

Wrestling: Butler edged out for tournament title

Written by Ken Wunderley on Thursday 12, December 2013 11:00 am.

Tri-State Sports & News Service writer Ken Wunderley profiles the Butler wrestling team, which placed second at last weekend's Chartiers-Houston Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Read his story below.



(Photo: Butler's Ryan Hannon defeats Peters Township's Mitch Fitzgerald, 3-0, in the 182-pound semifinals at the Chartiers-Houston Invitational tournament. Hannon went on to win the title in that weight class. Ken Wunderley/Tri-State Sports & News Service)

For the third consecutive year the Chartiers-Houston Invitational Wrestling Tournament team title was determined by a margin of victory of five points or less.

"It's amazing how close the team standings have been," said Butler coach **Scott Stoner**, after watching the Golden Tornado finish among the top two teams for the third year in a row. "We lost the team title by a half point in 2011, then won by a half point last year. It didn't surprise me that this year's battle for the team title

was another close one."

This time Butler came up five points short in the 2013 tournament, which took place last weekend.

"I wasn't really following the team standings during the medal round because we had nine kids wrestling," Stoner said. "In fact, I didn't even hear them announce that we had a one-point lead on Peters Township going into the 285-pound [medal] matches. One of my assistants heard the announcement and told me."

The format for the finals had all three medal matches -- for first, third and fifth places -- wrestled at the same time on three mats. The 285-pound final featured Peters Township's **Lukas Cervanak** and his opponent was Montour's **Zack Jablonski**. The third-place consolation had Butler's **J.D. Bojanac** facing Bentworth's **Mason Shumaker**.

"It came down to the final match," Stoner said. "Unfortunately, we came up short."

Both bouts ended with a fall. Bojanac was pinned by Shumaker at 2:42. One minute later, Cervanak decked Jablonski to clinch the team title for Peters Township. Peters Township finished with 217 points, while Butler ended with 212.

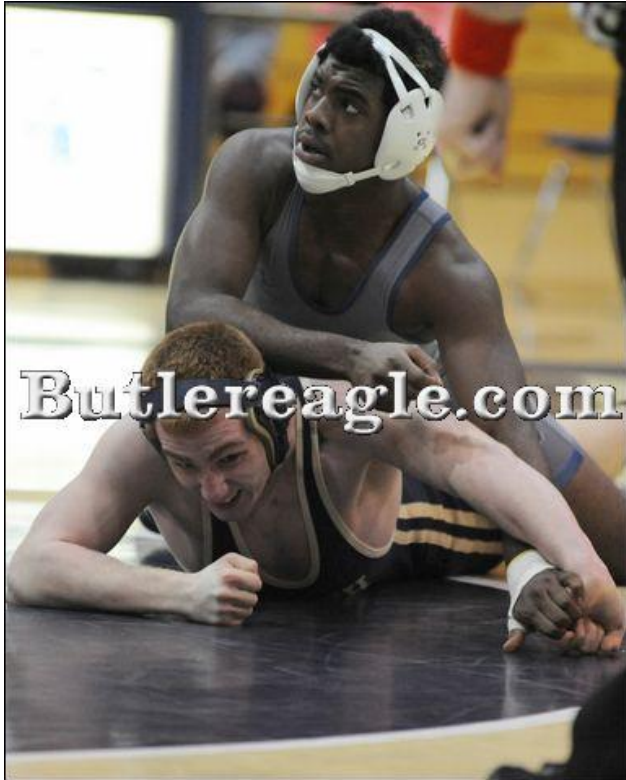
"It's disappointing to come that close and have to settle for second place," Stoner said. "But I'm very proud of what my kids were able to accomplish with such an inexperienced lineup. It didn't help that our 106-pounder was out with an injury."

Bojanac was one of nine Butler wrestlers who placed among the top six in their weight classes. The Tornado had three wrestlers advance to the finals, but only one captured a title. **Ryan Hannon** won the 182-pound crown with a 5-0 victory against Elizabeth Forward's **Colt Belardia**.

Connor Foust and **Will Bortmas** placed second for Butler. Foust was pinned in the 126-pound final by Peters Township's **Philip Mary**. Bortmas dropped an 11-3 decision to Montour's **Cole Macek** at 220 pounds.

Article published January 9, 2014

Butler flips shutout



Butler's Justin Johnson takes control of Knoch's Dalton Ashton in the Golden Tornado's 77-0 wrestling win Wednesday night. TYE CYPHER/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

JEFFERSON TWP — Justin Johnson feels like he's finally caught up. Forced to miss time at the start of the season with a concussion, Johnson had to spend time getting healthy. Now, Johnson can focus on tinkering with his technique.

The 182-pound Butler sophomore rolled to a 17-6 major decision over Knoch's Dalton Ashton during the Golden Tornado's 77-0 Class AAA Section 3-A win in a match Wednesday night at Knoch High School. While Johnson (5-3) was pleased with his win, he wanted a pin. Part of that comes with getting more time on the mat.

"I missed a lot. Like learning tilts," Johnson said. "I was trying to tilt the kid, but I couldn't remember how to do them because I missed so much." Johnson took Ashton down seven

times, but couldn't earn the pin.

"Justin had a lot of success of being bigger, stronger and aggressive," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "He has great speed and when he does go, he drops his hips real well. He's going from the point where he's too high all the time. We want to get him in the low crouch position where he can go at any time. That takes time."

Johnson looked comfortable throughout, picking up two takedowns in the first period to build a 4-1 lead. His only near-disaster was when he tried to roll up Ashton for a pin and landed on his back. Johnson escaped danger. "I was trying to roll him over and pin him, but it didn't work out as planned," Johnson said.

The Golden Tornado (3-2, 2-1) beat up a Knoch squad that was forced to forfeit eight bouts. The Knights (0-4, 0-4) are missing three wrestlers due to injuries, including 160-pounder Max Steinmiller, who is out for the season. "We've got two guys that are potentially close within a week or so of coming back," Knoch coach Mark McLaughlin said. "That doesn't put us in a formidable position. We're not focusing on the team score. We're going to focus on the individual results. As much as we talk about the team part, the team part is over for us." Will Bortmas (220 pounds) and JD Bojanac (285) both won by fall for Butler. Mason Kauffman (132) also picked up a major decision, while Ryan Hannon (170) won the closest

match of the night, beating Ben Nowicki 7-1.

With a big match looming against Seneca Valley next Wednesday, Stoner wasn't sure how to evaluate his team. The Raiders, who beat Pine-Richland 39-30, will wrestle Butler for second place in the sub-section next Wednesday.

"It's tough to draw a lot from it. With six guys on (Knoch's) side, I don't know how you expect the kids to get up from this match," Stoner said. "We needed a good match to respond to the (46-16) loss to North Allegheny the other night, but this wasn't it."

