

Butler Eagle

Article published December 8, 2016

Matmen on the rise

Increased numbers bolster Butler hopes for 2016-17 campaign

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



Caleb Baxter, a 30-win wrestler last season, returns as one of the anchors on the mat for Butler this season. The Golden Tornado open the 2016-17 campaign at the Chartiers Houston Tournament this weekend.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

The numbers are back up. So are the aspirations.

Butler has 26 wrestlers on its varsity roster this season after having fewer than 20 the previous two years.

"Our junior high numbers are good, too," 24th-year varsity head coach Scott Stoner said. "Donnie Geibel has

about 34 kids down there.

"Our goals are always the same. We want to finish among the top three of every tournament we're in, get as many kids through to WPIAL's as we can."

And this year, the winner of Butler's sub-section — which also includes Seneca Valley, Knoch, Mars, Pine-Richland and Highlands — hosts the section team tournament.

"We would love to get that," Stoner said. "I'm sure Seneca Valley is looking at the same thing. We wrestle them late this year and a lot could be on the line."

The Golden Tornado were 15-8 in duals last year. Stoner has a career mark of 319-154. Seneca Valley was unbeaten at 5-0 in the sub-section last year, 10-5 in duals overall.

"We feel like we can approach that record again. Of course, Butler and Pine-Richland have other ideas," sixth-year Raiders coach Kevin Wildrick said.

Top returning wrestlers for Butler this year include sophomore Jack Codispot (18-13) at 126 pounds, senior Scott Dietrich (24-10) at 138, junior Sam Dietrich (16-15) at 145, senior Caleb Baxter (30-8) at 160, junior Christian Sequete (34-7) at 182, senior Seth McCrea (16-11) at 195 and sophomore Saavon Mosby (21-15) at 220.

"I like the freshmen group we have up from junior high," Stoner said. "These kids are working hard. They're respectful, they're listening ... It's a good group."

Among the younger wrestlers looking to contribute for the Tornado are sophomore Cameron Weisenstein at 106, Braydon Hoffman and Colton Spohn at 120 and Nate McDonald at 132. Juniors Isaiah Christy (113), Justin Stewart (152), Robert Hays (170), McGwire Covert (170), Jacob White (182) and Riley Burdine (285) may rise to another level as well.

Tom Greaves (12-12) is a senior in the mix in the upper weights.

"We've got a lot of capable kids and that makes for some good battles in the room," Stoner said. Seneca Valley returns a solid core of wrestlers, headed by junior 120-pounder Louis Newell (39-5), who placed second in the state a year ago.

Other top Raider returnees are sophomore Jason Geyer (24-12) at 113, sophomore Nick Montalbano (20-15) at 132, senior Alex Fischer (23-18) at 145 and junior Ty Gross (19-19) at 160.

Wildrick also expects big things from senior 195-pounder Lucas Chieppor (13-20) and freshman 138-pounder Drew Vlasnic.

"We've had some good wrestle-offs. This team is competitive with each other," Wildrick said. "Section 3 will be tough, but our goal is to place among the top eight teams in the WPIAL."

Section 3 members Mars and Knoch look to improve as well. The Planets were 6-14 in duals last season, the Knights 9-10.

"We're going to field a full lineup for the first time since I've been here," third-year Mars coach Jason Wilk said. "We're heading in the right direction. "Top Planet wrestlers returning include junior Alex Hornfeck (30-5) at 126 and sophomore Noah Hunkele (17-13) at 106. Hornfeck placed among the top six in the regional tournament.

Noah Wright (31-7), a would-be senior at 160 who lost in double-overtime of a match that would have sent him to the state meet, is out for the season with a knee injury incurred playing football.

Butler matmen place 3rd at C-H

Article published December 12, 2016

Isaiah Christy at 113 pounds and Tommy Greaves at 195 pounds both placed second for the Butler wrestling team at the Chartiers Houston Invitational over the weekend.

Christy and Greaves both lost in their title bouts for the Golden Tornado, who finished third in the 28-team tournament behind North Hills and Freedom.

Scott Dietrich (138) and Caleb Baxter (160) both placed third and Jack Codispot (126) and Saavon Mosby (220) logged fourth-place finishes for the Tornado.

Greenville Classic — Grove City went 3-2 in dual meets over the weekend in Greenville.

Cory Bable (126) and Tyler Greer (152) both went 5-0 for the Eagles.

Butler Opens Dual Season and Section With Win on Road at Pine Richland

Article published December 14, 2016

Butler opened its Section 3-AAA schedule with a 46-28 win at Pine-Richland.

Earning pins for the Golden Tornado were Cam Weisenstein (106 pounds), Jack Codispot (126), Justin Stewart (152), Caleb Baxter (160) and Seth McCrea (220).

Butler 46, Pine-Richland 28

(Match started at 160 pounds)

106-Cam Weisenstein (B) pinned Palmieri, 3:40; 113-Lukez (PR) pinned Isaiah Christy, 3:50; 120-Colton Spohn (B) won by forfeit; 126-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Salas, 5:30; 132-Baxter (PR) pinned Nate McDonald, 1:45; 138-Burnham (PR) major dec. Scott Dieterich, 11-3; 145-Salas (PR) dec. Sam Dieterich, 11-4; 152-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Barber, 1:32; 160-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Geyer, 1:15; 170-Sharlow (PR) pinned Rob Hays, 1:45; 182-Jake White (B) won by forfeit; 195-Tom Greaves (B) major dec. Shaver, 10-0; 220-Seth McCrea (B) pinned Folner, 1:40; Hwt.-Sheller (PR) dec. Saavon Mosby, 5-4

Butler Eagle

Article published December 16, 2016

Pinning down success

Aggressive sophomore Codispot helps Butler wrestlers get past Freedom, 45-33

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



Butler sophomore Jack Codispot takes down Freedom's Gordon Kalamasz on his way to a pin in the 126-pound weight class Thursday night. The Golden Tornado defeated Freedom, 45-33. STEPHEN DIETZ/ SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — Some wrestlers need to be taught to be aggressive.

Though he's just eight bouts into his sophomore season, Jack Codispot has no problem going on the offensive.

Butler's 126-pounder scored a takedown and three near-fall points in the first period of his bout with Freedom's Gordon Kalamasz. It led to a pin in the second period and helped the Golden Tornado defeat the Bulldogs 45-33

Thursday night at Butler's Intermediate High School.

"Jack is scrappy and physical," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "Right now we're trying to develop his fundamentals. He has a confidence about him and goes after it, but we are trying to change his offense a bit, give him moves that are more high-percentage.

"He basically did what I thought he'd do tonight. I didn't think his opponent had what it took to beat him."

Codispot won over half of his varsity bouts as a freshman last year while competing at 120 pounds. He placed third in Section 3 before sustaining two losses at the WPIAL tournament. Thursday's win improved his record to 6-2 this season with four pins.

