual match win over Hampton and the Section 3A championship Wednesday night in the Intermediate high school gym. Steven Dietz/Special to the Eagle

**BUTLER TWP —** Zach Reges could do the math.

As soon as he found out the Butler-Hampton dual wrestling match was

beginning at 138 pounds, the Golden Tornado senior 132-pounder knew the outcome could rest on his shoulders.

And it did.

Reges (22-4) nipped the Talbots' Kevin Synan (12-4) in a 6-5 decision to propel Butler to a heart-stopping 32-31 triumph in the Intermediate High School gym. The victory gave the

Tornado (12-2, 5-0) the Section 3A title over Hampton (11-1, 4-1).

"That was the biggest match I've ever been in," Reges said. "It was pretty exciting being out there, with the big crowd cheering me on.

"It gave me energy. I felt it."

The Tornado gave up 18 points in the upper three weight classes — two forfeitures and a pin — to fall behind 28-15. Major decisions by Connor Foust and Blake Caudill at 106 and 113 pounds, respectively, were followed by a Blake Caudill pin at 120 to give Butler a 29-28 edge.

Peter Craig (18-4), a 100-career win

wrestler, decided Nick Sutton, 7-4 at 126 to bring the outcome of the dual down to the final match.



"You feel like you're the last man standing," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "But that can happen in wrestling. You go down to the wire in a game ... There's five guys out there in basketball, 11 in football.

"This is one-on-one with everything on you. There's no greater pressure on a high school athlete and Zach was able to beat a tough kid."

Synan had not wrestled in 10 days because of a nagging injury.

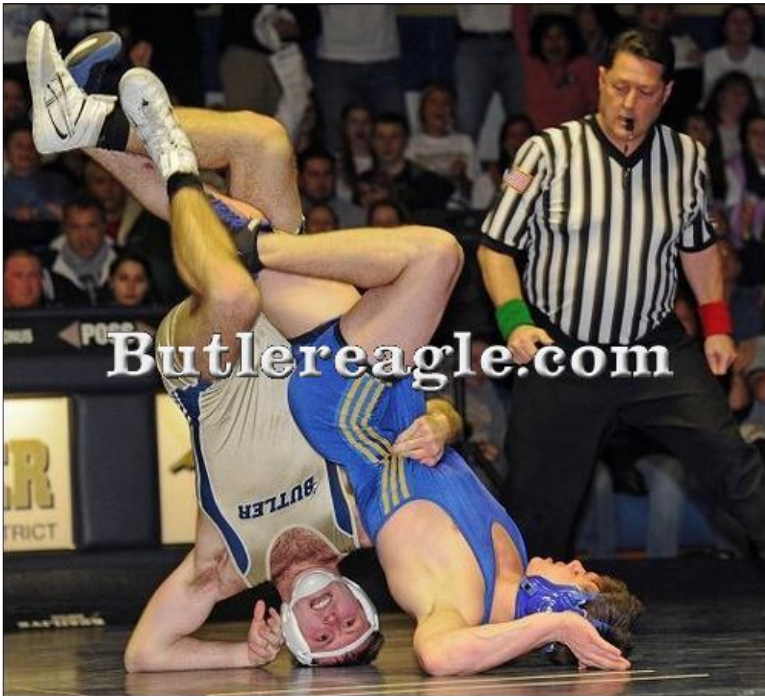
"I was a little worried about his conditioning, but he was fine," Hampton coach Joe Bursick said. "The Reges kid is tough. That was a good match.

"You don't see dual matches decided in the closing seconds very often. We expected a dogfight coming up here and that's what Butler gave us."

Reges scored a first-period takedown with three seconds left to grab the lead. He took a 4-2 lead into the final period before Synan notched a point via escape with 1:35 to go. Reges took him down to hike the lead to 6-3 with 30 seconds remaining.

Starting from the down position with 24 seconds on the click, Synan scored a quick reversal, but was unable to get any needed back points for the win.

"I was just trying to hang on at that point," Reges admitted. "Scoring first in the match was big for me. I was able to wrestle more aggressively with the lead."



Butler's Dakota Collins, left, battles with Hampton's Brian Estep at 152 pounds Wednesday night. Collins scored a reversal with 12 seconds left in the match to grab a critical 2-1 victory in the Golden Tornado's 32-31 dual match win.

Steven Dietz/Special to the Eagle

Butler scored some critical points late in periods Wednesday. Besides Reges' first-period takedown, Dakota Collins (21-4) scored a reversal with 12 seconds left in the bout to grab a 2-1 decision from Brian Estep at 152. Ryan Hannon (16-5) took down Brandon Olszewski with five seconds left in the second period, paving the way for a 3-1 decision at 170. Zach Weaver averted an aggressive takedown attempt by Mike Link at 182 and turned it into a pin with 15

seconds left in the first period.

"We didn't figure on getting pinned at 182 and the Collins win really hurt us," Bursick said.

"You have to wrestle the full six minutes out there. A match can turn in three seconds."

Butler's win will pit the Tornado against Section 3B runner-up Hopewell at 6 p.m. next Wednesday in the section semifinals at North Allegheny. The host Tigers will face Hampton in the other semifinal with the title match set for 8 p.m.

"Our guys really stepped it up tonight in a big match," Stoner said. Those final-second points showed that. I'm pleased with the way they responded to this atmosphere.

"We've had some big wins over the years. This is definitely one of my favorites."



**Notes:** Stoner has 244 dual match wins in his career. Bursick was denied his 200th Wednesday night. ... The Tornado will wrestle in the Clearfield Duals Saturday. ... Butler has four 20-win wrestlers so far this season in Korey Caudill (23-4), Sutton (23-4), Reges (22-4) and Collins (21-4). Blake Caudill is 19-1. ... Butler has not lost to Hampton since the 2006-07 season.

**Butler 32, Hampton 31 (match started at 138 pounds)**

**106 pounds:** Connor Foust (B) dec. Patrick Keyser, 9-1; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) dec. John Keyser, 11-0; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Joe Lehman, 1:00; **126:** Peter Craig (H) dec. Nick Sutton, 7-4; **132:** Zach Reges (B) dec. Kevin Syman, 6-5; **138:** Jesse Spohn (B) dec. Chris Olszewski, 5-1; **145:** Zach Kocak (H) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas, 16-7; **152:** Dakota Collins (B) dec. Brian Estep, 2-1; **160:** Colin Siford (H) pinned Will Bortmas, 1:08; **170:** Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Brandon Olszewski, 3-1; **182:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Mike Link, 1:45; **195:** Jake Hart (H) by forfeit; **220:** Nick Yaroszewki (H) pinned Ben McKnight, 1:35; **285:** Noah Shulman (H) by forfeit.



High School Wrestling:

## Butler stages a late rally to grab Section 3A crown

### Win at 132 pounds caps upset against No. 5 Hampton

Thursday, January 19, 2012

By Ken Wunderley, Tri-State Sports & News Service

The Butler High School wrestling team rallied from a 13-point deficit with wins in four of the last five bouts to upset No. 5 Hampton, 32-31, in a Class AAA Section 3A showdown in a packed gym at Butler.

"It was a great night for wrestling, regardless of who won or lost," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "It was awesome to see a packed gym and the fan support both teams received. The match couldn't have been any closer."

The match began with the 138-pound weight class, and Butler (5-0 in the section) won four of the first six bouts for a 15-10 lead. Butler forfeited two of the next three, and Hampton picked up a pin from Nick Yaroszewski at 220 for a 28-15 lead with five bouts remaining.

Conor Foust and Blake Caudill recorded major decisions at 106 and 113, and teammate Korey Caudill registered a pin at 120 to move Butler in front, 29-28, with just two matches left.

Peter Craig's 7-4 decision against Nick Sutton at 126 gave Hampton (4-1) the lead, 31-29, but Zach Reges pulled out a 6-5 victory against Kevin Synan at 132 pounds in the final match, giving Butler the victory.



## Butler wrestlers drop title bout

WEXFORD — North Allegheny's reign is over. Butler's frustration moves on.

The Golden Tornado wrestling team suffered a 36-27 loss to Hampton in the Section 3 team championship match Wednesday night at North Allegheny High School. The Talbots ended NA's approximate 15-year hold on the section title by defeating the Tigers, 30-29, in the semifinals earlier in the evening.



Hampton (13-1) then avenged a one-point (32-31) loss at Butler last week to claim the program's first-ever section crown — and deny the Tornado theirs.

"Sweet revenge," Hampton coach Joe Bursick said. "We made a couple of corrections, changed the lineup a little bit and the guys got it done. I'm proud of them."

The Talbots' win over North Allegheny was their first-ever win against the Tigers as well.

"They came out of that match with a lot of emotional energy and carried that momentum into our match," Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

"We had the deck stacked against us emotionally and they have a great, well-balanced lineup. Kudos to Hampton, they wrestled for it and got it. Still, we beat them before and set a bar the other night. I expected the same performance tonight and we didn't get that." The Tornado (13-3) produced such a performance in their semifinal bout with Hopewell, registering eight pins in defeating the Vikings (13-6), 49-23.

Butler also got impressive wins from Korey Caudill, who decisively won against 30-win wrestler Filippo Crivelli at 120 pounds, and Jeremiah Bortmas (5-10) at 145 pounds, who stunned Chris Workman (15-14) with a pin with 45 seconds left in their match.