Butler 77, Knoch 0

(Match started at 170 pounds)

106-Hugh O'Neil by forfeit; 113-Max Stalnaker by forfeit; 120-Scott Dietrich (B) by forfeit; 126-Connor Foust (B) by forfeit; 132-Mason Kauffman (B) maj. dec. Max Freyermuth, 17-6; 138-Cody Houston (B) by forfeit; 145-Hank Finan (B) by forfeit; 152-Jeremiah Bortmas (B) by forfeit; 160-David Slomers (B) pin Charlie Cook, 1:43; 170-Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Ben Nowicki, 7-1; 182-Justin Johnson (B) maj. dec. Dalton Ashton, 17-6; 195-Alex White (B) by forfeit; 220-Will Bortmas (B) pin Bailey Savage, 3:16; Hwt.-JD Bojanac (B) pin Kevin Kidd, :26.

Article published January 4, 2014

Tigers topple Tornado



Butler's Cody Houston tries to turn North Allegheny's Rich Boeh to his back during a 138-pound match Friday night at the Butler Intermediate High School. Houston won 7-4, but the Golden Tornado lost 46-16.

Tye Cypher/ Special to the Butler Eagle

BUTLER TWP — North Allegheny came out and asserted itself as the top team of Class AAA Sub-Section 3A. Butler wrestling Coach Scott Stoner was disappointed with how the Tigers asserted themselves.

North Allegheny won 10 matches en route to a 46-16 win Friday at the Butler

Intermediate High School.

"It's hard for me to sit there and watch," Stoner said. "We've prepared and trained our kids to do a better job and put a better product on the mat. A lot of basic mental mistakes. You don't put your shoes on the wrong feet when you get up in the morning. ... When we don't execute those things, it's really troubling."

Butler is now in second place in the sub-section and has never beaten North Allegheny in a dual match.

The Golden Tornado (2-2, 2-1) picked up their first win of the night in a tight match at 138 pounds.

Butler's Cody Houston, who entered the third period leading 2-0, attempted a roll and nearly got caught by North Allegheny's Rich Boeh. While he avoided getting pinned, Boeh tied the match with a reversal.

Houston hit another roll midway through the third period and held on for a 7-4 win.

"I never let it hold me down during the match," Houston said. "I always keep a positive attitude and finish the match strong. I wasn't going to let that slow me down. I wasn't going to let that slow me down. I knew in the back of my head I had to keep pushing forward."

Houston improved his record to 9-4 and Stoner is pleased with his progress. At the Southmoreland Tournament last weekend, Houston placed second.

"Cody struggled a little bit," Stoner said. "But he's come on. It was a good performance on his part, but there is still room for improvement."

North Allegheny (4-0, 3-0) won the first five matches to build a 24-0 lead, including two by fall.

"Getting momentum helps guys as far as their mindset," Tigers coach Jamie Kyriazis said. "We know that Butler has a team that comes out and goes hard for six minutes. Even though the match score got lopsided, there were a lot of close matches."

Jeremiah Bortmas (152 pounds), Ryan Hannon (170) and JD Bojanac (285) picked up Butler's only other wins.

Bortmas scored a takedown and a near fall in the first period and coasted to a 9-1 major decision.

Bojanac built a 5-1 first-period lead and nearly picked up a pin at the first-period buzzer. With four seconds left in the second period, Bojanac was able to pin North Allegheny's David Probst.

Houston said Butler will need to wrestle with more intensity to win more section duels.

"We need more intensity on our team," Houston said. "They came out with a lot of intensity and got after us. We didn't have a lot of that fire and spark."

North Allegheny 46, Butler 16

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Zach Stedford (N) by forfeit; 113-Luke Landefeld (N) pin Max Stalnaker, 1:52 ; 120-Scott Stossel (N) dec Scott Dietrich, 9-3; 126-Dom Forys (N) pin Connor Foust, 1:56; 132-AJ Boeh (N) dec. Mason Kauffman, 5-0; 138-Cody Houston (B) d. Rich Boeh, 7-4; 145-Sean Kalmeyer (N) dec. Hank Finan, 6-4; 152-Jeremiah Bortmas maj. dec. Blynn Shideler 9-1; 160-Jake Woodley (N) maj. dec. Zach Raible, 10-2; 170-Ryan Hannon (B) dec. 3-0; 182-Clay Byerly (N) by forfeit; 195-Zach Smith (N) pin Alex White 2:43; 220-Layne Skundrich dec. Will Bortmas 3-0; Hwt.-JD Bojanac pin David Probert 3:51



Wrestling: North Feature Athlete- Butler's Will Bortmas

Written by Ken Wunderley on Wednesday, 15 January 2014 1:04 pm.

Name: Will Bortmas
High School: Butler
Grade: 12
Sport: Wrestling
Weight Class: 220

Background Info: A three-year starter, Will cut to 160 last season, but has moved up to 220 this year. Will currently has a 16-2 record, and won the Southmoreland Christmas Classic with a fall in the finals. This fall lifted the Golden Tornado to a 1st place team championship tie with Greenville. Last weekend, Will went 5-0 at the Southside Duals recording 3 falls. He was also the runner-up at the Chartiers Houston Tournament in early December.

Quotes from Butler Coach Scott Stoner: "Will's move from cutting weight to make 160 last season, up to 220 pounds this year has created a great deal of success to this point in the season. He is able to apply the skill, technique, and aggressiveness that is often seen in the lighter weights to many bigger opponents who are not able to match these same abilities. In addition he has always had somewhat of an unusual and unpredictable style which makes him a challenge for any opponent, but sometimes has a head coach pulling his own hair out."

Sudden victory



Butler's Will Bortmas pins Seneca Valley's Tyler Miller in the 220-pound weight class Wednesday night in the Butler Intermediate high school gym. The Golden Tornado defeated the Raiders, 41-21, in the dual match. STEVEN DIETZ/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — His team's match against Seneca Valley at the South Side Duals Saturday was a little

too close for comfort for Butler wrestling coach Scott Stoner.

The Golden Tornado defeated the Raiders, 32-28, but Stoner was looking for an improved effort when the teams faced off again Wednesday night.

He got it.

Butler won the first four bouts, three of them by pin, and went on to beat its county rival 41-21 in a Class AAA sub-section 3-A match at Butler Intermediate High School.

"At this point in the season, we're just looking for kids to build confidence," said Stoner. "We saw that happen tonight."

"I thought Butler did a good job of making some adjustments in individual bouts," said Raiders' coach Kevin Wildrick. "Several bouts went the other way tonight."

The Tornado (8-3, 4-1) turned the tables on the Raiders in a couple of bouts. In last weekend's meeting, SV received pins from Brennen O'Shea (145 pounds) and John Proper (182), but both wrestlers lost Wednesday to Hank Finan and Justin Johnson, respectively. In the night's opening bout, Johnson pinned Proper late in the second period, beginning a 21-0 Butler run to start the match.

With Butler leading 32-15, Finan rebounded from a 2-0 deficit to O'Shea and scored a takedown with just four seconds left in the third period to prevail 5-3, clinching the match for Butler.

"On Saturday, Hank was on pace to win by major decision, but ended up getting pinned," said Stoner. "The way he wrestled tonight was very encouraging."

"It felt great to come back and get this win tonight," said Finan, a sophomore. "I learned a lot from my loss last weekend and I used it to my advantage."

Finan and O'Shea were deadlocked at three late in the third period, but the former remained aggressive.

"I didn't want it to go to overtime," Finan said. "If it did, one mistake could have cost me the match."