"Varsity wrestling is a lot more intense, you really have to put your body into it and be focused at all times," Codispot said. "I was able to get my toes in the water last year. My goals this year are to win a section championship and not go 0-2 at WPIALS."

Stoner sees an intangible in Codispot that could help the latter continue to rise in the district ranks.

"Most kids today are not tough," Stoner said, "but Jack is tough. Last year, he placed seventh out of 30-some wrestlers at the Southmoreland Tournament. That's a long, grueling two-day tournament and he was dealing with a torn meniscus, but kept going."

Also tallying pins for Butler (2-0) were Justin Stewart (152 pounds) and Tom Greaves (195), both in the first period.

Butler senior Caleb Baxter moved his season record to 7-1 with a decision over D.J. Ward at 160 pounds.

The Tornado's win came after Butler fell to Freedom at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament last weekend.

The Bulldogs (1-1) were runner-up in the WPIAL Class AA team tournament last year.

"We have eight guys back from that team, but only five wrestled tonight," said Freedom coach Jim Covert. "We have five guys who are out because they are ineligible."

"Freedom gave us (18) points tonight with three forfeits," added Stoner. "We had four guys get pinned tonight. You aren't going to win many matches that way. It's troublesome."

Butler will host Mars on Wednesday.

Butler 45, Freedom 33

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Cam Weisenstein (B) won by forfeit; 113-Z.J. Ward (F) pinned Isaiah Christy, 4:25; 120-Colton Spohn (B) won by forfeit; 126-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Gordon Kalamasz, 3:09; 132-Jacob Pail (F) major dec. Nate McDonald, 10-2; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) won by injury default over Chase Komara; 145-Kody Komara (F) by tech. fall over Sam Dietrich, 19-3; 152-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Brett Johnson, 1:32; 160-Caleb Baxter (B) by dec. over D.J. Ward, 8-2; 170-Rob Hays (B) won by forfeit; 182-Noah Trombetto (F) pinned Jacob White, 3:59; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned Andrew Kalamasz, :41; 220-Randy Simmons (F) pinned Seth McCrea, 3:02; Hwt.-Evan Sweesy (F) pinned Saavon Mosby, 5:51



Article published December 22, 2016

Escape act

Butler wrestlers edge Mars, 36-35, remain unbeaten

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



Butler's Seth McCrea slips out of a hold by Mars' Jeff DeSantes while gaining a decision at 285 pounds Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado wrestling team edged Mars, 36-35, at the Butler Intermediate High School. TYE CYPHER/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — Winning wasn't enough for Mars wrestler Alex Hornfeck. He needed no less than a technical fall for the Planets to pull out a team victory in a Section 3 match at Butler Wednesday night.

The Golden Tornado held a 36-31 lead entering the night's final bout at 126 pounds, between Hornfeck and Jack Codispot.

"A technical fall would have tied the score and we would have won on tiebreaker," said Mars coach Jason Wilk. "I figured this match would come down to the last couple of bouts."

Hornfeck took control early with a takedown of Codispot in the first period. The former built his lead to 19-6 with 45 seconds left in the third period, but Codispot avoided both a pin and

two more points scored against him which would have equaled a technical fall, allowing the Tornado to escape with a 36-35 win at Butler Intermediate High School.

Both wrestlers were visibly spent following the match.

"I thought I had a real chance to pin him," said Hornfeck. "It just didn't happen."

"I told Alex that he has nothing to be ashamed about," said Wilk. "He wrestled a tough kid tonight."

Codispot was able to move off his back and onto his knees late in the bout, avoiding near-fall points that would have given the team win to Mars.

"Jack has been sick and has missed a couple of practices," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "He's kicking a bug and is dehydrated, but that's not the whole story of tonight. Mars came out and was very aggressive."

The match started at 132 pounds and the Planets won four of the first five bouts, including pins from Aiden Leshinsky (132) and Jake Richardson (145).

"I can't say I expected us to struggle at those weights tonight, but I'm not surprised," Stoner said. "Our guys need to take losing personally and they don't."

Entering the 170-pound bout, Butler trailed 19-6. That's when senior Caleb Baxter ignited the Tornado's comeback with a second-period pin of Justin Petrilina.

Baxter weighed in at 158 pounds.



Mars' Sean McElhinney takes down Butler's Robert Hays in their 160-pound match Wednesday night.

Tye Cypher/Special to the Eagle

"He (Petrilina) was at 168, so that's 10 pounds difference," said Baxter. "But I go up against bigger kids in practice all the time. I just needed to go out and get us six points."

Butler won the next four matches with Tom Greaves and Saavon Mosby scoring pins at 195 and 220, respectively. A fall earned by Butler's Isaiah Christy at 113 was book-ended by pins from Mars' Noah Hunkele and Nolan Wicker, setting the stage for Hornfeck and Codispot.

"We have a solid team this year and it's a full team," said

Wilk. "In years past, we'd give up forfeits left and right and that was a problem for us."

While Mars (0-1) is off until January, Butler (3-0) wrestles at Peters Township Friday night.

"Right now, our guys are doing enough just to get by," said Stoner. "By no means is that a reflection on our coaching. The guys are backing off when they could get tougher and go after more points. We need to do some soul-searching and discover why it is we call ourselves wrestlers."

Butler 36, Mars 35

(Match started at 132 pounds)

106-Noah Hunkele (M) pinned Cam Weisenstein, 1:36; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) pinned Alex Chen, 4:57; 120-Nolan Wicker (M) pinned Colton Spohn, 3:40 ; 126-Alex Hornfeck (M) major dec. Jack Codispot, 19-6; 132-Aiden Leshinsky (M) pinned Shane Culp, 5:51; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Max Lamm, 5:12; 145-Jake Richardson (M) pinned Sam Dietrich, 1:27; 152-Mitchell McMarlin (M) dec. Justin Stewart, 4-2; 160-Sean McElhinney (M) major dec. Robert Hays, 14-2; 170-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Justin Petriline, 2:51; 182-Jacob White (B) dec. Isaiah Johnson, 7-4; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned Nick Schriver, 2:31; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) pinned Max Aubrecht, 3:14; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) dec. Jeff DeSantes, 4-1

Butler Eagle

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Scott Dietrich, Sam Dietrich, Caleb Baxter and Saavon Mosby all earned pins as Butler rolled to a 54-19 win over Peters Township.

Butler will next be in action Wednesday and Thursday at the Southmoreland Tournament.

Butler 54, Peters Township 19

(Match started at 152 pounds)

106-Will Kail (PT) pinned Cam Weistenstein; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) dec. Dan Levine 7-3; 120-Jordan Marosc (PT) by forfeit; 126-Double forfeit; 132-Brandon Mathews (PT) dec. Jack Codispot 6-3; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Coltin Jezioro; 145-Sam Dietrich (B) pinned Jacob Hurley; 152-Luke Mary (PT) dec. Justin Stewart 12-3; 160-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Noah Hardy; 170-Rob Hayes (B) by forfeit; 182-Jacob White (B) by forfeit; 195-Tom Greaves (B) dec. Shane Clark 7-0; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) pinned Grant Nelson; Hwt.-Jack McCrea (B) by forfeit

Butler Eagle

Article published January 5, 2017

Hays scores initial win on mat

Butler Wrestling Coach Stoner displeased with team's overall effort in 53-12 triumph.