"Those were two wins I expected to get," Hopewell coach Jason Martsof said. "I know Butler is good, but I didn't think we'd get beat this badly."

The Tornado fell behind Hampton 18-0 in the title dual, surrendering pins in the three highest weight classes. Decisions by Connor Foust and Nick Sutton, along with pins from Blake and Korey Caudill, tied the match at 18.

"Nick went out and took immediate control of a kid (Peter Craig) who beat him last week," Stoner said. "He took him down right away and decided he wasn't losing."

"I felt good at that point. Then ... we just didn't wrestle. We didn't execute and put it away."

The Talbots won the next five matches — four against Butler wrestlers with stellar records — to clinch the victory. Colin Siford's 6-4 decision of Will Bortmas at 160 pounds gave Hampton a 36-18 advantage with two matches remaining.

Ryan Hannon won by decision at 170 and Zach Weaver got a pin at 182, but the points came too late.

"We're pretty good at the middle weights, too," Bursick said. "That's where the match was won. We stepped up our game against some real quality kids.

"That was a hostile environment (at Butler) when we lost last week. Our kids didn't back down from it, but I thought their kids fed off that energy. Tonight, we were riding that wave."

Butler will try to rebound in the WPIAL team championships next week. The Tornado will likely be in action Tuesday.

"You can't wrestle with fear or lack of confidence," Stoner said. "I saw that in some of our kids tonight. We looked timid at times and you can't have that in this sport."

North Allegheny finished third in the section, defeating Hopewell, 41-27.

### **Semifinal**

#### **Butler 49, Hopewell 23**

**(match started at 182 pounds)**

**106 pounds:** Travis Sonson (H) dec. Connor Foust, 5-0; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) pinned Dustin Winkle, 2:54; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) dec. Filippo Crivelli, 4-3; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) pinned Jonah Raymond, 1:20; **132:** Zach Reges (B) pinned Hayden Hennen, 4:43; **138:** Jesse Spohn (B) dec. Dan Santia, 10-2; **145:** Jeremiah Bortmas (B) pinned Chris Workman, 5:15; **152:** Dakoda Collins (B) pinned Nick Guzma, 2:38; **160:** Marco Crivelli (H) tech. fall (16-0) over Will Bortmas, 3:30; **170:** Damon Drositis (H) dec. Zach Raible, 11-5; **182:** Ryan Hannon (B) pinned Dillon Drositis, 1:06; **195:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Tyler Sparkman, 1:14; **220:** Mike Tempalski (H) pinned Ben McKnight, 1:25; **285:** Damon Sims (H) pinned Taylor Flick, 1:13.

### **Final**

#### **Hampton 36, Butler 27**

**(match started at 195 pounds)**

**106 pounds:** Connor Foust (B) dec. Pat Keyser, 4-2; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) pinned John Keyser, 1:10; **120:** Korey Caudill (B) pinned Joe Lehman, 3:52; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) dec. Peter Craig, 6-2; **132:** Chris Olszewski (H) dec. Zach Reges, 7-3; **138:** Kevin Synan pinned Xavier Bennett, 1:00; **145:** Zach Kocak (H) dec. Jesse Spohn, 8-6; **152:** Brian Estep (H) dec. Dakoda Collins, 3-0; **160:** Colin Siford (H) dec. Will Bortmas, 6-4; **170:** Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Brandon Olszewski, 2-1; **182:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Mike Link, 3:26; **195:** Jake Hart (H) pinned Nick Gibson, 1:01; **220:** Nick Yaroszewski (H) pinned Ben McKnight, 2:41; **285:** Nosh Shulman (H) pinned Taylor Flick, :09.

## From sub to standout

*By John Enrietto*, Butler Eagle Sports Editor



Butler's Nick Sutton earns a 6-2 decision against Hampton's Peter Craig in their 126-pound match Wednesday night in the Section 3 team championships. Steven Dietz/Special to the Eagle

**BUTLER TWP —** Learning the craft of wrestling is generally done over a period of years. Butler senior Nick Sutton has operated

on a different learning curve.

The Golden Tornado 126-pounder never touched the sport until his freshman year — and found himself in the high school varsity starting lineup that season.

"I grabbed him off the junior high team," Butler coach Scott Stoner recalled. "I asked (junior high coach) Donnie Geibel who he had at 112 pounds because I had a hole in my lineup." Geibel recalls that conversation well.

"Scott asked me if I had anybody and I told him we had nobody who's been here," Geibel said. "I had Nick for maybe four practices and he was gone.

"We give out a hardest worker award each day in junior high practice and Nick won that twice in those four days. So I knew he'd work hard at it."

Sutton wound up going 5-21 his freshman season — but never got discouraged.

To the contrary ... He was encouraged.

"That was quite a shock," Sutton said of his freshman year. "I was getting tossed around a lot. I knew it was going to be hard for me because I wasn't sure what I was doing.

"But I learned from the guys who were beating me. I studied the sport. I loved it. Since that first year, I knew I wanted to wrestle in college."

Sutton wound up qualifying for the WPIAL Tournament that first year by placing fourth in the section. He faced the No. 2 seed in the first round of the section meet and scored a 12-2 decision to send him on his way.

"That kid was totally shocked. Nick just jumped on him from the start," Stoner said. "He's never stopped improving."

Sutton posted a 20-14 record as a sophomore before finishing 8-7 his junior year. He had trouble cracking the starting lineup last year because of more experienced teammates at the same weight class.

Practicing the entire off-season, Sutton has done more than crack the lineup in this his final high school season. He sports one of the best records on the team at 25-4, including 12 pins. When he won 20 matches as a sophomore, he had three pins.

"He appeared to be lacking confidence before this season," Butler assistant and former Slippery Rock University wrestling coach Fred Powell said. "Nick has been learning different moves and working on technique all of this time.

"Wrestling is a complex sport. He's learned a series of takedowns, working on his feet that fit his line of thinking. He found his niche and that helped develop his confidence. Now, instead of looking to win, he's looking to pin."

Sutton agreed with that assessment.

"I just kept picking up stuff," he said. "I'm still doing that. I discovered pretty early that this sport was a lot of hard work."

Sutton hopes his final high school season winds up with a state tournament berth. He may be headed to John Carroll University in Ohio to wrestle next year.

"They seem to be interested in me," Sutton said.

Geibel has plenty of respect for Sutton's rapid rise on the mats — because he went through it himself.

Geibel played basketball through junior high before picking up on wrestling in high school. He eventually reached the state tournament.

"A lot of Nick's improvement has been awareness on the mat," Geibel said. "You turn your hips the wrong way, you can get beat. That stuff just comes with experience."

Sutton has that experience now.

"He's a unique wrestler with an awkward style and he uses that to his advantage," Stoner said.

A lacrosse player through ninth grade, Sutton fell in love with the individualism of wrestling.

"He's the quarterback out there, he's calling audibles, playing offense, playing defense, making the decisions," Powell said. "That's the beauty of wrestling and Nick's embraced that.

"You get out of this sport what you put into it ... and that kid has put an awful lot into it."

# Butler Eagle

## Butler Advances to top 8 but falls to Connellsville in WPIAL Quarter



The Butler wrestling team rallied to beat Franklin Regional, but fell to Connellsville at the WPIAL Class AAA team wrestling championship tournament late Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado lost the first six matches against Franklin Regional, but won the next seven to secure a 34-32 win.

Dakota Collins (152 pounds), Will Bortmas (160) and Zach Weaver (182) keyed the comeback with

pins.

Against Connellsville, things started out much different with Butler taking the first three matches, but failed to maintain that momentum in a 39-23 loss to the No. 3 seed.

The Tornado entered the tournament as the sixth seed.

### **Butler 34, Franklin Regional 32**

**106 pounds:** Kyle Berk (FR) pinned Connor Faust, 1:38; **113:** Mike Kemmer (FR) tech fall Blake Caudill; **120:** Connor Medling (FR) dec. Cory Caudill, 6-5; **126:** Tyler Smith (FR) tech fall Nick Sutter; **132:** Josh Maruca (FR) dec. Zach Reges, 10-7; **138:** Josh Shields (FR) maj. dec Jesse Spahn, 19-7; **145:** Jeremiah Bortmas (B) dec. Evan Thompson, 5-3; **152:** Dakota Collins (B) pinned Brandon Yant, 1:58; **160:** Will Bortmas (B) pinned Matt Green, 3:33; **170:** Ryan Hannan (B) dec. Josh Wahlin, 6-4; **182:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Justin Rose, 1:18; **195:** Nick Gibson (B) maj. dec. Shawn McDonnell, 10-0; **220:** Ben McKnight (B) by forfeit; **285:** Luke Fleck (FR) pinned Taylor Flick, :26.

### **Connellsville 39, Butler 23**

**106 pounds:** Daniel Leonard (C) dec. Connor Faust, 6-0; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) maj. dec. Colton DeWitt, 13-1; **120:** Cory Caudill (B) pinned Ryan Burkholder, 2:50; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) maj. dec. Tyrone Brown, 13-1; **132:** Ethan Kenney (C) pinned Mason Boy, 1:14; **138:** Tanner Wiltrout (C) pinned Zach Reges, 3:58; **145:** Brandon Umbell (C) maj. dec. Jeremiah Bortmas, 11-3; **152:** Dale Provance (C) pinned Dakota Collins, 5:46; **160:** Will Bortmas (B) dec. Stetson Keedy, 1:22; **170:** Jeremy Basinger (C) pinned Zach Raible, 1:22 ; **182:** Matthew Butler (C) dec. Ryan Hannan. 7-3; **195:** Zach Weaver (B) by disqualification; **220:** Dillon Miller (C) dec. Ben McKnight, 5-4; **285:** Gunnar Lynch (C) dec. Taylor Flick, 1-0.