Another wrestler Stoner was impressed with was 132-pounder Mason Kauffman, who

defeated Anthony Latess 4-1 after taking an early lead with a first-period takedown. After falling behind 21-0, the Raiders (10-6, 3-2) began their comeback attempt in the lower weight classes.

Alex Lynch (106) and Ben Lynch (113) both earned pins before Butler's Scott Dietrich snuffed out SV's momentum with a major decision (15-6) over Alex Fischer at 120 pounds.

Nick Zoria won for the Raiders at 126 with a 3-0 decision over Connor Foust.

"I beat him 9-0 last weekend," said Zoria. "He was a lot better on defense tonight. It was scoreless after two periods and I knew I couldn't stall. I had to make my move."

"We had some kids stay aggressive tonight and that was good to see," said Wildrick. "That's what we are looking for out of the whole team."

Also earning pins for the Golden Tornado were Alex White (195) and Will Bortmas (220).

Butler 41, Seneca Valley 21

(Match started at 182 pounds)

106-Alex Lynch (SV) pinned Hugh O'Neil, 3:14; 113-Ben Lynch (SV) pinned Max Stalnaker, 5:43; 120-Scott Dietrich (B) major dec. Alex Fischer, 15-6; 126-Nick Zoria (SV) dec. Connor Foust, 3-0; 132-Mason Kauffman (B) dec. Anthony Latess, 4-1; 138-Cody Houston (B) major dec. Zain Skalos, 11-0; 145-Hank Finan (B) dec. Brennen O'Shea, 5-3; 152-Austin Leon (SV) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas, 3-1 ; 160-Steve Rudolph (SV) dec. Zach Raible, 6-3; 170-Ryan Hannon (B) won by forfeit; 182-Justin Johnson (B) pinned John Proper, 3:58; 195-Alex White (B) pinned Brandon Nulph, :43; 220-Will Bortmas (B) pinned Tyler Miller, 5:08; Hwt.-J.D. Bojanac (B) dec. Brady Moore, 5-1.

Butler Eagle

Article published January 23, 2014

Butler wrestlers reach team finals

GG by Josh Rizzo
Eagle Staff Writer

PLUM — JD Bojanac pointed across the gym at the now empty bleachers. That's where the people he least wanted to disappoint were sitting. His family. Writhing on the mat in pain after rolling his ankle, the heavyweight for the Butler wrestling team wasn't ready to give in.

"The thing that was going through my mind was I didn't want to let down my family, my coach and my team," Bojanac said. "I went with the pain and finished it off."

Bojanac squeaked out a 4-3 win at 220 pounds, helping the Golden Tornado topple previously undefeated Plum 33-20 in the Section 3-AAA Tournament semifinals Wednesday night at Plum High School. While Bojanac also picked up a pin against North Allegheny, Butler fell short of a section title, falling 52-15.

The Golden Tornado (9-4) also lost to North Allegheny 46-16 Jan. 3 in Butler.

"They are better. The assertiveness and aggressiveness. They are a tough team and they are starting to peak and they are looking good," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Their lightweights came at us and pushed the pace. I've been pulling my hair out trying to get us to rise to that level."

Against Plum (11-2), Butler showed some serious grit to pull out the win. The Golden Tornado won six matches decided by two points or less.

Bojanac, who bumped down to 220 against the Mustangs to wrestle Nate Hoff, got taken down to start the second period. On the way down, Bojanac yelled in pain and the match was stopped for injury time.

"This kid was going to take me down, so I built my base and didn't have a sturdy-enough base," Bojanac said. "She (trainer)told me I was alright to wrestle and I told coach I wanted to wrestle and finish off the match. I told him I was ready to win."

Bojanac scored a reversal in the third period and held on for the win that put Butler ahead 24-8.

Max Stalnaker (113 pounds), Scott Dietrich (120), Jeremiah Bortmas (152), Zach Raible (160), and Will Bortmas (285) also won matches decided by two points or less. Jeremiah Bortmas trailed Plum's Zach Martin 5-1 in the second period before rallying for an 8-6 win in overtime.

Stalnaker capitalized when Anthony Borrasso let him go out of bounds to end the second period. Borrasso conceded an escape to open the third and Stalnaker held on to win 4-2.

"He had a mental error," He thought we were both out," said Stalnaker, who is 7-12 on the season. "I've wrestled the kid before at a scrimmage in Penn Hills, I knew we were pretty equal and had to go out and be aggressive."

Dietrich followed with an 8-7 win over Dom Davido that put the Golden Tornado ahead 33-14 and sealed the win.

Butler got a jolt at the start of the match from senior David Slomers. Stoner decided to wrestle Slomers at 170 and bump Ryan Hannon up to 182.

Slomers picked up a pin and Hannon followed with a decision to put Butler ahead 21-5.

"Part of me moving things was to challenge people," Stoner said. "Putting David Slomers in, he was a senior who has been in-and-out with injury the last two years and hasn't gotten an opportunity this year. I took a chance that he could do the job."

Against North Allegheny, the Golden Tornado only won three matches.

Jeremiah Bortmas (152) won by injury default, Hannon (170) won by decision and Bojanac (285) won by pin.

Butler 33, Plum 20

(Match started at 138 pounds)

106-Tony DiNinno (P) pin Hugh O'Neil, 1:24; 113-Max Stalnaker (B) dec. Anthony Barrasso, 4-2; 120-Scott Dietrich (B) dec. Dom Davido, 8-7; 126-Tony Zummo (P) dec. Connor Foust, 4-0; 132-Ronny Amato (P) dec. Mason Kauffman, 6-2; 138-Cody Houston (B) pin Nick Meyers, 1:31; 145-Eric Green (P) tech. fall Hank Finan, 18-2; 152-Jeremiah Bortmas (B) dec. Zach Martin, 8-6 OT; 160-Zach Raible (B) dec. Zeke Bonura 4-2; 170-David Slomers (B) pin Thomas McCoy, 2:53; 182-Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Hunter Fenk, 6-2; 195-Nate Turchick dec. Alex White, 5-3; 220-JD Bojanac dec. Nate Hoff, 4-3; Hwt.-Will Bortmas (B) dec. Stephen Turchick, 4-3

North Allegheny 52, Butler 15

(Match started at 145 pounds)

106-Zach Stedeford (N) tech. fall Hugh O'Neil, 16-0; 113-Luke Landefield (N) pin Max Stalnaker, 1:53; 120-Scott Stossel (N) dec. Scott Dietrich, 13-6; 126-Dom Forys (N) tech. fall Connor Foust, 22-7; 132-Jake Hinkson (N) tech. fall Mason Kauffman, 18-3; 138-A.J. Boeh (N) dec. Cody Houston, 8-3; 145-Richie Boeh (N) pin Hank Finan, 1:11; 152-Jeremiah Bortmas (B) inj. default Blynn Shideler; 160-Jake Woodley (N) pin Zach Raible 1:31; 170-Ryan Hannon (B) dec. Colton Byerly 5-2; 182-Clay Byerly (N) tech. fall Justin Johnson, 15-0; 195-Zach Smith (B) tech. fall Alex White, 16-1; 220-Lane Skundrich (N) dec. Will Bortmas, 2-1 OT; Hwt.-JD Bojanac (B) pin David Probert, 4:45

North Xtra: For Butler senior, it's about now

January 30, 2014 12:00 AM



Butler Area's Ryan Hannon, top, defeated Peters Township's Mitch Fitzgerald, 3-0, in the semifinals of the Chartiers-Houston tournament to open the season.