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

JEFFERSON TWP — For Robert Hays, Wednesday night's match against Knoch was memorable. The Butler junior, who had never wrestled before this season, picked up his first career win at 160 pounds with a first-period pin of Thomas Peiffer as the Golden Tornado downed the Knights, 53-12. "Robbie's a guy who came out this year and obviously it's a monumental thing to get your first win," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "He never wrestled before and he's been filling in for us at 170, but we left him down at 160 tonight."

Hays' victory was one of the bright spots for the Golden Tornado on an uneven night.

Butler picked up six wins via forfeit and also got a pin from Scotty Dietrich, but Stoner was not pleased by his team's overall performance.

"Certain matches, we just didn't have mental composure," Stoner said. "It's just disappointing."

Stoner was particularly disappointed in 170-pounder Caleb Baxter, who initially won an 11-4 decision over Eric Green.

But Baxter was disqualified after the bout for allegedly pushing Green and then pulling forcefully away from the referee.

Not only did he lose the three points he would have gained for Butler, the team was also deducted three points for the misconduct.

Baxter will not be able to wrestle in Butler's next match Wednesday at Highlands.

It was a physical bout with Baxter needing injury time after he was illegally slammed to the mat by Green.

"To be honest with you, if you're going to do that stuff — there's no place for it and there's no need to," said Stoner, who said he didn't witness the shove. "Yeah, the kid slammed you earlier in the match, but you shouldn't have been there in the first place. It's really disappointing because it's a sign of the lack of discipline we have in certain situations.

"The match is over. Get up and walk away."

Nate McDonald scored a lot of points for Butler at 132 pounds, winning a 22-8 decision over Kolbi Brew. But McDonald could never finish Brew off.

"Nate made about 25 shots to took the guy down, but never moved up to recognize the half nelson and put the guy away," Stoner said. "Part of our goal tonight was to take down some guys and get confident in doing some things, but whenever you take a guy down so many times in a row and never move up to get the half, it becomes something where you're not getting very much out of it. You're just knocking the kid over."

Scotty Dietrich's pin came as a result of his increased attention to offense.

"Scotty needed to pick it up," Stoner said. "His goal tonight was to be more offensive."

The wrestlers Knoch did have on the mat Wednesday night fared well for the most part.

And most are young.

Freshman Kameron Grassi won a 7-0 decision over Colton Spohn at 120 pounds and another freshman, Brendan Hinchberger, won an 8-4 decision over Justin Stewart at 152.

"The only thing I can say about them is they are very coachable, they wrestle very hard and aggressive and are bringing more of that to this program," said Knoch coach Steve Carney. "They're doing everything right and that work ethic is rubbing off on everyone in the room."

Knoch has another freshman at 132 in Guy Deleonardis, who is injured.

Senior Max Freyermuth picked up Knoch's only fall, pinning Sam Dietrich with 20 seconds remaining in their bout.

Freyermuth is the only senior.

"We have a very young team," Carney said. "We're just looking to fill more spots and get more guys. You're not going to beat a Butler with giving up six forfeits. Our attitude is just to go and make sure the guys are making a name for themselves and showing the school what it's all about. And they're doing that."

Butler 53, Knoch 12

(Match started at heavyweight)

106-Cam Weisenstein (B) by forfeit; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) maj. dec. Hunter Oskin 12-3; 120-Kameron Grassi (K) dec. Colton Spohn 7-0; 126-Jack Codispot (B) by forfeit; 132-Nate McDonald (B) maj. dec. Kolbi Brew 22-8; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Mitch Walter; 145-Max Freyermuth (K) pinned Sam Dietrich; 152-Brendan Hinchberger (K) dec. Justin Stewart 8-4; 160-Robert Hays (B) pinned Thomas Peiffer 1:58; 170-Eric Green (K) by disqualification; 182-Jacob White (B) by forfeit; 195-Tom Greaves (B) by forfeit; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) by forfeit; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) by forfeit

Butler Eagle

Article published January 12, 2017

SV, Butler wrestlers post big wins

Butler 68, Highlands 6 — The Golden Tornado improved to 6-0, with pins being earned by Cam Weisenstein (106 pounds), Nate McDonald (132), Scott Dietrich (138), Jake White (182), Tom Greaves (195), Saavon Mosby (220) and Seth McCrea (Hwt.).

Butler 68, Highlands 6

(Match started at 126 pounds)

106-Cam Weisenstein (B) pinned Dashawn Holley, :57; 113-Isaiah Christy (B) dec. Ethan Shupak, 11-7; 120-Colton Spohn (B) won by forfeit; 126-Jack Codispot (B) won by forfeit; 132-Nate McDonald (B) pinned Shawn Secarus, 3:23; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) pinned Charles DeAngelo, :52; 145-Sam Dietrich (B) tech. fall Dmitri Lloyd, 15-0; 152-Cam Clark (H) dec. Justin Stewart, 8-1; 160-Terry Hortert (B) won by forfeit; 170-Richard Fox (H) dec. Rob Hays, 6-3; 182-Jake White (B) pinned Conner Bradley, 3:33; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned Lukas Lamer, 1:15; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) pinned Ethan Jones, 1:19; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) pinned Shane Wicks, :44

Butler Eagle

Article published January 19, 2017

Closing the deal

Butler wrestlers win 6 of 7 late matches to topple SV, become section tourney host

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



Butler junior Justin Stewart, front, tries escaping a hold by Hunter Vokes in their 152-pound match Wednesday night. Stewart escaped with a 3-2 decision in the Golden Tornado's 47-21 dual match win.
DAVE PRELOSKY/ BUTLER EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — When they were needed, Butler's heavier weights became heavy hitters Wednesday night. The Golden Tornado won six of the evening's final seven matches — four via pin — to pull away from Seneca Valley for

a 47-21 dual wrestling match victory. The win improved Butler to 7-0 in dual matches this season and enables the Tornado to host the Section 3 team championships next Wednesday night.

"My team surprised me a little bit tonight," Butler coach Scott Stoner admitted. "We came out and wrestled aggressively from the very first match and finished off a lot of pins.

"All of the swing matches went our way. That made a big difference. I thought this match would be a lot closer, maybe even go the other way."

Cameron Weisenstein (8-6) opened with a pin for Butler at 106 pounds.

"Cam set the tone, set the pace," Stoner said. "He scored a couple of nice reversals and controlled the match."

The Tornado won "swing" matches at 132 pounds, a 15-9 decision for freshman Nate McDonald (5-6) and a 3-2 decision by Justin Stewart (7-8) at 152. Stewart's decision increased a two-point Tornado lead to 20-15.

Stewart scored an escape in the final period for the deciding point in his match.