# Butler Eagle

## **Wrestling**

The Butler wrestling team finished second at the 16-team Uniontown Duals over the weekend.

Butler won matches over Highlands (75-6), West Greene (60-15), Latrobe (45-25) and Upper St. Clair (57-14) before falling to champion Hampton, 32-20, in the finals.

Three Butler wrestlers went 5-0, led by Zach Reges at 132 pounds.

Reges' final win of the duals was the 100th of his career.

Blake Caudill (120) went 5-0 with three pins and Dakota Collins (145) also was undefeated.

## **Butler matmen join Clash of Champions**

BUTLER TWP — Butler wrestlers Nick Sutton and Zach Reges will compete at 120 and 126 pounds, respectively, for the MAC squad in its annual Clash of Champions wrestling match against the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference March 13.

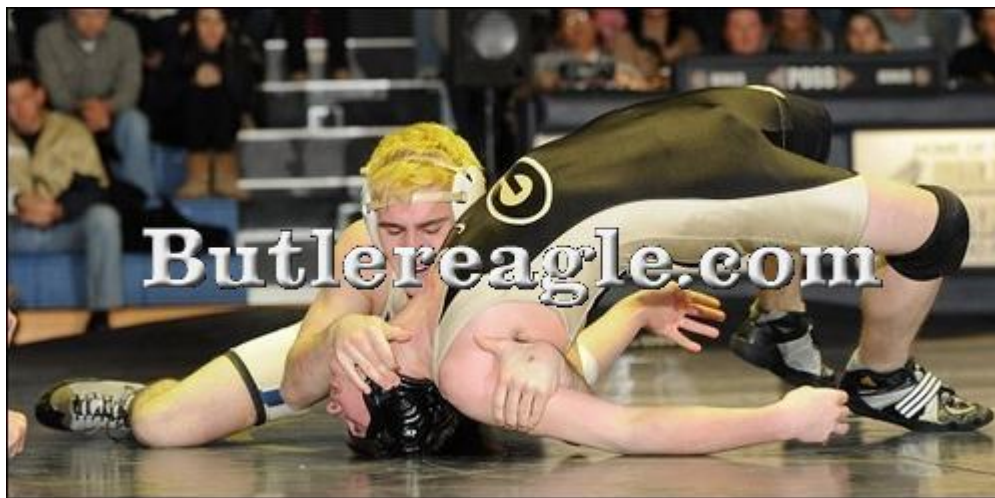
The dual match will take place at Wheeling Park High School in West Virginia.

# Butler Eagle

Article published February 16, 2012

## Seniors' statement

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler senior Jesse Spohn pins Gateway's Tyler Boehm during their 138-pound match Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado rolled to a 66-9 victory. Steven Dietz/Special to the Eagle

**BUTLER TWP —** If Butler's wrestlers wanted time to celebrate Senior Night, they got their wish.

The Golden Tornado recorded seven pins — six in the first period — in rolling through Gateway, 66-9, Wednesday night in the Intermediate High School gym.

The match lasted less than an hour and marked Butler's (19-6) final competition before the section tournament Feb. 25 at Fox Chapel.

"It would have been nice to get Ben (McKnight) a win and Zach (Reges) a match, but we can't complain too much about this," Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

Butler's other three seniors — Nick Sutton at 126 pounds, Jesse Spohn at 138 and Dakoda Collins at 152 — all won via first-period pins Wednesday. Sutton secured his fall just 34 seconds into his match.

Collins improved his career record to 111-45 while recording his 63rd career pin, most among current wrestlers on the team.

"Dakoda is like a predator who takes his prey and snuffs the life out of it," Stoner said.

Also notching pins for Butler were Blake Caudill at 113 pounds, Cody Houston at 120, Zach Schultz at 145 and Zach Weaver at 182. Weaver's fall came in 49 seconds.

Schultz's pin was his first win and second varsity match this season. Houston is 2-0 at the varsity level this year.

Reges picked up his 101st career win by forfeit, but tied Alex Evanoff for fourth on the Tornado's all-time victory list.

"My goal has been 100 wins for a long time," Reges said. "I really wanted to join that club." Butler had a 66-0 lead at one point before Gateway (6-7) won the final two matches of the evening. The Gators had only three wrestlers in their lineup with winning records. Two of them — 220-pounder Jaymar Parrish (17-8) and heavyweight RJ Hughes (15-8) — emerged victorious.

The other, 160-pound Austin Davidson (17-12), suffered a 13-6 loss to Butler's Will Bortmas.

"Jaymar and RJ are peaking at the right time," Gateway coach R.J. Santilli said. "They could do something for us in the postseason."

Parrish scored an 8-2 decision over McKnight, dropping the Tornado senior to 15-19 in his only season as a starter. McKnight does have 10 pins on the year.

"Ben wants to play football in college," Stoner said. "He's one of those guys who decided to throw his hat in the ring, say 'I'm gonna man up and try this.'

"Some of the things he's learned through wrestling will help him in football, wherever he winds up playing."

Gateway reached the WPIAL team quarterfinals a few years ago, only to see its youth program begin to fade away.

"We lost leadership at that level and we're paying for it now," Santilli said. "It's back to the drawing board in terms of building everything back up."

Stoner admitted it was hard to gauge his team's performance Wednesday.

"Execution is all about waiting for the opportunity, that opening, seizing it and finishing," he said. "We could have finished matches a little quicker tonight in some cases.

"Gateway had a couple of starters banged up and we wondered if they'd have a full lineup tonight regardless. They didn't seem to have a whole lot out there."

Santilli was Butler's junior high coach in 2000-01 before moving on to Gateway.

"Butler has a good, solid lineup and Coach Stoner does a good job with them," Santilli said.

"When I was here, I remember how badly coaches Stoner and (Bill) Mylan wanted to build a program, how much they worked with and cared about the kids as individuals.

"I'm not surprised at all to see where that program is today."

Butler will enter the section tournament with 10 wrestlers sporting more than 20 victories: Bortmas (24-13), Blake Caudill (28-3), Korey Caudill (30-6), Collins (30-6), Conner Foust (23-13), Ryan Hannon (24-8), Reges (29-8), Spohn (24-10), Sutton (31-7) and Weaver (30-7).

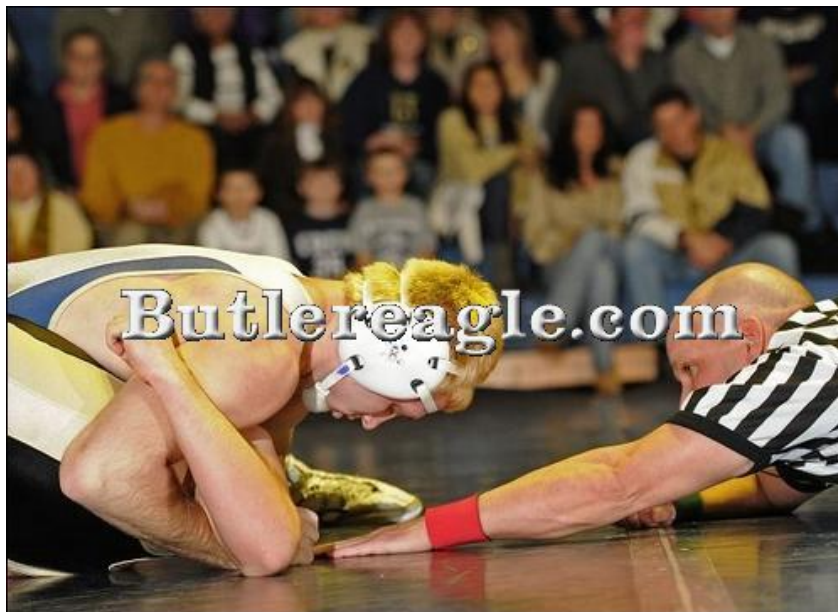
### **Butler 66, Gateway 9**

#### **(match started at 106 pounds)**

**106:** Connor Foust (B) by forfeit; **113:** Blake Caudill (B) pinned Thaer Shouman, 1:58; **120:** Cody Houston (B) pinned Ryan Taylor, 1:32; **126:** Nick Sutton (B) pinned Carlos Derry, :34; **132:** Zach Reges (B) by forfeit; **138:** Jesse Spohn (B) pinned Tyler Boehm, 1:10; **145:** Zach Shultz (B) pinned Mike Limbacher, 3:19; **152:** Dakoda Collins (B) pinned Dan Freeauf, 1:15; **160:** Will Bortmas (B) dec. Austin Davidson, 13-6; **170:** Ryan Hannon (B) dec. John McGuire, 7-2; **182:** Zach Weaver (B) pinned Malik Shuman, :49; **195:** Nick Gibson (B) by forfeit; **220:** Jaymar Parrish (G) dec. Ben McKnight, 8-2; **285:** RJ Hughes (G) pinned Taylor Flick, 1:13

## 100 ..... and counting !

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler's Dakota Collins, above, pins Gateway's Dan Freeauf during a recent bout while the Golden Tornado's Zach Reges, below, takes control of Hampton's Kevin Synan at 132 pounds. Collins and Reges joined Butler's 100-win club this season. Steven Dietz/ Special to the Eagle

BUTLER TWP — Through its first 19 years, the Butler High School wrestling program produced two 100-win matmen. It's produced four in the past two seasons.