By Ken Wunderley / Tri-State Sports & News Service

Butler Area wrestling coach Scott Stoner is disappointed with senior Ryan Hannon, but it has nothing to do with Hannon's performance during the 2013-14 season. "I would like to see Ryan wrestle in college," said Stoner of his three-year starter at 170 pounds. "But Ryan doesn't want to wrestle in college."

Hannon wants to concentrate on academics. "I'm going to Penn State University to major in petroleum engineering," said Hannon, who ranks in the top 10 percent of his graduating class with a 4.16 grade-point average. "I've enjoyed wrestling in high school, but I want to concentrate on academics in college. This is my final year of wrestling."

Stoner wrestled when he attended Slippery Rock University and urges his better wrestlers to continue their careers in college. "I've had a lot of college coaches call about Ryan," Stoner said. "Unfortunately, I've had to tell them he's done after this year. Having wrestled in college, it's hard for me to comprehend a talented wrestler such as Ryan passing up a college career."

Stoner is impressed with Hannon's intelligence, both on and off the mat. "Ryan is a very smart kid who studies the sport well," Stoner said. "He's quick to pick up techniques and break them down for his teammates. He does a great job of keeping himself in good condition."

Hannon broke into Butler's starting lineup as a sophomore, but could have started as a freshman if it weren't for a bad break ... literally. "Ryan suffered a stress fracture in his foot while playing football as a freshman," Stoner said. "I wanted to bring him up to the varsity, but he missed the first month of the season, so I left him on the junior high team."

Hannon completed his freshman season on the junior high team, then moved up to the varsity as a sophomore. He placed second in Class AAA Section 3, then lost two matches in a row at the WPIAL tournament and finished the season with a 26-11 record. "The transition from junior high to varsity was a little tough," Hannon said. "I would have done better if I could have wrestled [varsity] as a freshman."

Hannon returned at 170 last season and won a section title, and placed sixth in the WPIAL, en route to a 33-5 record. "I was two wins away from a PIAA berth," Hannon said. "It stings to come that close. It's made me work even harder this year."

Hannon began the 2013-14 season at 182 pounds at the Chartiers-Houston Invitational, then dropped to 170 the following week. He entered the week with a 19-2 record and is No. 3 in the WPIAL Class AAA rankings. "There's no Cody Wiercioch at 170 this year," said Stoner, referring to a three-time PIAA champion who graduated from Canon-McMillan last year. "It's a wide-open weight class." Chartiers Valley's Noah Wilps (12-1) is ranked No. 1 and Central Catholic's Kyle Coniker (19-3) is No. 2 at 170.

"I wrestled Wilps last year and he beat me in a close match," Hannon said. "I've never wrestled Coniker. My goal is to win a WPIAL title and wrestle in Hershey. That would be a great way to end my wrestling career."

Hannon's career may be ending soon, but his love for the sport will live on. "I may not be wrestling in college, but I can become a fan," Hannon said. "I will definitely follow the Nittany Lions wrestling team. [coach] Cael Sanderson has the best program in the country. It will be fun watching them the next four years."

Butler wrestlers looking to build off team success



Butler wrestlers stand for the National Anthem before a recent match.

By Joe Sager

Published: Saturday, February 8, 2014 9:00 p.m.

Butler's wrestling team pulled off one upset, but couldn't manage another.

The ninth-seeded Golden Tornado edged eighth-seeded Mt. Lebanon in the WPIAL Class AAA wrestling team championships. However, Butler followed with a quarterfinal loss to Franklin Regional.

The Panthers, the top-ranked team in the state, captured the WPIAL championship last Saturday.

"We wrestled that group two years ago in a dual meet and the first round of playoffs. They weren't as balanced, and we beat them by two points," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Obviously, those kids have all developed into tremendous wrestlers with a couple more years and some experience. They are a buzzsaw for anyone to contend with."

The Golden Tornado's match against Mt. Lebanon came down to the final bout at 106 pounds. Hugh O'Neil came through with a 5-3 decision over Jake Buono to give Butler a 32-31 victory.

"Hugh needed that. It was a nice finish to a very competitive match," Stoner said. "Once you get to the second round, you're down to the top eight teams in the WPIAL and that says a lot about your team. Wrestling a team like Franklin Regional, there's no shame in taking the loss."

Alex White (195) provided the Golden Tornado's lone win in the 64-6 loss to the Panthers.



"There were things in the match any coach would be upset about. Obviously, you want to see them score more," Stoner said. "Their kids fed off each other. They are top-shelf kids. You can see they are a team that's very focused on a goal right now. It's difficult to wrestle them because their kids never break stance, they are fundamentally sound, smart in all situations and well coached."

Butler (10-5) advanced to the WPIAL team tournament after it finished second at the Section 3-AAA tournament at Plum on Jan. 22. The Golden Tornado upset Plum, 33-20, in the semifinals, then lost, 52-15, to North Allegheny

in the championship match.

"We wrestled Plum, and they were undefeated, and we beat them. That was a very solid win for us," Stoner said. "Crossing back over, we lost to NA in section finals, but they are legitimately one of the top three teams to represent the WPIAL.

"Overall, I was pretty happy how we've done this year. When I look down through lineup, we don't have the kind of experience and numbers we've had before. A lot of our kids have had some pretty impressive records in the past and we don't have kids with those kinds of numbers. ... Some kids only have two years of experience at the varsity level."

Seniors Ryan Hannon, Cody Houston, Will Bortmas, Zach Raible and White, along with junior Jeremiah Bortmas and sophomores Hank Finan and O'Neill, all picked up wins against Mt. Lebanon.

They get a chance to close the year with individual honors. That journey starts at the Section 3-AAA individual tournament Feb. 22 at Fox Chapel.

The top five wrestlers from each weight class advance to the WPIAL/Southwest Regional tournament. The top three there advance to the PIAA tournament.

"We have four dual meets and nine matches left. I like to keep them competing," Stoner said. "We'll give them some breaks here and there. But, if you tend to let the kids that aren't lifetime wrestlers get away from getting their weight down, that sometimes will be negative. We scheduled a bunch of non-section matches to make sure we're keeping weight and preparing, and we have a chance to evaluate them.

"We try to get all 14 guys through the section tournament. When it comes down to it, I still try to keep the team philosophy," Stoner continued.

"We want to qualify the most in our section. We set the bar with North Allegheny. They are solid every year. We always try to qualify as many or more than they do."

Joe Sager is a freelance writer.

Kings on the mat

GG By Josh Rizzo
Eagle Staff Writer



Butler's Will Bortmas wrestles Fox Chapel's Rich Giovenetti during section championships at Fox Chapel High School.
TYE CYPHER/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

FOX CHAPEL – Austin Leon wasn't going to let his past disappointments hold him back. Having a familiar opponent for the Section 3-AAA wrestling finals helped.