Pins by Caleb Baxter at 160, Christian Sequete at 182, Tom Greaves at 195 and Seth McCrea at 285 helped Butler pull away.

"They (Raiders) put the better of two kids up against Nathan and he got it done," Stoner said. "That was a nice win for a freshman ... props to Nathan."

Greaves agreed.

"That was a big one," the Butler senior said. "It was a turning point. We built a lot of momentum from his win."



Nathan McDonald, Butler's freshman 132-pound wrestler, takes Gavin Jackman to the mat in route to a 15-9 decision. The win was a key match in the Golden Tornado's 47-21 team victory.
DAVE PRELOSKY/ BUTLER EAGLE

Sequete wrestled his first match of the season after tearing the MCL in his left knee prior to the team's wrestling opener. He secured his pin in 1:18.

"That felt awesome to get back out there," Sequete said. "I'm good to go now. I feel like I can beat just about anybody."

Greaves' pin clinched the team win for the Tornado. When he put Patrick Johnson's shoulders to the mat 44 seconds into the final period, the overflow crowd erupted.

"To get the mat-clinching win felt great, with everybody screaming like that ... As the pins were piling up for us, we were stacking momentum," Greaves said.

Greaves improved to 14-3 on the season with eight pins.

Seneca Valley coach Kevin Wildrick said he had to move some wrestlers around in his lineup due to some ailments. He was missing 132-pounder Nick Montalbano (14-7) due to illness.

"Patrick Johnson is a 170-pounder and we asked him to face (Greaves) while giving up 20 pounds," Wildrick said. "That was a tough task.

"Butler controlled the swing matches tonight. They wrestled very well. They came out determined and got revenge on us from last year."

The Raiders (6-4, 4-1) defeated the Tornado in their dual match last season.

Jason Geyer (22-6) at 113, Louis Newell (23-1) at 120 and Ty Gross(17-9) at 170 had pins for Seneca Valley. The packed gym and enthusiasm in the stands was not lost on Stoner.

"I applaud the Seneca Valley fans who came up here to support their team and this great sport, along with our fans" Stoner said. "Believe me, that vocal support means the world to these kids."

And Wednesday's win may mean just as much to Butler's wrestling season.

"Everyone pulled together tonight in a manner I have not seen before," Stoner said. "The guys were wrestling for each other, not just for themselves.

"When that team aspect kicks in, it can go a long way."

Butler 47, Seneca Valley 21

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Cameron Weisenstein (B) pinned Caden Leighty, 3:20; 113-Jason Geyer (SV) pinned Takoda Gerlach, :27; 120-Louis Newell (SV) pinned Colton Spohn, 1:10; 126-Jack Codispot (B) tech. fall (16-0) over Dom McGill, 3:43; 132-Nathan McDonald (B) dec. Gavin Jackman, 15-9; 138-Scotty Dietrich (B) dec Drew Vlasnik 9-5; 145-Alex Fischer (SV) dec. Sammy Dietrich 8-4; 152-Justin Stewart (B) dec. Hunter Vokes 3-2; 160-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Gavin Funovits, 3:32; 170-Ty Gross (SV) pinned Robert Hays, 3:40; 182-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Casey Becker, 1:18; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned Patrick Johnson, 4:44; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) dec. Drake Church 5-2; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) pinned Kevin Meeder, 1:56



SPORTSTOWN

From Tri-State Sports & News | post-gazette.com

Wrestling Roundup (Jan. 19, 2017)

Written by Ken Wunderley on Thursday, 19 January 2017 10:00 am.

North Allegheny pins down win



(Photo: Butler wrestler Sammy Dietrich tries to get his balance as he is controlled by Seneca Valley's Alex Fischer in a 145-pound match Wednesday night. Stephanie Strasburg/Post-Gazette)

The WPIAL concluded its section wrestling schedule Wednesday night. The top three finishers in each sub-section qualify for the section team tournaments Jan. 25 at seven sites. Here's a look at the top matches from Wednesday night:

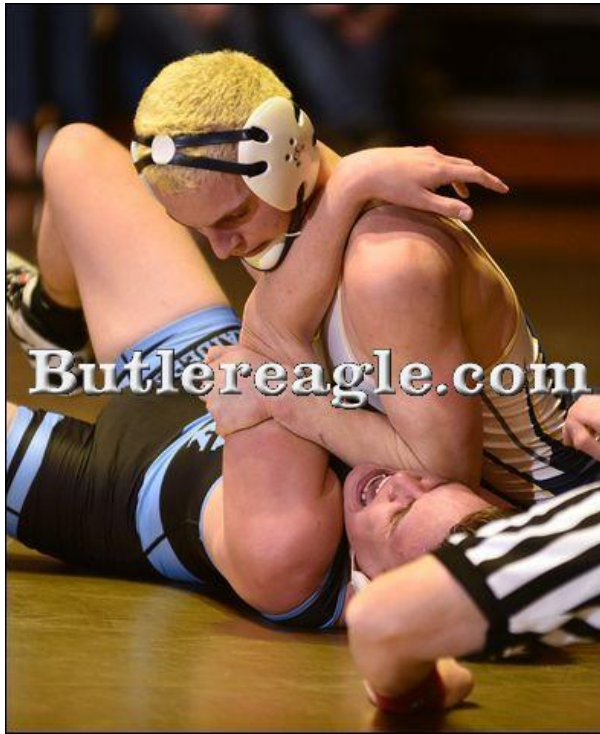
Class 3A

- No. 2 **North Allegheny** (5-0) earned the top spot in Section 3B with a 41-25 victory against **North Hills** (3-2) as Gabe Falo (120), Will Baierl (132), Jon Hoover (152), Eric Hong (160) and Jake Woodley (220) recorded pins for North Allegheny.
- No. 7 **Butler** (5-0) won in a battle of Section 3A unbeaten with a 47-21 home win against No. 10 **Seneca Valley** that clinched a home site for the Section 3 tournament. Cam Weisenstein (106), Caleb Baxter (160), Christian Sequete (182), Tom Greaves (195) and Seth McCrae (285) had pins.
- No. 3 **Canon-McMillan** (5-0) claimed first place in Section 4A with a 62-9 domination of visiting **Trinity** (3-2). The Big Macs will host the Section 4 tournament next week. Ken Hayman (113), Tony Mastrangelo (126), Tim Hritsko (138), Gerrit Nijenhuis (152), Blaze Kansco (170), Bryan Milligan (182) and Zach Rohaley (220) registered pins for the Big Macs.
- No. 4 **Belle Vernon** (4-0) broke the tie for first place in Section 2A with a 37-29 road win against **Connellsville** (3-1). The Leopards earned the home site in Section 2.
- No. 5 **Franklin Regional** (5-0) claimed the top spot in Section 1B with a 34-27 victory against No. 9 **Penn-Trafford** (3-2). Logan Miller clinched the win for the Panthers with a 2-1 overtime win over Matt Wilkey at 220 pounds. Colton Camacho gave the Panthers another big win at 126, 1-0 over Nick Coy.