Cole Baxter and Mike Crawford graduated last year as the Golden Tornado's all-time winningest wrestlers. Seniors Dakota Collins

(111 wins) and Zach Reges (101) cracked the 100-mark this season.

"Our schedule has been much tougher the last few years, too," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Our wrestlers have elevated their skill set to meet the demands of that schedule."

Consistency has been the key for Collins and Reges. Neither has ever won fewer than 20 matches in a season.

Collins, who has competed at 145 pounds through 160 in his prep career, has 63 career pins, including seasons of 17, 18 and 20 this year. His takedown total over the past four years is 42, 33, 45 and 45.



Reges has competed at 119 pounds through 132 in his career. He has 46 career pins — including years of 11, 12, 12 and 11 — and Reges' takedown totals over four years are 31, 31, 33 and 29.

Reges has been wrestling since third grade, Collins since sixth.

"Ever since I started wrestling, I wanted to join the 100-win club," Reges said. "I know how hard it is to win that many. "I lost four in a row there late in the year and was getting a little worried."

Reges made up for that skid last weekend at the 16-team Uniontown Duals, winning all five of his matches to reach 100. His 100th triumph came via decision over

Hampton's Chris Olszewski.

Olszewski had hung a 7-3 loss on Reges during Hampton's section championship victory over Butler earlier this season.

"It felt good to get the 100th win against a quality kid — especially one who beat me earlier," Reges said. That win wasn't the biggest in Reges' career, however. That came during the Golden Tornado's 32-31 victory over then unbeaten Hampton, when Reges decisioned Kevin Synan at 132 in the final match of the night before a packed house in Butler.

"By far, the biggest win I've ever had ... I value that night more than the 100 wins," Reges admitted. Stoner said Reges' personality defies his wrestling persona.

"You see him in the halls at school, you wouldn't think he's a wrestler because of his quietness," Stoner said. "Yet he's matured into one of the leaders on this team.

"Zach had 11 or 12 close losses his freshman and sophomore years because of inexperience. He learned how to turn those into wins."

Reges needs three wins to pass T.J. McCance for fourth on Butler's all-time victory list. Collins needs seven wins to tie Crawford for second on that list.

"That's something I have my sights on," Collins admitted. "I want to get to Hershey and I'm going to need a number of wins to get there."

Stoner said Collins doesn't use speed or quickness on the mat. He has more of a deliberate style.

"He's a predator who takes his prey and snuffs the life out of it," Stoner said. "Dakota knows how to finish a match."

While Collins has 63 career pins, he has never won a match by technical fall.

A wrestler since sixth grade, Collins had his eye on 100 wins from his first day on the mat.

"I even told my coach at the time, Barry Foust, I was gonna get there," Collins said. "He reminded me of that the night I got my 100th."

Foust is the father of Butler freshman 106-pounder Connor Foust.

Collins wrestled against upperclassmen more often than not during his freshman and sophomore seasons.

"You don't see many freshmen at 145 or 152 pounds. He faced more seasoned and physically developed kids repeatedly," Stoner said. "That's what makes this win total so impressive."

Collins also worked out in the Tornado wrestling room with Baxter and Crawford.

"Those guys made me better," Collins insisted. "I'm where I'm at now because of them."

Collins and Reges want to wrestle in college as well.

"I don't want to leave this sport," Collins said. "Just the dedication of it ... It helps get your life on track and keep it there."



## Survival time on the mats

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



FOX CHAPEL — Wrestling shifts into a different mode this weekend.

The Section 3-AAA Tournament takes place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Fox Chapel High School. The finals are set for 6 p.m. with the top five placers in each weight class advancing to the WPIAL Tournament.

"Up until now, it's been all about the team," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "This is a tough

transition for wrestlers and coaches.

"Attitude and desire mean a lot right now. It's a long season and you've got to have the hunger to keep going."

Knoch coach Mark McLaughlin said that "mental training is as important as physical" come this time of year.

"What do you do after that first loss in the section tournament?" McLaughlin pondered. "Our kids are going to be in that situation. A lot of college coaches are interested in the kids who finish third.

"They like to see who responds to that one loss."

Butler, Knoch, Seneca Valley and Mars will be competing in the section tourney. The Golden Tornado have four No. 1 seeds in Blake Caudill (28-3) at 113 pounds, Zach Reges (29-8) at 132, Jesse Spohn (24-10) at 138 and Dakota Collins (30-6) at 152.

Two other Butler wrestlers — Nick Sutton (31-7) at 120 and Ryan Hannon (24-8) at 170 — are No. 2 seeds.

"When you're the No. 1 seed, it's on you to find a way to battle through the weight class and win it," Stoner said. "I'm hoping to get 10 kids through to the WPIALS. We may need a couple of surprises to do that, but we're capable."



North Xtra: HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

## After some early reluctance, Butler twins take to the mat

Thursday, January 26, 2012

By Ken Wunderley, Tri-State Sports & News Service

Twins Blake and Korey Caudill were a bit hesitant to try wrestling while attending Butler Junior High.

Varsity coach Scott Stoner is glad they were eventually convinced that wrestling would be a good option for them.

"In seventh grade, I had a few friends who wanted me to try out for the wrestling team," Blake Caudill said. "I hesitated at first, but they eventually talked me into attending a few practices. It was right up my alley. I've loved wrestling ever since."

It took a lot longer to convince Korey Caudill. He waited a year to join his brother in the wrestling room.

"Blake tried to convince me to wrestle, but I said no at first," Korey said. "I watched Blake wrestle that first year and saw the success he was having. And the junior high coach [Don Geibel] kept pushing me to come out, so I finally tried it. Two days later, I found that I loved wrestling just as much as Blake."

Both are juniors and starting for the Golden Tornado varsity team.

"We needed a 103-pounder when Blake and Korey were freshmen," Stoner said. "We brought up Blake to fill the spot because he had the extra year of experience. Korey stayed on our junior high team."

Blake Caudill made the most of his varsity debut by posting a 32-6 record. He placed third in Section 3-AAA and had a 1-2 record in the WPIAL Class AAA championships.

"It was pretty tough starting as a freshman," Blake said. "I had a couple bad habits that slowed my progress, but I worked very hard to improve in those areas. I raised the bar for myself and that made me a lot better."

Last season, the twins were in Butler's starting lineup.

Blake moved to the 112-pound weight class and won a Section 3-AAA title, thus earning his second WPIAL tournament berth. He finished with a 26-8 record after going 2-2 in the WPIAL tournament.

"I won my first match [at the WPIAL tournament], then wrestled [Franklin Regional's] Tyler Smith and didn't wrestle with the intensity that I normally showed and I lost," Blake said.

"I learned that you have to wrestle with the same intensity in every match."

Korey Caudill posted a 22-10 record in his first season, competing at 119 pounds, but was beat out by teammate Nick Sutton for the section tournament.

"I beat Nick in every wrestle-off until it came down to section," Korey said. "I just blanked in that match and he beat me."

That left Korey sitting in the stands watching his brother at the section tournament.

"It was a big disappointment, but it's made me even more determined this season," Korey said.

With the new weight class alignment adopted by the PIAA, Blake is starting at 113, while Korey is at 120.

Blake has a 19-1 record and is No. 6 in the WPIAL Class AAA rankings. Korey is ranked No. 8 with a 23-4 record.

"Both have a tremendous amount of talent in different areas," Stoner said. "Blake is more explosive from the bottom position. Korey is more deliberate and waits for his opponent to make a mistake."

The twins have each recorded 13 pins this season, and Blake has 49 for his career.

"Both are in strong weight classes, but I feel both have a good chance of qualifying for the PIAA tournament," Stoner said.

Both attend Pitt Wrestling Club practices on a regular basis and enjoy wrestling in the summer.

Each qualified for a trip to Fargo, N.D., to wrestle in the USA Wrestling Junior Nationals, but only one made the trek.

"I qualified in freestyle, but decided that I wasn't ready to wrestle in a national tournament," Korey said.

Blake did attend and placed sixth in the country at 112 pounds in Greco-Roman. But he almost missed the tournament with a concussion.

"My head got jack-hammered to the mat during the first day of training camp and they wouldn't let me wrestle," Blake Caudill said. "I finally got the go-ahead to wrestle the day we were leaving for Fargo. At that point, I had to cut 9 pounds to get down to 112."

After seeing Blake place at Junior Nationals, Korey has decided that he wants to make the trip this summer.

## Stoner's stability

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler wrestling coach Scott Stoner reached the 250-win plateau in career dual matches while guiding the Golden Tornado to a 19-6 record this season. Dave Prelosky/Butler Eagle

BUTLER TWP — Butler varsity wrestling coach Scott Stoner recently realized his 250th career dual match win with the Golden Tornado. He took time to reflect on his career in the sport, leading into this weekend's Section 3-AAA individual tournament at Fox Chapel.

### ***What first interested you in wrestling?***

I didn't get involved in the sport until eighth grade. My mom and dad wanted me to be in the band. I played the trumpet ... well, I blew through it, anyway, and never really got into it. My cousin Chuck wrestled and I got exposed to the sport through him.