The 152-pound

Seneca Valley junior was paired against Butler's Jeremiah Bortmas, who Leon has competed against since eighth grade.

Leon exorcised some demons – both for himself and the Seneca Valley program – when he rode a first-period takedown to a 7-3 win Saturday night at Fox Chapel High School.

With his win, Leon became the first Raider wrestler to win a section title since Zack Eckstrom won at 285 pounds during the 2007-08 season.

"It felt good because I made it to the finals my freshman year and didn't win," Leon said. "I wrestled a bad tournament last year and ended up taking fifth. So it felt good to come back this year, make the finals and beat that kid."

Leon and Bortmas were two of 16 area wrestlers who punched their tickets to the WPIAL Class AAA Championships. Butler's Will Bortmas (220 pounds) was the only other local title winner.

The Golden Tornado were the most successful area team, advancing eight wrestlers to WPIALs, which start Thursday at Canon-McMillan High School. Seneca Valley will send six, while Mars had two qualify.

For Leon, his win in the finals gave him some extra bragging rights. Jeremiah Bortmas and Leon had split their two regular-season matches. Leading 3-2 in the third period after allowing Bortmas to escape, Leon scored a reversal and nearfall in the final 90 seconds to secure the win.

With their prior history, there's not much Leon can do to catch his rival off-guard. "(I tried to) open up my opportunities, but it's kind of hard," said Leon, who improved his record to 23-7. "We know each other's styles and what moves we like. You have to wait and not make mistakes and wait for your opportunities." No one else enjoyed winning more than Will Bortmas. After he pinned Fox Chapel's Rich Giovenetti in 1:41 to clinch first place, he smiled from ear-to-ear before heading to his corner to embrace Coach Scott Stoner. After changing quickly, Bortmas headed into the stands, high-fiving fans on the way to give his mom a hug at the top of the bleachers. "It's incredible. It's a dream 12 years in the making," Bortmas said. "My mom, I just ran up and gave her a hug. She said 'Section champ.'" Bortmas (30-5) didn't struggle much, winning his first match by fall in 1:24 and rolled to a 10-0 win in the semifinals. "I did what's been working for me all day," Bortmas said. "I came out today kind of sick and slow and I needed to change that. I really drilled around on my own and ran around a bit." Seneca Valley sophomore Ben Lynch (113), Butler junior JD Bojanac (285) and Butler senior Ryan Hannon (182) all lost in the finals. Hannon lost 4-3 to North Allegheny's Colton Byerly in overtime. "Honestly, it's going to be no different going," said Hannon, who will be making his third trip to WPIALS. "You have to beat so many people to go to states."



Scott Dietrich (120), Mason Kauffman (132), Cody Houston (138) and Alex White (195) also qualified for Butler. Alex Lynch (106), Nick Zoria (126), Stephen Rudolf (160) and Tyler Miller (220) moved on for Seneca Valley. Zoria, who finished fourth, picked up his 100th win with a 7-2 decision over Louis Stefanik in the first round. He now has 101 career wins. "Overall, I think we had a good tournament. There were no big

surprises in the negative, which is nice coming into a tournament like this," Raiders coach Kevin Wildrick said. "We expected to have the section finalists and the guys that made it through, we had good expectations for those guys."

Alex Grosso (220) and Trey Turnblacer (285) qualified for the Planets.

Section 3-AAA Tournament results

(Top five in each weight class qualify for WPIALS)

Championship matches

106: Gage Curry (NH) maj. dec. Hunter Baxter (PR), 14-2

113: Luke Landefeld (NA) tech. fall Ben Lynch (SV), 15-0

120: Scott Stossel (NA) dec. Mike Heintz (SH), 3-2

126: Dom Forys (NA) pin Tommy Zummo (PL), 4:41

132: Jake Hartman (SH) maj. dec. Jake Hinkson (NA), 10-2

138: Vincenzo Joseph (CC) pin David Kelly (PR), 3:37

145: Tony Palumbo (CC) dec. Eric Green (PL), 4-3 UTB

152: Austin Leon (SV) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas (B), 7-3
160: Bredan Burnham (PR) dec. Jonathan Avon (NH), 3-2
170: Kyle Coniker (CC) dec. Brandon Olszewski (H), 9-3
182: Clay Byerly (NA) dec. Ryan Hannon (B), 3-2 OT
195: Zach Smith (NA) tech. fall Nathan Turchick (PL), 15-0
220: Will Bortmas (B) pin Rich Giovenetti (F), 1:41
285: Stephen Turchick (PL) dec. JD Bojanac (B), 6-0

Third-place matches

106: Alex Lynch (SV) dec. Zach Stedeford (NA), 2-0
113: Patrick Keyser (H) dec. Alex Salas (PR), 6-2
120: Kegan Lawson (NH) dec. Dom Davido (PL), 5-2
126: Louis Stefanik (CC) pin Nick Zoria (SV), 2:46
132: Darius Booker (F) maj. dec. David Badamo (NH), 11-2
138: Cody Houston (B) dec. A.J. Boeh (NA), 12-8
145: Drew Landefeld (NA) dec. Jordan McGonigle (SH), 3-1
152: John Cole (CC) dec. Luke Nugent (H), 3-1
160: Stephen Rudolph (SV) dec. Jake Woodley (NA), 4-0
170: Andrew McRandal (PL) dec. Mike Mahon (F), 5-2
182: Elliot King (NH) dec. Hunter Fenk (PL), 3-1
195: Keegan Harris (PR) dec. Alex White (B), 7-0
220: Tyler Miller (SV) dec. Alex Grosso (M), 5-3
285: Eli Swain (NH) pin Adisa Branch (CC), 4:00