Article published January 23, 2017

Baxter making up for lost time Butler wrestler gunning for big senior year

By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor



Butler senior 160-pound wrestler Caleb Baxter records his 10th pin of the season against Seneca Valley in a recent match. Baxter got off to a 14-2 start this year.
DAVE PRELOSKY/ BUTLER EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — The message is clear in Caleb Baxter's own mind.

Time to make it happen.

Butler's senior 160-pound wrestler has yet to reach the PIAA Tournament. He has only won a couple of matches at the WPIAL tourney, for that matter.

"He lost two matches at WPIALs 1-0 last year to get knocked out," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "I felt sick for the kid."

So far this year, Baxter has been all business.

He is carrying a 14-2 record with a team-leading 10 pins. Waynesburg, Mercyhurst and Thiel are among the college mat programs interested in him.

"That will sort itself out later," Baxter said. "Right now, my focus is on continuing to get better, place at the

WPIAL meet and get to states."

Baxter has carved out a solid high school career for himself — 71-21 entering this weekend's Clearfield Duals — despite having to overcome personal circumstances.

He is the younger brother of Cole Baxter, the Golden Tornado's all-time wins leader and the program's lone WPIAL champion. And Caleb missed his entire freshman season due to a broken elbow suffered during football season.

"It was rough following Cole and carrying the same last name," Baxter admitted. "When I first found out he was going to help coach us early in the season, I didn't want him around.

"I didn't want to see him in the room. Simple as that. I thought it would be uncomfortable. But the way he'd beat me up in practice, force me to pick up the pace ... He forced me to get better and compete harder."

Stoner recalled feeling the tension between them.

"It was definitely there," the coach said. "Caleb didn't want to wrestle with Cole here. I told him Cole was going to be here and I didn't see him sitting out two months while he was."

As it turned out, the two worked together — and Caleb benefitted.

"He showed me a lot," Baxter said. "When we took Cole back (to Kent State), we talked about my wrestling for two hours in the car. I definitely learned from him.

"I first remember coming around to watch his junior high matches. I've been a wrestler since I was 4."

Stoner said Caleb "used to come around in shorts and cowboy boots when he was a little kid."

Of course, much has changed since then.

The elbow injury required surgery, which resulted in a pinched nerve in Baxter's arm during his

freshman year.

"He had no feeling in his hand for a while. That's how bad it was," Stoner said.

Baxter came back to post a 27-11 record as a sophomore, qualifying for the WPIAL tourney and losing in the pig-tail round. He went 30-8 last season and won a section championship before losing the narrow decisions at the WPIAL meet.

"I need to get better on top," Baxter said of his own mat skills. "Most of my pins are from neutral position or during scrambles. That's why I usually let a guy up once I take him down.

"Other than that, I like where I'm at. I do feel like I've been trying to make up for that lost (freshman) year and I'm finally there."

A third Baxter — their cousin, Cooper — is coming through the program. He is on the junior high team.

"That family has been nothing but supportive of me for years here," Stoner said. "I'm grateful for all they've done for me.

"Caleb has so much talent and potential. At first, he wasn't sure he wanted to wrestle in college. Now he does. He will have a lot to offer somebody.

"He's a different kind of kid. He's intense, the way he looks at himself," Stoner added.

Baxter was forced to sit out Butler's recent match at Highlands because he shoved his opponent after a match at Knoch.

"I stayed in the (practice) room for an extra two hours that day working with Coach (Fred) Powell, then went to Highlands to watch our match," Baxter said. "I put in extra time whenever I can.

"That shove ... I let my emotions get the best of me. That will never happen again. Learn and move on. That's what this sport is."

Youth Sports

The Butler Junior High wrestling team placed sixth at the 35-team Southside Tournament recently.

Golden Tornado heavyweight Caleb Hartung won his weight class, pinning all three of his opponents. Steven Green at 130 pounds and Nate McMaster at 110 were runner-ups.

Ethan Barsotti placed fifth at 85 pounds. Greg Schultz at 185 and Shawndell Zapata at 210 placed sixth.

Butler will compete at the North Allegheny Invitational this weekend.

In other action:

Several Butler elementary wrestlers placed at tournaments last weekend. Levi Donnel went 10-0 at the Tyrant Duals Tournament in York. Santino Sloboda took first in the 10-under/60 division at the Freedom Battle for the Belt Open in Freedom,

Ryan Collins took first in that same event in the 8-under/60-pound division. Troy Ritson took second at 10-under/95 pounds, Sutton Stoner third at 8-under/75 and Noah Chupka third at 8-under/80 pounds.

Article published January 26, 2017

Raiders avenge loss to Butler

SV wrestlers get 3rd in Section 3 with 37-31 win

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



Seneca Valley heavyweight Kevin Meeder defeats Butler's Seth McCrea during the Section 3 team wrestling consolation match Wednesday night at Butler High School. The Raiders defeated the Golden Tornado, 37-31.
TYE CYPHER/ SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — What a difference one week can make.

On Jan. 18, Seneca Valley's wrestling team suffered a 47-21 defeat to rival Butler.

After both teams were beaten in the semifinals of Wednesday's Class AAA Section 3 Tournament — host Butler by a 42-36 count to Shaler and Seneca Valley in a 51-11 decision to North Allegheny — the

Raiders avenged their earlier loss by downing the Golden Tornado 37-31 in the third-place consolation match.

"We had Nick Montalbano (132 pounds) back in the lineup and that helped," said Seneca Valley coach Kevin Wildrick. "Plus we had guys wrestle up to their own expectations.

"This is a big confidence-builder for us moving forward."

The match began at 160 pounds. A win by technical fall from Butler's Caleb Baxter at 170 and a pin from Saavon Mosby at 220 helped the Tornado open up a 19-6 lead.

The Raiders' comeback began in the heavyweight bout between SV's Kevin Meeder and Seth McCrea. In the dual match held last week, McCrea scored a pin in the first period.

Meeder proved to be a much tougher opponent this time. The only point scored in the first four minutes came on Meeder's escape in the second period and he carried the slim edge into the third period.

McCrea took the lead with a reversal, but Meeder pulled even with another escape as the match entered overtime at 2-2.

Neither wrestler could score in the first 90 seconds of extra time. Finally, with 10 seconds remaining in the third overtime, Meeder managed a reversal. The 4-2 decision jump-started the Raiders.

"In the first match (last week), I wasn't feeling well and just wanted the night to be over with," said Meeder. "But then I started thinking about how I had my butt handed to me.

"I felt I could do better," he added. "I had a lot of family in the stands tonight and felt that fire inside me. It was different, trying to dig deep for that long. I've never been involved in a match that lasted that long."

One other rematch from last week saw the Raiders turn the tables on Butler. At 106, Caden Leighty won by major decision (23-12) over Cam Weisenstein after the latter earned a pin in the first meeting.

The wins by Meeder and Leighty represented a 19-point swing from Butler's dual-meet victory.