I was a small guy, weighed maybe 70 pounds, and it was always challenging for me to gain self-respect. I wasn't very talented, so I really had to work hard at wrestling.

It didn't take long for it to become a life commitment for me. Honestly, I don't know where I'd be without it.

### ***How did you land in Butler?***

I was looking for a teaching job and officiated wrestling tournaments on weekends for some extra money. I worked a tournament at Butler and they were looking for a coach.

I wanted to coach high school wrestling, so I applied, put in my resume, and felt like I could do a lot of good here. Russ Greer was on the school board and sort of got wrestling started here. It was hard for me to believe wrestling didn't start in Butler until 1991, since Pennsylvania has been such a hotbed for wrestling. I was excited about the prospects.

***What are the highlights of your coaching career at Butler?***

Cole Baxter winning the WPIAL title, obviously, and there's plenty of team stuff. I'm a team-oriented guy, so that's the stuff I tend to remember. Making the top-10 team rankings in 1998 was a big deal to me, getting four section champs in one year, stuff like that.

***You can only have one of the following: A team section championship, dual match win over North Allegheny or an individual state champion. Which do you choose?***

Beating NA would be huge because that program is such a bench-mark, but I'd take the section title. Again, it's a team thing. I've been here 19 years and we haven't won a section title. When are they going to fire me?

***What are your thoughts on "cutting weight" in wrestling?***

It can be dangerous. There's a right and wrong way to do it. Kids have to make smart decisions. Conditioning from the start is the key. We've done things like ultimate frisbee, and running to keep in shape.

I'm a bigger believer in trimming body fat than in just cutting weight.

***Have you ever considered leaving Butler?***

I actually vacated the position in 1998 to take a teaching job at Seneca Valley. Ken Lockey was planning on stepping down as wrestling coach there and he had built quite a program. Bottom line was, I couldn't give up what we had gotten started in Butler. They had already opened the position, but I called Jerry Slamecka (in personnel) and they welcomed me back. I re-interviewed for my old job and haven't considered leaving since.

***What significance does 250 wins have for you?***

I've never counted or even looked at the numbers. The relationships I've built with the kids is what I value most about this job.

"It's taken a lot of great wrestlers, good kids with so much dedication to produce that number of wins. I'm proud of what we've accomplished in terms of the number of kids in the program. I don't take time to reflect back, but the memories are there.

***How rewarding is it to see so many former wrestlers return to the program in a coaching capacity?***

It's emotionally moving. I've worked with a lot of good kids over the years and maintaining contact with them is important to me. I love when guys stop in over holiday breaks and I get a lot of notes from former wrestlers I've coached.

I save every one. Its oe of the rewarding things about coaching. Wrestling gives kids traits they can use later in life and I love to see so many of them give back to the sport they way they do.



***Describe your relationship with (your former college coach and current Butler assistant coach) Fred Powell.***

I don't even know how to begin to do that. Coach has always led by example. He's tireless. We do push-ups in the room, he's on his 82nd one and the rest of us are done.

He'll work with a kid on anything at any time. His wrestling knowledge is unparalleled at this level and he's one of the premier educators in this sport.

Fred Powell is simply a tremendous person. He's always gained my respect, never by asking for it.

**THROUGH THE YEARS**

Here is Scott Stoner's year-by-year dual match record as head wrestling coach at Butler High School:

**Year W L**

1993-94 14 11

1994-95 8 11

1995-96 12 8

1996-97 12 6

1997-98 9 6

1998-99 9 3

1999-00 8 5

2000-01 5 7

2001-02 7 8

2002-03 13 3

2003-04 6 9

2004-05 14 5

2005-06 18 6

2006-07 7 14

2007-08 21 6

2008-09 23 6

2009-10 20 4

2010-11 26 5

2011-12 19 6

**Totals 250 129**

## Tornado advance 12 to WPIAL mat tourney

*By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler's Zach Reges wrestles SV's Austin Leon during the 132-pound WPIAL Section 3-AAA championship  
DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

FOX CHAPEL — A .500 batting average isn't bad — especially in the Section 3-AAA wrestling finals. Just ask Butler coach Scott Stoner. "I'll take it," Stoner said of his matmen winning three of their six section title matches Saturday night at Fox Chapel High School. "We got 12 kids through, three section champions. ... I'm not going to complain about that."

The top-five placers in each weight

class Saturday advanced to the WPIAL Tournament, which begins Thursday at Canon McMillan.

Blake Caudill (31-3) at 113 pounds, Zach Reges (32-8) at 132 and Dakoda Collins (33-6) at 152 won section crowns for the Golden Tornado. Nick Sutton at 120, Jesse Spohn at 138 and Ryan Hannon at 170 placed second.

Also advancing for Butler are Connor Foust at 106, Corey Caudill at 126, Will Bortmas at 160, Zach Weaver at 182, Nick Gibson at 195 and Ben McKnight at 220.

Reges pinned his way through the tournament.

"Everybody's tough at this time of year and you need the right mindset," Reges said. "Getting a pin in my first match relaxed me a little bit."

Caudill pinned his first two opponents before scoring a 5-0 decision over Ted Mazur of Shaler in the finals.

"I always look for the pin, but there was never an opening," Caudill said. "Sometimes you have to be patient, take what's there and get the win."

Collins was deadlocked at 2 in his title match with Ambridge's Josef Baran when he scored a sudden pin midway through the second period of their title match.

"The match became a scramble, a lot of confusion about what to do ... I'm pretty good in those situations," Collins said, smiling.

Stoner was pleased over how his trio handled those final matches.

"Zach has been a bit hot and cold all year. He was very consistent today and hopefully he'll carry this momentum into next week," Stoner said. "Blake's opponent wasn't doing anything and you can get too aggressive in that kind of match and make a mistake. He didn't do that."



"Dakoda waits for an opportunity, snatches it and finishes it. That's what he did there "We've never advanced more than two in our program's history," Knights coach Mark McLaughlin said. "We were in position to advance six tonight, which is a positive step for us."

### Section 3-AAA Tournament Finals; Cons. Finals; 5th-6th (top five to WPIAL meet)

106 pounds-Dom Forsys (N.Allegheny) dec. Jordan McGonigle (Shaler) 8-0; Travis Sonson (Hopewell) dec. Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley) 9-0; **Connor Foust (Butler)** default over Dillion Holben (Knoch)  
**113-Blake Caudill (Butler)** dec. Ted Mazer (Shaler) 5-0; Richie Boeh (Mars) dec. Anthony Latess (Seneca Valley) 4-2; Phil Bachman (N.Allegheny) pinned Devon Klaas (North Hills) :19  
**120-Tyler Walker (North Hills)** dec. **Nick Sutton (Butler)** 20-6; Filippo Crivelli (Hopewell) pinned Austin Heintz (Shaler) 1:33; Joel Hixon (Knoch) dec. Scott Stossel (N.Allegheny) 5-2  
**126-Peter Craig (Hampton)** dec. Jesse Rodgers (N.Allegheny) 5-1; Drew Walker (North Hills) dec. Brennan OShea (Seneca Valley) 6-2; **Korey Caudill (Butler)** dec. Blaine Elliott (Knoch) 9-3  
**132-Zach Reges (Butler)** pinned Austin Leon (Seneca Valley) 3:54; Chris Olszewski (Hampton) pinned Mike Wanner (N.Allegheny) 4:37; Luke Esswein (Pine-Richland) pinned Col McLaughlin (Knoch) :28  
**138-Kevin Synan (Hampton)** dec. **Jesse Spohn (Butler)** 6-1; Tyler Schillero (Seneca Valley) default over Austin Killian (Pine-Richland); David Tuzikow (North Hills) dec. Daniel Santia (Hopewell) 3-1  
**152-Dakoda Collins (Butler)** pinned Josef Baran (Ambridge) 2:56; Zach Kocak (Hampton) dec. Tyler Heasley (Fox Chapel) 5-1; Ryan McMahon (Mars) pinned Matt King (Seneca Valley) 2:55  
**160-Marco Crivelli (Hopewell)** pinned Collin Siford (Hampton) 3:43; Colton Byerly (N.Allegheny) dec. **Will Bortmas (Butler)** 6-3; Corey Mahon (Fox Chapel) dec. Steven Rudolph (Seneca Valley) 8-0  
**170-Alex Deciantis (North Allegheny)** dec. **Ryan Hannon (Butler)** 13-5; Brandon Olszewski (Hampton) pinned Nathan Bair (Mars) 2:42; Elliot King (North Hills) dec. Jacob Eaton (Seneca Valley) 13-4  
**182-Jarred Lux (N.Allegheny)** dec. Anthony Brooks (Fox Chapel) 11-7; **Zach Weaver (Butler)** default over Andrew Wood (Pine-Richland); Elliot Baran (Ambridge) pinned Mike Link (Hampton) :20  
**195-Jake Hart (Hampton)** default over Zach Smith (N.Allegheny); Nick Gibson (Butler) dec. Johan Van Wyk (Mars) 4-1; Sean Stanek (Seneca Valley) pinned Steve Vogt (Hopewell) 3:13  
**220-Ben Balish (Pine-Richland)** dec. Alen Turcinhodzic (North Hills) 3-2; Nick Yaroszewski (Hampton) pinned **Ben McKnight (Butler)**; Nick Carey (Shaler) pinned Adam Daud (N.Allegheny) 2:34

North Xtra: HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

## Butler sending a dozen to WPIAL Class AAA championships

Thursday, March 01, 2012

By Ken Wunderley, Tri-State Sports & News Service



Hampton High School's Peter Craig goes against Elizabeth Forward's Lukas Etzel at the Allegheny County tournament semifinals.