Fifth-place matches

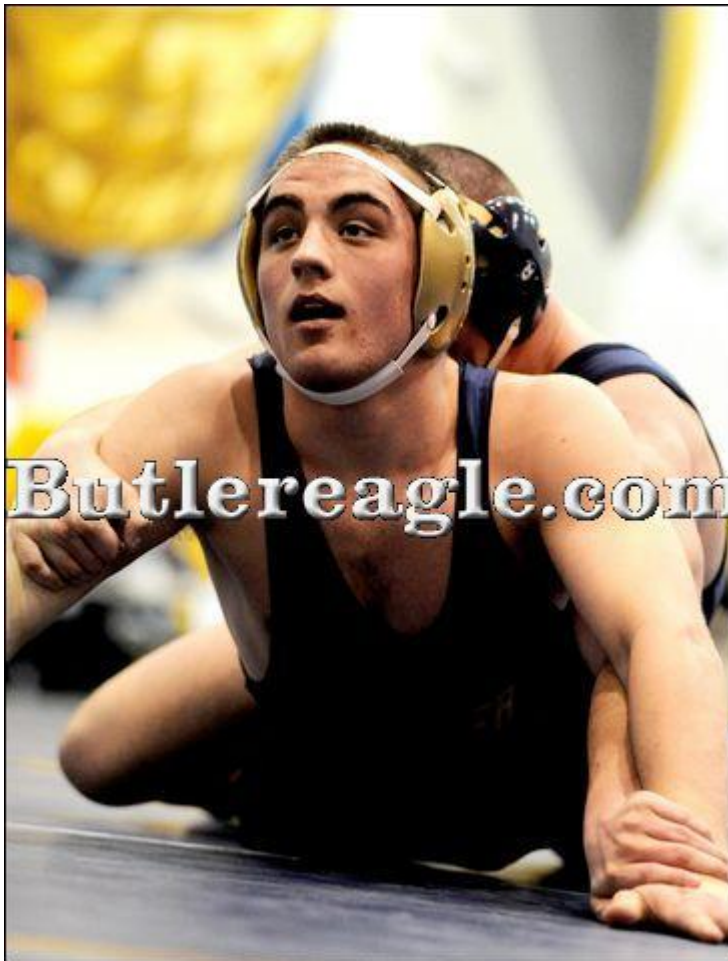
106: Mike Nagy (CC) dec. Anthony DiNinno (PL), 3-1
113: John MacPherson (NH) dec. Andrew Kopco (F), 7-4
120: Scott Dietrich (B) pin Alex Fischer (SV), 2:02
126: Austin Pisano (F) dec. Connor Foust (B), 2-0
132: Mason Kauffman (B) dec. Joe Lehman (H), 3-0
138: Austin Heintz (SH) dec. Zain Skalos (SV), 6-1
145: David Tuzikow (NH) maj. dec. Derrin Deitz (F), 13-2
152: Corey Mahon (F) by forfeit
160: Gus Schmitt (H) pin Tristan Houser (F), 2:30
170: Jimmy Demore (SH) pin David Tallman (NA), 3:38
182: Mike Geyer (PR) dec. Mike Geyer (PR), 5-2
195: Jake Kraus (H) pin Devon Cuda (NH), :53
220: Michael Bonsmann (NH) dec. Nathan Hoff (PL), 8-1
285: Tyler Miller (SV) dec. Alex Grosso (M), 5-3

Butler Eagle

Article published February 25, 2014

Hannon bumps up to move on

GG By Josh Rizzo
Eagle Staff Writer



Butler senior Ryan Hannon (gold head gear), shown competing in last year's WPIAL Tournament, decided to move up to the 182-pound weight class prior to the section tournament last weekend, placing second.

FILE PHOTO

FOX CHAPEL — Ryan Hannon has one final opportunity to reach his goal. That's why he decided to make a tough decision before the Section 3-AAA wrestling tournament last Saturday at Fox Chapel High School.

Hannon, a senior at Butler who wrestled primarily at 170 pounds this season, took a look at the field for the Class AAA WPIAL Championships, which start this Thursday at Canon-McMillan High School, and called an audible.

He decided to bump up to 182 pounds, finishing second at sections to earn a bid. Moving up, Hannon felt, was the best way for him to earn his first appearance in the PIAA tournament.

"That's why I moved up," Hannon said. "I thought it looked like it was the best shot to go to states. It's my last year, might as well take a chance and go for it."

Hannon, who has 91 career wins and is 31-4 this season, was the Golden Tornado's most consistent wrestler during the dual meet season. Butler coach Scott Stoner also tried to help him prepare for individuals by switching his weight.

Last season, Hannon finished two matches short of qualifying for states.

"We look at wrestling him at 170 and 182, but he decided that he wanted to go 82 and have a better opportunity to get a berth in the state tournament," Stoner said. "We wrestled him up a number of times this year to get him experience and win for the dual meet against some good kids. He's wrestled some good 82 pounders and won and he's ready for that."

Hannon leads a hungry group of 16 Butler County wrestlers to WPIALs. Many have made the tournament before, only to fall short of advancing.

Butler will have eight wrestlers compete, Seneca Valley six and Mars two.

Golden Tornado 220-pound senior Will Bortmas, who was one of two area wrestlers to win a section title, is especially motivated.

"I actually haven't been in the WPIAL bracket. I won a pigtail and lost a pigtail," Bortmas said. "I don't have much WPIAL experience coming into it."

Bortmas also bumped up weight classes this season. Last year, Bortmas was at 160 pounds before deciding to make the leap up to 220. While he's still light for that weight class, he tends to use his athleticism and rolls to his advantage.

He's not planning on altering that style on the next stage.

"Keep doing what I'm doing," Bortmas said. "If it ain't broke don't fix it. I like that saying."

Seneca Valley junior Austin Leon won the section title at 152 pounds. Leon went 1-2 at WPIALs last season and is looking forward to having another opportunity.

"It will feel good. I've had to do that the last couple years," said Leon, who is 23-7. "I think I'll get a match, it won't be easy, but I won't get a stud like (Franklin Regional's) Josh Shields."

Seneca Valley coach Kevin Wildrick hopes to have a few of his wrestlers break through.

"We want to do the best we can, we want to be in a position to qualify for states," Wildrick said.

"Whether that be getting your way into the semis and having a good match against somebody who according to the books you shouldn't beat to get there."

Hannon hopes to end his last trip to WPIALs with his best finish.

"I have to fight through it, work hard and keep doing what I'm doing," Hannon said. "Hopefully, win those close matches."

Butler County WPIAL qualifiers

106 pounds – Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley), 33-4

113 pounds – Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley), 27-10

120 pounds – Scott Dietrich (Butler), 30-12

126 pounds – Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley), 27-11

132 pounds – Mason Kauffman (Butler), 21-16

138 pounds – Cody Houston (Butler), 28-9

152 pounds – Austin Leon (Seneca Valley), 23-7; Jeremiah Bortmas (Butler), 30-9

160 pounds – Stephen Rudolph (Seneca Valley), 28-12

182 pounds – Ryan Hannon (Butler), 31-4

195 pounds – Alex White (Butler), 25-14

220 pounds – Will Bortmas (Butler), 30-5; Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley), 16-12; Alex Grosso (Mars), 16-10

285 pounds – JD Bojanac (Butler), 26-11; Trey Turnblacer (Mars), 12-13

Butler Eagle

Bortmas seeded 2nd at WPIALs

Article published February 27, 2014

Will Bortmas, who won his first section title at 220 pounds last Saturday during the Section 3-AAA champions at Fox Chapel High School, was awarded with the highest seed of any Butler County wrestler for the Class AAA WPIAL Championships, which start today at Canon-McMillan High School. Bortmas, who is a senior and 30-5 this season, was seeded second at 220 pounds.

Fellow Butler senior Ryan Hannon (182 pounds) was the only other Golden Tornado wrestler seeded in the top four. Hannon, who is 31-4 this season and finished second at sections, is seeded fourth. Butler County will have 16 wrestlers compete in the WPIAL championships.

5 wrestlers win early



GG by Josh Rizzo
Eagle Staff Writer

Butler's Jeremiah Bortmas has Ringgold's Brandon Heizelman's shoulders to the mat for a pin at 152 pounds in the first round of the WPIAL Class AAA wrestling tournament Thursday night at Canon McMillan High School. DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

CANONSBURG — Jeremiah Bortmas heard a lot of different things before the Class AAA WPIAL wrestling

championships started.

He listened, but treated it as white noise. Focusing on himself was all he needed to worry about.