"The first time we went up against them (Raiders), we were aggressive and won every close match," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "Tonight, we weren't as aggressive, weren't as physical.

"I give credit to Kevin (Wildrick). He had his kids ready."

Following Jason Geyer's pin of Takoda Gerlach at 113, the Raiders were even with Butler at 19-19. Louis Newell then put SV up for good with a pin at 120.

Newell also scored a technical fall in the semifinal match against North Allegheny. He won a Southwest

Regional title and was runner-up in the state as a sophomore last year at 106 pounds. He improved his record to 27-1 this season.

"He's been sick lately, so he is a little down on his conditioning," said Wildrick, "but other than that, he looks like the same kid from last year."

With three bouts remaining, Scott Dietrich kept Butler's hopes alive with a tight 7-6 decision over Drew Vlasnik at 138. It was the 101st win of his varsity career and pulled the Tornado to within 31-25.

But the Raiders clinched the team win with Alex Fischer's pin in the next bout.

Butler narrowly missed wrestling for the section championship. In the semifinal loss to Shaler, the Tornado trailed 39-36 with only the 145-pound bout left.

The Titans sealed the win when Eric Warren managed a 10-3 decision over Sam Dietrich.

Both the Raiders and Golden Tornado will compete in the WPIAL team playoffs, which begin Monday.

North Allegheny won the Section 3 title by outscoring Shaler 45-27.

Semifinal - Shaler 42, Butler 36 (Match started at 152 pounds)

106-Ryan Sullivan (S) pinned Cam Weisenstein; 113-Takoda Gerlacht (B) won by forfeit; 120-Dylan Winters (S) pinned Colton Spohn; 126-Ian Scarberry (S) major dec. Jack Codispot; 132-Garret Reinsfelder (S) pinned Nate McDonald; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) won by forfeit; 145-Eric Warren (S) dec. Sam Dietrich; 152-Jake Pollack (S) won by forfeit; 160-Jon Frazier (S) pinned Justin Stewart; 170-Caleb Baxter (B) won by forfeit; 182-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Noah Sampson; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned John Harker; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) won by forfeit; Hwt.-Ron D'Amico (S) tech. fall Seth McCrea.

Third-Place Consolation - Seneca Valley 37, Butler 31 (Match started at 160 pounds)

106-Caden Leighty (SV) major dec. Cam Weisenstein, 23-12; 113-Jason Geyer (SV) pinned Takoda Gerlach, :44; 120-Louis Newell (SV) pinned Colton Spohn, 2:28; 126-Jack Codispot (B) dec. Gavin Jackman, 9-5; 132-Nick Montalbano (SV) pinned Nate McDonald, :42; 138-Scott Dietrich (B) dec. Drew Vlasnik, 7-6; 145-Alex Fischer (SV) pinned Sam Dietrich, 5:00; 152-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Hunter Vokes, 1:38; 160-Ty Gross (SV) pinned Rob Hays, 1:23; 170-Caleb Baxter (B) tech. fall Gavin Funovits, 18-3; 182-Christian Sequete (B) won by forfeit; 195-Tom Greaves (B) dec. Patrick Johnson, 6-0*; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) pinned Drake Church, 2:31; Hwt.-Kevin Meeder (SV) dec. Seth McCrea, 4-2 (3OT).

*Following the 195-pound bout, Butler was deducted one team point due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

Butler Eagle

Article published January 26, 2017

Youth Sports

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Several Butler elementary wrestlers placed at tournaments last weekend. Levi Donnel went 10-0 at the Tyrant Duals Tournament in York. Santino Sloboda took first in the 10-under/60 division.

At the Freedom Battle for the Belt Open in Freedom, Ryan Collins took first in the event in the 8-under/60-pound division. Troy Ritson took second at 10-under/95 pounds, Sutton Stoner third at 8-under/75 and Noah Chupka third at 8-under/80 pounds.

Article published January 30, 2017

Century Club

Butler's Dietrich wins 100th prep career wrestling match

By Derek Pyda, Eagle Staff Writer

BUTLER TWP — Put your heart and soul into a sport for 13 years and it becomes part of you.

Such is the case with Scotty Dietrich when it comes to wrestling.

The senior 138-pounder at Butler High was introduced to the sport when he was 5-years-old. He made his way through the youth ranks before becoming a valuable member of the Golden Tornado's varsity team as a 120-pounder in the fall of 2013.

"Wrestling has formed part of who I am," he said. "I can't imagine my life without it. It's a sport in which you have to depend just on yourself. That's a very big aspect of it.

"It's not all about the wins, either. Even with the failures, you have to build off those experiences."

Dietrich recently reached a milestone most wrestlers can only hope to attain, becoming the eighth wrestler in Butler history to reach 100 career wins at last Wednesday's Class AAA-Section 3 team tournament.

He entered the night with 99 career victories before winning via forfeit when Shaler failed to send out a wrestler to face him.

"It was a little disappointing," Dietrich said of his 100th victory coming on a forfeit. "I wanted to go out and perform to get it."

His opportunity to compete came later in the night. Against Seneca Valley's Drew Vlasnik, Dietrich broke a 6-6 tie with an escape in the third period to win the bout by one point.

"I was very excited," he said. "I had the chance to go up against a worthy opponent. It was a match I could have lost and it all came down to how I performed. It was very rewarding."

Dietrich is now 21-4 on the season and is second on Butler's team with 37 takedowns, including three against Vlasnik.

"We've been pushing Scotty to be more offensive," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "That was as aggressive as I've seen him."

Dietrich carries a career record of 101-37 into tonight's WPIAL team playoff match against Moon. The Section 3 individual tournament will be held Feb. 25. It is there that Dietrich will attempt to qualify for the Southwest Regional tournament for the fourth time.

"It's a big deal for me to go to sectionals and move on," he said. "After that, we'll see what happens. I would like to get to states. In a state like Pennsylvania, that's a very big accomplishment."

Dietrich plans on wrestling in college, though he has not decided on a school. One aspect of the sport that keeps him coming back year after year is seeing where his commitment on and off the mat can take him.

"I bust my butt with cardio work and all that," he said. "I enjoy seeing my hard work pay off.

"Wrestling is a grueling sport, not just physically, but also mentally. You can't get too excited. You have to keep a level head. There are so many ups and downs, it's mind over matter."

Article published January 31, 2017

Tornado wrestlers move on Butler dispatches outmanned Moon in team tourney

By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor

BUTLER TWP — The dual match itself was just a formality. The real challenge lies ahead for Butler's wrestling team, which easily dispatched Moon, 55-18, in a WPIAL Class AAA team tournament play-in match Monday night. The Tigers (6-7) forfeited three weight classes.

The Golden Tornado (12-3) received pins from Cameron Weisenstein at 113 pounds, Caleb Baxter at 170, Christian Sequete at 182, Tom Greaves at 195 and Seth McCrea at 285 pounds.

Now Butler travels to Waynesburg for a dual at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Seneca Valley takes on Franklin Regional at Waynesburg as well.