The Butler Area High School wrestling team tied a school record at Saturday's Section 3-AAA tournament and is shooting for another record at this weekend's Class AAA WPIAL/Southwest Regional.

"We had 12 of our 13 entries advance to the WPIAL tournament [by placing among

the top five in their weight class]," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "That ties a school record. We also had 12 qualify during the 2008-09 season."

Butler had six wrestlers advance to the finals and three came home with titles from the section tournament at Fox Chapel. The Golden Tornado also had two third-place finishers, two fourth-place finishers, and two fifth-place finishers.

"It's great to have that many kids qualify, especially for the underclassmen who are making their first trip to the WPIAL tournament," Stoner said. "The goal now is to qualify for the PIAA tournament, and there's only three berths available in each weight class."

Blake Caudill (31-3), Zach Reges (32-8) and Dakoda Collins (33-6) won titles for Butler, while Nick Sutton (33-8), Jesse Spohn (26-11) and Ryan Hannon (26-9) placed second for the Tornado.

Caudill claimed his second section title with a 5-0 win against Shaler Area's Ted Mazer in the 112-pound weight class. Reges won his second title and earned a fourth consecutive WPIAL berth by pinning Seneca Valley's Austin Leon in the 132-pound final. Collins claimed the title at 152 by pinning Ambridge's Josef Baran.

"I'm happy to see that Blake was seeded No. 3 and that Dakoda was seeded No. 4," Stoner said. "Both realize that they have to place among the top three in their weight class."

Sutton was the runner-up at 120 after a 20-6 loss to North Hills' Tyler Walker, who claimed a second title. Spohn dropped a 6-1 decision to Hampton's Kevin Synan in the 138-pound final. Hannon lost, 13-5, in the 170-pound final to North Allegheny's Alex DeCiantis, who claimed his second section title.

"Qualifying for the state tournament will be even harder this year with teams such as Canon-McMillan and Franklin Regional expected to do so well," Stoner said. "Canon-McMillan has six PIAA place-winners in its lineup and Franklin Regional has a talented group of freshmen in the lower weight classes."

Hampton and North Allegheny each had 10 wrestlers qualify for the WPIAL/Southwest Region tournament, which will take place at Norwin High School.

"We had four section champions," Hampton coach Joe Bursick said. "That's the most I've had in 18 seasons of coaching."

Peter Craig (32-5), Kevin Synan (23-8), Brian Estep (32-7) and Jake Hart (34-2) won titles for Hampton, while Collin Siford (30-6) and Noah Shulman (35-5) were runners-up.

Hampton also had 10 entries in last year's WPIAL/Southwest Regional, but none qualified for the PIAA tournament. Bursick is hoping that will change, as Craig and Hart are seeded No. 2 in their weight classes.

"Jake [Hart] has come close to qualifying the past two years," Bursick said. "We're hoping this is the year he will take the next step."

North Allegheny had three champions and three runners-up. Dom Forys (36-3), DeCiantis (32-6) and Jarred Lux (37-1) won titles for the Tigers, while Jesse Rodgers (37-7) and Zach Smith (32-9) placed second.

Forys claimed his second title and earned the No. 4 seed at 106 with an 8-0 decision against Shaler's Jordan McGonigle. DeCiantis beat Hannon to claim his second title and is seeded No. 2 at 170. Lux is the No. 2 seed at 182 after an 11-7 win against Fox Chapel's Anthony Brooks.

Despite his loss to Craig in the section finals, Rodgers is the No. 4 seed at 126. Smith could have wrestled in the 195-pound final, but was held out due to a back injury that has bothered him all year.

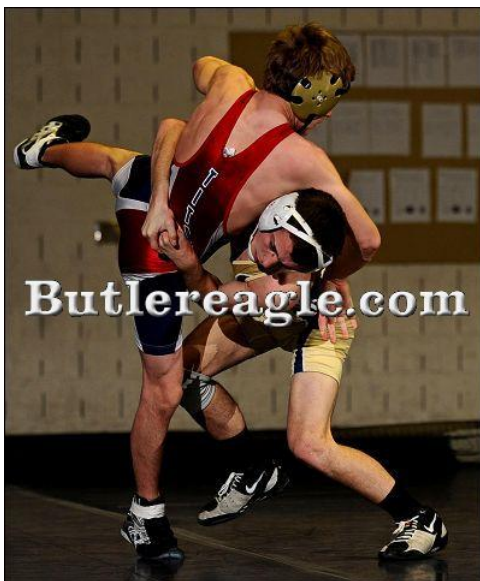


# Butler Eagle

Article published February 29, 2012

## Matmen set for WPIAL tourney

*By John Enrietto Eagle Sports Editor*



Butler's Blake Caudill takes down an opponent in a match earlier this season. He is seeded third at 113 pounds at this weekend's WPIAL Tournament.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Wrestling season has become day to day.

That's how it will be for 23 Butler County wrestlers as they do battle in the WPIAL Tournament this weekend.

Twelve of the 23 have to wrestle in "pigtail" matches at 5:30 p.m. Thursday as the tournament gets under way at Norwin High School. Lose that match and your season is over.

"Five of our six kids are in those pigtail matches," Seneca Valley coach Kevin Wildrick said. "That's a tough deal. It's like you have to fight your way into the thing."

Win the pigtail match and a wrestler joins the round of 16. That's when the tournament becomes double-elimination.

"You have to be wary of your opponent all the time in this tournament, no matter where you're seeded," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Dakoda (Collins) is seeded fourth at 152 and wrestles the winner of a pigtail match.

"His opponent will likely be a Canon-McMillan kid (Will Pihou) and wrestlers in that program are expected to win. That's their mindset. Dakoda is going to have to be mentally ready." Butler has 12 wrestlers in the tournament, including three section champions. Blake Caudill is the Golden Tornado's highest seed as he's ranked third at 113 pounds. Zach Reges is seeded fifth at 132.

The top-three placers in each weight class advance to next weekend's state tournament in Hershey.

"Being realistically optimistic, we might get three or four kids through or we might get none," Stoner said. "We'll coach each kid match by match. There is no looking ahead."

Of Butler's 12 qualifiers, three — Connor Foust at 106, Will Bortmas at 160 and Ben McKnight at 220 — are in pigtail matches. Bortmas is wrestling a former Butler resident in Byron Minous of Thomas Jefferson.

"Byron was in our junior high program," Stoner recalled. "He was a real promising kid, but his family left the area.

"I like him a lot. He called me in December just to check on how our guys were doing. But now we have to go and beat him."

Both of Knoch's qualifiers — 120-pound Joel Hixon and heavyweight Ian Adkins — are in pigtail matches.

"I'm a bit surprised to see Ian getting a pigtail match as a third-place finisher," Knoch coach

## **WPIAL TOURNAMENT**

### **Schedule**

**Thursday** — Pigtail matches, 5:30 p.m.; Preliminary round, 7 p.m.

**Friday** — Quarterfinals, first-round consolations, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday** — Second-round consolations, 10 a.m.; Semifinals, third-round consolations, noon; Fourth-round consolations, 2:15 p.m.; Consolation Finals, 6 p.m.; Parade of Champions, 7:20 p.m.; Championship Finals, 7:30 p.m.

### **Thursday's Area Matchups**

#### **Pigtail Matches**

**106 pounds**-Connor Foust (Butler) 25-5 vs. Jake Gerard (Ringgold) 30-10); Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley) 23-8 vs. Sean Perri (Mt. Lebanon) 7-2

**120**-Darion Lutton (Chartiers Valley) 13-17 vs. Joel Hixon (Knoch) 18-15

**126**-Brennan OShea (Seneca Valley) 13-8 vs. Zac Argyle (McKeesport) 20-10; Korey Caudill (Butler) 32-8 vs. Jake Ardelitz (Kiski Area) 25-13

**138**-Steve Morgan (Elizabeth Forward) 16-16 vs. Tyler Schillero (Seneca Valley) 15-12

**152**-Greg Incardona (Thomas Jefferson) 16-17 vs. Ryan McMahan (Mars) 18-11

**160**-Will Bortmas (Butler) 26-15 vs. Byron Minous (Thomas Jefferson) 18-15

**170**-Jacob Eaton (Seneca Valley) 10-20 vs. Matt George (Upper St. Clair) 21-11

**195**-Johan Van Wyk (Mars) 14-12 vs. Don McWreath (Trinity) 24-10

**220**-Jake DiGuilio (Plum) 21-14 vs. Ben McKnight (Butler) 17-21

**285**-Ian Adkins (Knoch) 20-13 vs. RJ Hughes (Gateway) 21-10

#### **Preliminary-Round Matches**

**113 pounds**-Blake Caudill (Butler) 31-3 vs. Nick Burkett (Thomas Jefferson) 15-4 or Mark Tharp (Chartiers Valley) 10-13; Richie Boeh (Mars) 24-4 vs. Garrett Walnoha (Upper St. Clair) 24-8

**120**-Corey Wilding (Upper St. Clair) 30-8 vs. Nick Sutton (Butler) 33-8

**132**-Austin Leon (Seneca Valley) 22-9 vs. Malachi Krenzela (Canon-McMillan) 21-14; Zach Reges (Butler) 32-8 vs. Shane Piper (Waynesburg) 22-15

**138**-Jesse Spohn (Butler) 26-11 vs. John Marotto (Plum) 29-6

**152**-Dakoda Collins (Butler) 33-6 vs. Will Pihou (Canon-McMillan) 22-14 or Shawn McGowan (Kiski Area) 21-17

**170**-Ryan Hannon (Butler) vs. 26-9 vs. Derrick Zavatsky (Greater Latrobe) 26-9

**182**-Zach Weaver (Butler) 33-8 vs. Zach Thomas (Canon-McMillan) 20-10

**195**-Cole Macek (Montour) 30-6 vs. Nick Gibson (Butler) 14-15

# Butler Eagle

Article published March 2, 2012

## Butler wrestlers advance

*By Sam Tallarico, Eagle Sports Writer*



Butler's Dakota Collins scores a win over Canon-McMillan's Will Pihou in the 152-pound weight class during the preliminary round of the WPIAL Wrestling Championships Thursday night at Norwin High School. Butler advanced five wrestlers into the quarterfinal round of the tournament.