Bortmas earned a quarterfinal berth by overcoming a slow start to pin Ringgold's Brandon Heinzleman in 3:39 Thursday night at Canon-McMillan High School.

"I just stayed focused. I listened to everything around me, but I tried to keep it away from me," said Bortmas, who was making his first WPIAL appearance. "I wrestle for me. These individuals, I have no one to wrestle for but myself. I have nothing to prove to anyone but myself."

His reward for advancing will be a match with Latrobe's Jake Shaffer, who is seeded second. It's a welcome challenge for Bortmas, who told Butler coach Scott Stoner he thought he could have a deep run.

Stoner said to just worry about one match at a time.

"Experience, that's all it is. More experience for me. Even if I don't win, I learn," Bortmas said. "There's nothing bad that could come out of it other than an injury."

Bortmas was one of five Butler County wrestlers to advance to the quarterfinals.

Seneca Valley's Alex Lynch (106 pounds) along with Butler's Cody Houston (138), Ryan Hannon (182) and Will Bortmas (220) also advanced.

Eight other wrestlers are still alive in the consolation bracket. The top three wrestlers from each weight class earn a bid to the state tournament.

Lynch, much like Jeremiah Bortmas, wanted to make a statement. His statement was more about revenge.

His first-round opponent, Waynesburg's Cole Rush, had ended his season the year before in a pigtail match at WPIALS.

When Rush scored the first takedown in the rematch, Lynch had the same feeling.

"I was definitely feeling *deja vu*," Lynch said. "Of course, I didn't want it to happen again."

Lynch evened the match at 3-3 in the third period to force overtime. In the extra period, Lynch scored a quick takedown and three nearfall points to win 8-3.

"I rode him out in the second period and that helped a lot," Lynch said. "He got a kind of whack point give up. He went up and spit in the garbage can and gave me one point. That kind of saved the match, too."

Houston, a senior, wasn't stressed out before his first-round match. He picked up a takedown in the first period and a reversal in the third to beat Ringgold's Jake Gerard 4-0.

"Knowing it's my last year, I knew I have to prove something," Houston said. "I feel I have nothing to lose at this point."

Will Bortmas and Hannon both rolled through their first-round opponents.

Bortmas pinned McGuffey's Liam McElhoes in 3:37, while Hannon pinned McKeesport's Taylor Anderson in 3:21.

Bortmas' win was his first WPIAL win that wasn't in a pigtail match.

Bortmas was more nervous, especially being seeded second.

"It's completely different. It's the exact opposite," Will Bortmas said. "There's more pressure. They say I'm number two and have to stay number two."

Pigtail round

(losers eliminated)

120: Gaige Cramer (Connellsville) dec. Scott Dietrich (Butler), 11-4

126: Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley) dec. Braden Flinn (Thomas Jefferson), 4-3

132: Alex Peng (Montour) pin Mason Kauffman (Butler), 1:11

195: Alex White (Butler) pin Bobby Englert (Ringgold), 3:14

220: Alex Grosso (Mars) dec. Alex Belack (Peters Township), 5-0; Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley) pin Zeke Berner (Hopewell), 2:12

285: Michael Ames (Penn Hills) pin Trey Turnblacer (Mars), 3:33

First round

106: Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley) dec. Cole Rush (Waynesburg), 8-3 OT

113: Tyler Seliga (Belle Vernon) pin Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley), 1:20

126: AC Headlee (Waynesburg) pin Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley), 3:38

138: Cody Houston (Butler) dec. Jake Gerard (Ringgold), 4-0

152: Jeremiah Bortmas (Butler) pin Brandon Heinzelman (Ringgold), 3:39; Shane Piper (Waynesburg) dec. Austin Leon (Seneca Valley), 3-0

160: Brandon Yant (Franklin Regional) maj. dec. Stephen Rudolph (Seneca Valley), 9-0

182: Ryan Hannon (Butler) pin Taylor Anderson (McKeesport), 3:21

195: Robert West (Trinity) pin Alex White (Butler), 2:18

220: Tyler Worthing (Kiski) pin Alex Grosso (Mars), :56; Dylan Davis (Latrobe) dec. Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley), 1-0; Will Bortmas (Butler) pin Liam McElhoes (McGuffey), 3:37

285: Shawn Devey (West Mifflin) pin JD Bojanac (Butler), 2:25

Butler Eagle

Article published March 1, 2014



Butler's Ryan Hannon, seen here pinning McKeesport's Taylor Anderson during a 182-pound WPIAL Class AAA first-round match Thursday night at Canon-McMillan High School, won his quarterfinal match Friday. Hannon was the only Butler County wrestler to reach the semifinals. DAVE PRELOSKY/BUTLER EAGLE

Hannon advances to WPIAL semis

GG By Josh Rizzo
Eagle Staff Writer

CANONSBURG — Ryan Hannon got over his most

difficult hurdle. In doing so, he accomplished one of his top goals.

He won a close match in the WPIAL Class AAA quarterfinals Friday night at Canon-McMillan High School.

Leading 3-1 entering the third period, Hannon allowed an escape 10 seconds into the period. Then he was warned for stalling, still leading by one point.

Hannon prevented Connellsville's Tom Provance from generating offense and scored a takedown in the final seconds to earn a 5-2 win and his first berth in the semifinals.

Finishing close matches was tough at times this season for Hannon. Hannon made it clear that coming close wouldn't be good enough after losing to North Allegheny's Clay Byerly 3-2 in overtime of the Section 3-AAA final last Saturday.

"I figured out I had to go out and win. It's my redemption from last year," Hannon said.

"Coming out and getting a big win in the first match like that means a lot to me."

Hannon will face the top seed, Latrobe's Zack Zavatsky in the semifinals at noon Saturday. Zavatsky is 34-0 and finished third in the state at 160 pounds last season.

"He has a big one tomorrow, that's going to be a monster mental task," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "He's a solid, big guy. ... You just have to find a way to win by one. You need one more point than him. Sometimes it isn't pretty, but you find a way."

Last season, Hannon lost to Kiski's Tyler Worthing in the 160-pound semifinals before bowing out in the consolation semifinals. While Hannon still needs at least one more win to advance to the PIAA tournament, his win Friday was a big boost.

"It's very exciting. Winning a match like that, there's nothing better," said Hannon, who is 32-4 this season. "I have to keep improving and build off my momentum. Keep working to

advance as far as I can to go to states.”

Hannon was the only Butler County wrestler to advance to the semifinals. Nine wrestlers, five from Seneca Valley and four from Butler, are still alive in the consolation bracket.

Four other wrestlers — Seneca Valley’s Alex Lynch (106 pounds) along with Butler’s Cody Houston (138), Jeremiah Bortmas (152) and Will Bortmas (220) — all dropped their quarterfinal matches.

Will Bortmas, who was the No. 2 seed, was upset by Hempfield’s Fred Mantsch, who used a takedown and nearfall in the second period to win 7-0. Lynch lost 6-0 to North Hills’ Gage Curry, who is 34-0 and the second seed.

Houston fell to Franklin Regional’s Mike Kemerer 17-7 and Jeremiah Bortmas lost 11-4 to Latrobe’s Jake Shaffer.