"Waynesburg has been a top tier program for a long time," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "Every kid in that program takes the sport very seriously.

"They don't just want to win. They want to rip your arm off and beat you with it. That's the mentality. But (won-loss) record wise, we do match up with them. We'll see what happens."

Plenty of positives happened Monday night.

The dual with Moon started at 220 pounds and the Tornado took immediate control as Saavon Mosby won by a 13-3 decision and McCrea pinned his foe in less than two minutes.

Stoner opted to forfeit the 106-pound match to Moon's top wrestler — Frankie Bonura (25-1) — and moved Weisenstein into the 113-pound match.

"Cam weighs maybe 99 pounds and we knew he'd be giving up 12 or 13 pounds to his opponent," Stoner admitted. "That's a big difference at that weight class.

"But we wanted to challenge Cam and he responded."

Weisenstein trailed Mitch McCoy 4-1 in the second period when he scored a sudden reverse and pin with 16 seconds left in the second period.

"I didn't think I was going to wrestle (Bonura)," Weisenstein said. "I was able to get a hip and elbow roll and got on top when I was losing.

"Once I get on top, I expect to finish it off and get the pin."

Weisenstein (12-10) recorded his sixth pin of the campaign and the Tornado were on their way.

"They have a solid team," Moon coach Mike Muraco said of Butler. "It looks like they have a lot of team unity. They get excited when each other does well.

"We haven't had a wrestler at those weight classes (120, 126 and 132 pounds) all year. That makes it tough, but a lot of our guys showed improvement tonight and that's encouraging."

Moon won the two closest bouts of the evening. Nick Acuna (21-4) scored a takedown with seconds left to secure a 3-0 decision over Scotty Dietrich (21-5) at 138 and Zach Smith's takedown with 22 seconds remaining produced a 2-1 decision over the Tornado's Justin Stewart at 152.

Sequete (9-0) pinned a quality opponent in Austin McConaghy at 182.

"Christian scored a quick takedown and assumed immediate control," Stoner said. "He dominated a pretty good kid. That's the kind of aggressiveness we've been trying to generate. We showed some of it tonight."

Butler 55, Moon 18

(Match started at 220 pounds)

106-Frankie Bonura (M) by forfeit; 113-Cameron Weisenstein (B) pinned Mitch McCoy, 3:44; 120-Colton Spohn (B) by forfeit; 126-Jack Codispot (B) by forfeit; 132-Nathan McDonald (B) by forfeit; 138-Nick Acuna (M) dec. Scotty Dietrich 3-0; 145-Sammy Dietrich (B) dec. Mike Bates 9-5; 152-Zach Smith (M) dec. Justin Stewart 2-1; 160-Jamal Littlejohn (M) pinned Robert Hays, 3:51; 170-Caleb Baxter (B) pinned Robert Vitale, 1:31; 182-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Austin McConaghy, 2:46; 195-Tom Greaves (B) pinned Alec Yochym, 2:43; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) dec. Christian Tanner 13-3; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) pinned Dominic Bolden, 1:31

Butler Eagle

Article published February 2, 2017

Butler wrestlers fall to Waynesburg in team tourney

Butler dropped a hard-fought 41-29 decision to fourth-seeded Waynesburg in the first round of the WPIAL Class AAA team tournament.

The Golden Tornado held a 29-26 lead with three bouts left, but the Raiders (12-2) won all three to clinch the match.

Earning pins for Butler (12-4) were Takoda Gerlach (113 pounds), Colton Spohn (120), Jack Codispot (126) and Christian Sequete (182).

Butler was without its best wrestler, Caleb Baxter (22-2), who was out with the flu.

Waynesburg 41, Butler 29

(Match started at 170 pounds)

106-Bengin (W) pinned Cam Weisenstein, :40; 113-Takoda Gerlach (B) pinned Patel, :50; 120-Colton Spohn (B) pinned Justin Victor, 3:10; 126-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Braun, 4:45; 132-Caleb Morris (W) pinned Nate McDonald, 2:43; 138-Scotty Dietrich (B) dec. Colby Morris, 4-2; 145-Howard (W) won by forfeit; 152-Stephenson (W) dec. Sam Dietrich, 8-5; 160-Spitznagle (W) pinned Justin Stewart, 1:30; 170-Homet (W) won by forfeit; 182-Christian Sequete (B) pinned Robinson, 1:20; 195-McCracken (W) tech. fall Tom Greaves, 15-0; 220-Main(W) dec. Saavon Mosby, 4-2; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) dec. Swiger, 4-0.

Butler Eagle

Article published February 6, 2017

He's healthy and hungry

3 knee surgeries aren't slowing Butler's Sequete on wrestling mat

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



Butler 182-pound wrestler Christian Sequete prepares to pin an opponent in this match. Sequete is off to a 10-0 start with seven pins this season. He has undergone three knee surgeries in as many years.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

BUTLER TWP — When it comes to wrestling, the only thing Christian Sequete loses is time.

The Butler junior 182-pounder is a stellar 60-18 in his varsity career. He is off to a 10-0 start this season. Seven of those wins are pins, another is by major decision.

But Sequete has undergone three knee surgeries during that time.

He had a torn meniscus in his left knee repaired during his freshman season, which cost him a month of competition. He tore it again during the WPIAL tournament at the end of his sophomore campaign.

Prior to this season, Sequete had surgery done for a torn meniscus in his right knee.

"I guess that one was a gradual thing," he said. "I have no idea when it actually happened."

But it cost him the first month of this season. Sequete was 35-4 last year while winning the section championship at 170 pounds.

"Where it gets him is in conditioning," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "It's so hard to catch up that way. "Once these tournaments begin, you're wrestling multiple matches in a day against high-caliber competition ... The conditioning needs to be there."

Sequete competed in the Clearfield Duals recently — his first tourney action of the season — and went 5-0 for the day.

"But I was pretty gassed at the end," he admitted. "By the fourth and fifth match, I was feeling tired. I know that can't continue."

Sequete has lofty goals in wrestling. He wants to become a three-time section champion, get to the PIAA meet and win a state championship before his days at Butler are over.

Stoner pointed out that Sequete will be seeing top-level competition between now and the individual section championships slated later this month.

"The (Nino) Bonaccorsi kid from Bethel Park, (Matt) McGillick of Penn -Trafford are two of the top kids in his weight class and Christian will be facing those guys," he said. "Bonaccorsi beat him up pretty good last year.

"Christian does wrestle an aggressive style that we like. He's on the verge of reaching that next level." Sequete was named most outstanding wrestler of the eighth-grade team three years ago and placed fifth in the 54-team District 7 meet that season.

"When he's confident he's going to beat somebody, he usually does it," Butler Junior High coach Don Geibel said. "Christian is most effective when he gets the early takedown on his opponent.

"The good thing about his knee injuries is that none of them were major surgeries. He hasn't torn his ACL or anything like that."