Steven Dietz/Special to the Eagle

NORTH HUNTINGDON — It's hard to tell if Butler coach Scott Stoner was working as hard as his wrestlers on Thursday — not that he's complaining. The Golden Tornado had 12 wrestlers taking part in 15 total matches during the first day of the PIAA Southwestern Regional Class AAA Wrestling

Championships at Norwin High School.

Stoner was moving from mat to mat, his mind going a million miles a minute, but that was a small price to pay.

"Connellsville and us had 12 wrestlers here and Canon-McMillan had 13," Stoner said. "While they'll get about five kids through, it's nice to still have your kids wrestling."

Five of the Tornado wrestlers won their preliminary matches — Blake Caudill (113), Nick Sutton (120), Zach Reges (132), Dakota Collins (152) and Zach Weaver (182) — to advance to the final eight in their respective weight classes.

The first four all gutted out decisions as Caudill downed Chartiers Valley's Mark Tharp 10-6, Sutton 6-2 over Upper St. Clair's Corey Wilding, Zach Reges 4-0 over Waynesburg's Shane Piper and Collins 5-2 over Canon-McMillan's Will Pihou.

Weaver won in convincing fashion, pinning Canon-McMillan's Zach Thomas in 2:58.

"Zach Thomas is no slouch," Stoner said. "He's from Canon-Mac, he's wrestled some good kids in the state. Zach (Weaver) got up on him 4-2. The kid got a quick reversal and could have gotten something but (Weaver) held on.

"I think they were a little shell-shocked by it. And that pin by Zach tied the single-season pin record (26) with Cole Baxter," Stoner added.

All five wrestlers entered the tournament with 30 or more victories, but some matches did not come easy.

"Blake was a little sluggish," Stoner said. "It was the first round, but I'm still happy with the result. Nick went out and beat a kid who beat Korey twice and Zach (Reges) went to work and went about his business.



"Dakota, it was not his best wrestling. He should have scored on an opportunity and he just shook his head when he came off. He knew he didn't wrestle his best," Stoner added.

The other 17 wrestlers taking part Thursday came away from the day with at least one loss, nine of whom are still alive, but will be eliminated with one more loss in

the tournament.

Butler's Korey Caudill (126), Will Bortmas (160) and Ben McKnight (220) all won pigtail matches, which advanced them into the preliminary rounds.

Ben McKnight (220) pinned Plum's Jake DiGuilio at 3:18 while Caudill decisioned Kiski's Jake Ardellitz 8-2 and Will Bortmas (160) did likewise against Thomas Jefferson's Byron Minous, 3-1.

"Ben McKnight did a heck of a job," Stoner said. "(DiGuilio) had a much better record (21-14 to 17-21) and has wrestled longer. That was as impressive a match as we had tonight."

All three, however, dropped their prelim matches as Caudill lost 5-0 to Canon-Mac's Colt Shorts, who won the 106-pound title last season. Bortmas lost by major decision 14-1 to top-seeded Zack Zavatsky of Latrobe and McKnight by technical fall (15-0, 4:28) to top-seeded Alex Campbell of Canon-Mac.

"In Caudill's match it was 0-0 after the first period," Stoner said. "Korey's up a weight and he wrestled well in his pigtail match."

The only other area wrestler to post a win Thursday was Seneca Valley's Tyler Schillero (138), who decisioned Elizabeth-Forward's Steve Morgan 8-5, then was pinned by top-seeded Solomon Chishko of Canon-McMillan.

Other wrestlers to compete Friday and try to stave off elimination are Mars' Richie Boeh (113), Seneca Valley's Austin Leon (132) and Butler's Jesse Spohn (138), Ryan Hannon (170) and Nick Gibson (195).

"Looking at this year, then looking back at last year, things have come together," Stoner said. "I came down here, we get ready, we prepare well and then I didn't see the enthusiasm.

"A lot of time people see scores, the wins and losses, but you have to see the positives in a win or a loss and other things that need improving.

"I'm much happier than I have been coming down here," Stoner added.

### **WPIAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT**

The following are the pigtail and preliminary-round matches at Thursday's first day of the Southwestern Regional Class AAA Wrestling Championship at Norwin High School.

#### **Pigtail Matches**

103-Jake Gerard (Ringgold) major dec. over def. Connor Foust (Butler), 11-0

120-Darion Lutton (Chartiers Valley) dec. Joel Hixon (Knoch), 8-3

126-Korey Caudill (Butler) dec. Jake Ardellitz (Kiski Area), 8-2; Zac Argyle (McKeesport) dec. Brennen O'Shea (Seneca Valley), 8-2;

138-Tyler Schillero (Seneca Valley) dec. Steve Morgan (Elizabeth-Forward), 8-5



152-Greg Incardona (Thomas Jefferson) pinned Ryan McMahon (Mars), 3:08  
160-Will Bortmas (Butler) dec. Byron Minous (Thomas Jefferson), 3-1  
170-Matt George (Upper St. Clair) tech. fall over Jacob Eaton (Seneca Valley), 16-0  
195-Don McWreath (Trinity) major dec. over Johan Van Wyk (Mars), 8-0; Jack McGillick (Penn-Trafford) pinned Sean Stanek (Seneca Valley), 1:45  
220-Ben McKnight (Butler) pinned Jake DiGuilio (Plum), 3:18  
285-RJ Hughes (Gateway) dec. Ian Adkins (Knoch), 4-2

### **Preliminary Matches**

113-Blake Caudill (B) dec. Mark Tharp (Chartiers Valley), 10-6; Garrett Wolnoha (Upper St. Clair) dec. Richie Boeh (Mars), 3-0  
120-Nick Sutton (Butler) dec. Corey Wilding (Upper St. Clair), 6-2  
126-Colt Shorts (Canon-McMillan) dec. Korey Caudill (Butler), 5-0  
132-Zach Reges (Butler) dec. Shane Piper (Waynesburg), 4-0; Malachi Krenzela (Canon-McMillan) dec. Austin Leon (Seneca Valley), 3-1  
138-Solomon Chishko (Canon-McMillan) pinned Tyler Schillero (Seneca Valley), 4:52; John Marotto (Plum) dec. Jesse Spohn (Butler), 5-3  
152-Dakota Collins (Butler) dec. Will Pihou (Canon-McMillan), 5-2  
160-Zack Zavatsky (Latrobe) major dec. over Will Bortmas (Butler), 14-1  
170-Derrick Zavatsky (Latrobe) dec. Ryan Hannon (Butler), 6-2  
182-Zach Weaver (Butler) pinned Zach Thomas (Canon-McMillan), 2:58  
195-Cole Macek (Montour) tech fall over Nick Gibson (Butler), 15-0 (4:28)  
220-Alex Campbell (Canon-McMillan) Ben McKnight (Butler), :42





# Butler Eagle

Article published March 3, 2012

## Caudill, Collins alive entering semifinals

*By Jason Orfao, Eagle Staff Writer*

NORTH HUNTINGDON — And then there were two.

Butler's Dakota Collins and Blake Caudill each earned narrow victories Friday night en route to the semifinals of the WPIAL Class AAA Wrestling Tournament at Norwin High School.

At 113 pounds, Caudill (33-3) scored a reverse in the final moments to claim a 2-0 victory over Upper St. Clair's Garrett Walnoha (25-9).

"I didn't mean for it to be like that, but I was wrestling real conservative and it came down to getting a takedown," said Caudill. "It feels great. I'm just pumped and ready for tomorrow."

Collins (35-6) also enjoyed a dramatic triumph. The 152-pound senior trailed 1-0 to Ringgold's Devin Fallenstein (34-9) heading into the third period, but scored an escape to knot the match before a takedown with 38 seconds left paved the way for a 3-2 win.

"Dakota wrestled classic Dakota-style wrestling," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "He kept the match slow, kept everything under control, kept things in front of him and won the match.

"That's what we expect him to do."

Collins is looking forward to the next challenge.

"I accomplished my goals to make it here to WPIALs and make to the semifinals," Collins said. "Now I have to give it all I got to beat the next kid."

Collins will face Zach Voytek (41-3) of Greensburg Salem in the semifinals, while Caudill is matched up against Canon-McMillan's Dalton Macri (38-2).