Four Seneca Valley wrestlers — Ben Lynch (113), Austin Leon (142), Stephen Rudolph (160) and Tyler Miller (220) — all won their first-round consolation matches to stay alive.

Miller, a senior, in particular was fired up to get back on the mat. On Thursday, Miller, who was not seeded, lost a 1-0 match to third seed Dylan Davis of Latrobe in the first round.

“I was definitely disappointed,” Miller said. “I thought I wrestled pretty tough against him.” That loss helped motivate Miller to pin Upper St. Clair’s Jarrod Browne. Miller got him to the mat early and recorded the win in 1:27.

“I think I’ve wrestled a pretty good tournament,” said Miller, who is 17-13 this season. “I think I’m kind of a sleeper. I did have a pigtail and I think I may be a little bit better than my record.”

Quarterfinals

106: Gage Curry (North Hills) dec. Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley), 6-0

138: Michael Kemerer (Franklin Regional) maj. dec. Cody Houston (Butler), 17-7

152: Jake Shaffer (Latrobe) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas (Butler), 11-4

182: Ryan Hannon (Butler) dec. Tom Provance (Connellsville), 5-2

220: Fred Mantsch (Hempfield) dec. Will Bortmas (Butler), 7-0

First-round consolations

113: Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley) maj. dec. Tyler German (Thomas Jefferson), 10-2

126: Louis Stefanik (Pittsburgh Central Catholic) dec. Nick Zoria (Seneca Valley), 6-3

152: Austin Leon (Seneca Valley) dec. Troy Brown (Greensburg Salem), 7-2

160: Stephen Rudolph (Seneca Valley) dec. Gus Schmitt (Hampton), 3-2

195: William Korber (Belle Vernon) dec. Alex White (Butler), 4-1

220: Gunnar Lynch (Connellsville) dec. Alex Grosso (Mars), 3-2; Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley) pin Jarrod Browne (Upper St. Clair), 1:27

285: Michael Ames (Penn Hills) dec. JD Bojanac (Butler), 2-0

Article published March 3, 2014

Hannon Bortmas fall short

By Josh Rizzo Eagle Staff Writer



CANONSBURG — Ryan Hannon and Will Bortmas both made career-best runs at the WPIAL Class AAA wrestling championships Saturday at Canon-McMillan.

Both Butler seniors fell just short of ending their careers with their first PIAA bids. Hannon lost 3-2 in overtime in a 182-pound third-place match to North Allegheny's Clay Byerly, while Bortmas dropped a 13-9 match to Hempfield's Fred Mantsch.

Hannon's match was similar to his 4-3 loss to Byerly in the Section 3-AAA last Saturday. This time, Hannon led 2-1 in the third period after

opening the period with a reversal. Byerly evened the match with an escape with 52 seconds remaining.

He escaped again in the second overtime and then rode out Hannon to seal the win.

Butler coach Scott Stoner felt Hannon wrestled a good match.

"Ryan's match is more so disappointing because he did enough to win," Stoner said. "He showed a lot of character and heart in the way he performed as an athlete. I'm glad I coached him and obviously I wanted to get him further. I feel somewhat responsible for not getting him there."

Bortmas, who finished the season 33-7, also had to face a familiar foe.

Mantsch beat Bortmas 7-0 in the quarterfinals Friday.

Mantsch controlled the match earlier before Bortmas nearly caught him in the third period.

Trailing 11-4, Bortmas executed a roll and put Mantsch on his back.

He cut the lead to 11-9, but Mantsch got another late reversal to seal the win.

"Nothing he really does follows a safe or a solid foundation-type offense," Stoner said. "He does all kinds of unorthodox stuff. There's been times where he's come up short, but he's created a lot of opportunities and won a lot of matches that way."

Only one other Butler County wrestler of the nine that started that day made it to the third round of consolations.

Tyler Miller just wasn't the guy people expected to get there.

The 220-pound Seneca Valley senior beat Belle Vernon's Pat Mayernik 3-1 and pinned Fox Chapel's Rich Giovannetti to advance to the third round of the consolations.

"I knew I was an underdog. I just went out there and tried my hardest," said Miller, who finished the season 20-14. "My goal was just to make it to Saturday. To win two matches on Saturday was a surprise in itself."

Miller's run fizzled out with his second 1-0 loss of the tournament to Mantsch. In the second period, Mantsch got an escape and rode Miller out in the third period to seal the win.

"Tyler definitely exceeded my expectations. We try to preach a lot to the kids that at a tournament like this anything can

happen," Raiders coach Kevin Wildrick said. "That's why they don't just take the seeds to the end and not wrestle anything. Go out and expect you can win the match, that's what he did this week."

Third-place matches

(Winners earn PIAA bid)

182: Clay Byerly (North Allegheny) dec. Ryan Hannon (Butler), 3-2

220: Fred Mantsch (Hempfield) dec. Will Bortmas 13-9

Consolation semifinals

182: Ryan Hannon (Butler) dec. Mac Oberschelp (Peters Township), 7-0

220: Will Bortmas (Butler) pin Dereck Berberick (Greensburg Salem), 3:24; Fred Mantsch (Hempfield) dec. Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley), 1-0

Third-round consolations

106: Gage Nicolella (McGuffey) dec. Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley), 1-0 OT

138: Italo Merante (Peters Township) dec. Cody Houston (Butler), 3-2

152: Jake Aredlitz (Kiski) dec. Austin Leon (Seneca Valley), 3-2; Paul Dunn (Bethel Park) dec. Jeremiah Bortmas (Butler), 4-1

220: Will Bortmas (Butler) pin Michael Bonsmann (North Hills), 4:58; Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley) pin Rich Giovanetti (Fox Chapel), 2:00

Semifinals

182: Zack Zavatsky (Latrobe) maj. dec. Ryan Hannon (Butler), 14-5

Second-round consolations

106: Alex Lynch (Seneca Valley) dec. Danny Florentino (Peters Township), 8-1

113: Matt Dean (Hempfield) dec. Ben Lynch (Seneca Valley), 6-2

138: Cody Houston (Butler) dec. Garrett Walnoha (Upper St. Clair), 3-0

152: Austin Leon (Seneca Valley) dec. Nate Hall (West Allegheny), 3-2; Jeremiah Bortmas (Butler) pin Micah Kusturiss (Canon-McMillan), :54

160: Devin Austin (Penn-Trafford) pin Stephen Rudolph (Seneca Valley), :51

220: Tyler Miller (Seneca Valley) dec. Pat Mayernik (Belle Vernon), 3-1; Will Bortmas (Butler) dec. Gunnar Lynch (Connellsville), 2-0

Butler Eagle

IN BRIEF

March 12, 2014

Butler's Bortmas wins in Ohio

Butler senior Will Bortmas won his match at "The Clash" all-star wrestling tournament, held Tuesday at St. Clairsville (Ohio) High School.

Bortmas, who competed at 220 pounds during the regular season, was bumped up to heavyweight for the event and defeated Beaver Local's Cody Martsolf 3-1.

The victory helped Pennsylvania's Midwestern Athletic Conference squad earn a 28-20 win over top wrestlers from the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.