"Both had to work very hard to get it," said Stoner. "Blake did not wrestle well. If he wrestles that poorly tomorrow, he will not go through to the final.

"He found a way," Stoner added. "Whether it be 1-0 or a fall or a technical fall, he's still advancing, but we cannot have that kind of performance tomorrow."

Nick Sutton (120 pounds), Zach Reges (132) and Zach Weaver (182) all suffered defeats in quarterfinal action and will wrestle in the second round of consolations today.

The five quarterfinalists along with Jesse Spohn (138) and Korey Caudill (126) gives the Will Bortmas (160), Ryan Hannon (170), Nick Gibson (195) and Ben McKnight (220) had their seasons come to an end Friday.

"I'm a little disappointed in our upper weights," said Stoner. "Ryan Hannon, Willie Bortmas and Nick Gibson all had winnable matches. ... They just made a lot of basic mistakes."

McKnight, a senior who came out for the team two years ago, impressed his coach in defeat.

"He really did a great job for us this year in improving and developing. We got basically all we could out of him," Stoner explained. "He really put a lot of heart and desire into it.

"I could coach Butler kids like that all my life."

Saturday's action began at 10 a.m. with the second round of consolations, followed by the semifinals and third round of consolations at noon. The top-three finishers in each weight class advance to states.

## Elite company

By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor



BUTLER TWP — Blake Caudill included himself in some rather exclusive company Saturday. Butler's junior 113-pound wrestler qualified for this week's PIAA tournament by scoring a 6-4 decision over Nate Russo of Belle Vernon in the consolation finals of the WPIAL Tournament at Norwin High School.

Caudill (35-4) became the sixth wrestler in Butler history to make it to Hershey, joining Lyneil Mitchell, Don Geibel, Garrett Boarts, T.J. McCance and Cole Baxter. Baxter was a three-time state qualifier and two-time state placer.

No other Golden Tornado wrestler has ever placed at the state meet.

"Getting Blake on that awards stand next weekend would be the perfect end to his season," Butler

coach Scott Stoner said. "He's definitely got a shot.

"His four losses are all against top-tier opponents and the big stage won't bother him. Blake's done well in some national events."

Two of Caudill's losses this year are to undefeated Michael Kemerer of Franklin Regional, who won the WPIAL title at 106 pounds Saturday.

Caudill placed sixth in his weight class at a national Greco-Roman tournament last summer and competed in the Super 32 — a national tournament of freshmen and sophomores — in South Carolina.

"The Super 32 was brutal," Caudill recalled. "You're wrestling one match after another, all of them top kids. There was anywhere from 100 to 224 kids in each weight bracket."

The WPIAL tourney was brutal in its own right and Caudill had to fight for survival in the consolation bracket after dropping an 11-4 decision to eventual WPIAL champion Dalton Macri (39-2) of Canon-McMillan in the semifinals.

"As soon as I got off the mat, (Coach) Stoner told me to go back to the practice area and get mentally ready to come back out," Caudill said.

"That wasn't a problem. If I couldn't get to states through the championship bracket, I was determined to come back and finish third."

Caudill won his consolation semifinal match to find himself pitted against Russo (34-5) for the right to go to Hershey. The top-three placers in each weight class advance to the PIAA Tournament.

The match was even at 4-4 going into the third period. Caudill scored a takedown with 15 seconds left to get the victory.

"He was down on his knees looking to make a move and I was able to twist around him to pick up the two," Caudill said.

"We had faced each other in the room at the Pittsburgh Wrestling Club about a year ago. A lot of the top guys in the WPIAL go down there. I'd take him down sometimes, he'd take me down. But I knew his tendencies and that helped."

Russo scored a 2-0 lead with a takedown early in the first period.

"That was only a couple of seconds into the period. It was impressive the way Blake fought back," Stoner said.

Caudill's career record is now 93-18. With a season to go, he is on course to finish second on the Tornado's all-time win list, trailing only Baxter (160 wins).

No other Butler County wrestler reached the final four in their respective weight classes over the weekend. Butler's Zach Reges and Dakota Collins — section champions at 132 and 152 pounds — ended their prep careers by going 2-2 in the tournament.

Collins was 116-47 in his Butler career while Reges finished 106-58.

"All of my seniors have legitimate shots at success if they wrestle in college," Stoner said. "I know at least a few are considering it.

"There's a sense of finality when you lose at the WPIALs as a senior. That's when a number of kids take their first serious look at college wrestling."

## Heartbreak in Hershey

*By Jason Orfao, Eagle Staff Writer*

HERSHEY — Every match at the PIAA Individual Wrestling Championships yields two results: celebration and heartbreak.

Butler County area wrestlers were on both ends of the spectrum on Thursday.

Grove City 182-pounder Wes Phipps pinned Jared Beckwith of Tyrone three minutes and 28 seconds into Thursday's first-round bout and improved to 37-0 on the year.

Butler 113-pounder Blake Caudill wasn't as fortunate.

The junior endured a pair of narrow defeats — 6-4 in the first round and 2-1 in consolations — and was eliminated from the tournament.

"We didn't defend the way we should have," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "It was very disappointing.

"Little errors at this level can be the difference between winning and losing. He has to use this experience ... and I know he will."

According to Stoner, Manheim's Matt Grossmann used a takedown and three back points to claim an early 5-0 over Caudill, but the Butler junior didn't go away quietly.

"He battled back in that match," Stoner noted.

Caudill got within 5-4, cut Grossmann loose in the third to try to force overtime with a takedown, but couldn't convert.

In consolations, Caudill controlled Anthony Vizza of DuBois for the majority of the match, but didn't end up on the right side of the scoreboard.

"With his back to the wall, we wanted to dictate the pace and tempo of the match and he did that," said Stoner. "He outwrestled the kid for five minutes and 38 seconds."

According to Stoner, Caudill just missed grabbing an early advantage and the match was scoreless heading into the third.

"He was close to scoring in the first period and rode (Vizza) the whole second period pretty commandingly," Stoner explained. "He got a one-count on his back as the period ended."

A third-period escape gave Caudill a 1-0 lead, but Vizza made a charge with 22 seconds to go following a restart and a scramble ensued.

Vizza eventually scored the match-winning takedown with one second left on the clock.

"Out of desperation, the kid dove in for a leg," said Stoner. "It's a learning experience. He had some mental errors."

Caudill ends the season at 35-6 with a Section 3 title and third-place finish at WPIALs to his credit.

"I'm definitely proud of the season he had. He's a champion and he did a lot of good things," said Stoner. "Right now, he's the face of our team and our kids look up to him and try to emulate what he's doing.

"He's a young man with a lot of talent and potential," Stoner added. "We have a lot of broken hearts right now, but he's going to come back from this."

## Our best kept athletic secret



By Thomas M. Reiter /  
Can you name the single high school sport in which Western Pennsylvania remains truly elite, producing Division I athletes at a rate comparable to the top regions in the country? Hint: It doesn't involve a ball, a stick or a glove. The answer is wrestling, the world's oldest, purest and fairest sport.

There are 275,000 American high school wrestlers. And few, if any,

regions surpass Western Pennsylvania in raising great ones.

Western Pennsylvania has produced an Olympic gold medalist (Mt. Lebanon's Kurt Angle), the consensus greatest high school wrestler (Jefferson-Morgan's Cary Kolat), perhaps the best public high school team ever (North Allegheny, 1987) and countless NCAA champions and All-Americans.

The WPIAL's finest wrestlers come from rural communities, blue collar towns, affluent suburbs and, on occasion, from the city of Pittsburgh.

What is the secret to our wrestlers' successes? Excellent athletes, superior coaching and first-rate competition play a role, of course. There is, however, another, less obvious reason. With its 14 weight classes, wrestling embraces all athletes -- tall or short, scrawny or stocky, fast or not-so-fast. When it comes to physiques, wrestling is the most accepting of sports. But, when it comes to character, wrestling is the most unforgiving.

Wrestling demands extraordinary mental toughness, perseverance, the courage to confront daunting challenges and the will to recover from painful defeats. Our community embodies and transmits to our young people these qualities. It's our history and culture: hard-working, tough, resilient.

It is fitting, therefore, that for four decades Pittsburgh has been home to the marquee national high school wrestling event, the Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic. At 4 p.m. on March 25, the eyes of the nation's wrestling community will be on a packed Fitzgerald Fieldhouse on the University of Pittsburgh campus.

In the main event, Western Pennsylvania wrestlers and other Pennsylvania seniors will take on Team USA, which comprises the very best from the other 49 states. The contest will feature superb athletes, including, almost certainly, future NCAA champions and possibly even a future Olympic champion.

The national wrestling media -- yes, it does exist -- has declared Team USA the prohibitive favorite. Just like last year. And every other year.



Yet, improbable as it may seem, the outcome is far from certain. Last year, the result turned on a single match between the No. 1 wrestler in the country and a relatively unheralded, last-minute substitute from Derry Area High School. Could the Derry wrestler possibly keep it close? He did not.

He won easily, leading Pennsylvania to yet another stunning victory over the rest of the country. Surprising to many, perhaps, but not to those who know the secret of Western Pennsylvania wrestling.

Thomas M. Reiter is a Pittsburgh attorney who loves wrestling and wrestled in high school but has no other connection to the sport or to Dapper Dan.

First Published 2012-03-12 20:08:51