While Sequete admits the repeated knee surgeries and recuperation periods have been "frustrating," the setbacks have not affected him mentally.

"When I'm on the mat wrestling, my knee situation is totally out of my mind," he said. "I'm locked into the task at hand.

"I know I have a lot of room to improve. I particularly have to get better when I'm in the top position. I need to score more points from there."

Sequete recently faced a strong opponent in Moon's Austin McConaghy and dominated the match. He scored two quick takedowns in the first period and pinned him 46 seconds into the second.

"That's what he's about," Stoner said. "Christian does do a lot of club wrestling during the offseason. He's into the sport. He may have to do some additional training on his own, outside of what we do here, to get caught up on conditioning.

"I know what he wants to accomplish. A kid can say those things. He has to do the necessary work to get there."

One thing Sequete didn't do this school year was play football.

"I really wanted to, but I didn't want to risk any more injuries," he said. "Hopefully, I've had enough of those."

Butler wrestlers roll past Bethel, 63-16 Baxter earns gritty 6-1 decision; 4 Golden Tornado matmen get pins in win

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



Butler senior 160-pound wrestler Caleb Baxter scores a takedown on Bethel Park's Jason Montgomery during his 6-1 decision Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017. Butler won the dual, 63-16.
DAVE PRELOSKY/ BUTLER EAGLE

BUTLER TWP — When referring to the upcoming individual postseason, Butler senior wrestler Caleb Baxter said, "This is my last go." Baxter made sure he will enter the Section 3 tournament on a high note when he earned a 6-1 victory over Bethel Park's Jason Montgomery in the 160-pound bout of Tuesday's home match. The Golden Tornado celebrated Senior Night with a 63-16 win.

"Caleb's win was the highlight of the evening," said Golden Tornado coach Scott Stoner. "The kid he wrestled was tough and he (Montgomery) has beaten some tough kids this season."

Baxter gained the upper hand with an early takedown, then allowed an escape before the end of the first period. It was the only point Montgomery scored in the bout.

"Caleb dominated the match from the get-go and broke the kid's spirit," Stoner said.

His win moved Baxter's record this season to 24-2.

"I missed seven matches this season, so my record could be better and it could be worse," he said. "I am happy with where I'm at."

Baxter's goals are clear-cut as he prepares for the stretch run of his scholastic career. He won a section title last season, but missed out on a trip to states.

"I went 2-2 at WPIALS and lost a couple of 1-0 decisions. I want to place at WPIALS and make it to states this year," he said.

The Section 3 tournament will be held Feb. 25. Baxter will be anything but idle between now and then.

"I'm going to get in the room and work with Coach (Fred) Powell, get better with my technique," he said.

Butler earned four pins in Monday's team victory — Colton Spohn (120 pounds), Jack Codispot (126), Scotty Dietrich (138) and Justin Stewart (152). The match included six forfeits, all won by Butler (16-7).

"We were thin at the start of the season with 12 wrestlers," said Black Hawk coach Bob Stewart. "But injuries have taken us down to nine. It's just one of those things."

"I was disappointed to see that Bethel Park didn't have a full team," said Stoner. "They've had a pretty good program for a while. I feel bad for their coaches and wrestlers."

"There are so many rewards that can come about from wrestling."

One bright spot for the Black Hawks is its 182-pounder, senior Nino Bonaccorsi, a University of Pittsburgh recruit who is ranked first in the state and second nationally. He earned a 22-8 major decision over Christian Sequete.

"We had never had a wrestler reach the final at (the Southwest Regional) until Nino did last year and he

won the title," said Stewart. "He was runner-up at states and his goal is to win a state championship." Before the match, Butler honored its five seniors — Baxter, Dietrich, Tom Greaves, Shane Culp and Seth McCrea.

Butler 63, Bethel Park 16

(Match started at 106 pounds)

106-Cameron Weisenstein (B) won by forfeit; 113-Takoda Gerlach (B) won by forfeit; 120-Colton Spohn (B) pinned Sloan Armbruster, :46; 126-Jack Codispot (B) pinned Justin Pferdehirt, :56; 132-Ben Yantek (BP) pinned Shane Culp, 3:56; 138-Scotty Dietrich (B) pinned Eric Pferdehirt, 3:21; 145-Luke Montgomery (BP) pinned Darin Skidmore, 1:04; 152-Justin Stewart (B) pinned Justin Metzmaier, :49; 160-Caleb Baxter (B) dec. Jason Montgomery, 6-1; 170-Rob Hays (B) won by forfeit; 182-Nino Bonaccorsi (BP) major dec. Christian Sequete, 22-8; 195-Tom Greaves (B) won by forfeit; 220-Saavon Mosby (B) won by forfeit; Hwt.-Seth McCrea (B) won by forfeit



Armstrong Wrestling Loses Tough Match Against Butler



The Armstrong Wrestling team was unable to pick-up a victory at home Wednesday night – losing to the Butler Golden Tornadoes 61-9.

by Jake DeLuca

The Armstrong River Hawks varsity wrestling team hosted the Butler Golden Tornadoes Wednesday night in their last home match before their section individuals tournament.

The River Hawks Josh Shaner was able to pick up the lone Armstrong win, aside from a forfeit. Shaner was able to come back late in the third to earn a 7-5 victory at 152 lbs.

After the match, Shaner explained how he pulled out the win.

"Me on top, I'm better and I know what to do and the other kid just sat there and let me do what I wanted, pretty much. There was a couple times when I was worried, because he caught me on my hip, but I fought that off and came back to win," Shaner said.

The River Hawks will have one more non-section match-up, which will be away on February 15th at Knock. Start time is set for 6:00 JV and 7:15 for varsity.

Article published February 24, 2017

Mars' Hornfeck only local top seed County wrestlers bid for WPIAL spots

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

One thing is certain about the Section 3 Individual Wrestling Championships Saturday at Fox Chapel High School. It will be a battle. Only one Butler County wrestler — Mars 126-pounder Alex Hornfeck (26-1) — has a No. 1 seed in the tournament. Stellar matmen like Seneca Valley's Louis Newell (33-2) at 113 pounds, Butler's Caleb Baxter (24-2) at 160 and Christian Sequete (13-2) at 182 did not land top seeds.

"That shows how balanced this section is now," Mars coach Jason Wilk said. "It used to be that there were two top teams in this section followed by everybody else.

"Now it's pretty even across the board."

Wilk said Hornfeck is wrestling "at a different level right now" and that he sees the junior as a state qualifier.

"But it's one step at a time," he cautioned.

For the first time in years, Butler does not have a No. 1 seed in the section tourney. The Golden Tornado do have three returning section champions in Baxter, Sequete and 220-pound Saavon Mossby (23-9). Mosby is seeded third behind Shaler's Ron D'Amico (32-1) and Pine-Richland's Brandon Scheller (19-14). "Saavon lost to Scheller during the season. He wrestled a bad match and it cost him a seed," Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

Baxter is seeded No. 2 at 160 behind North Allegheny's unbeaten Eric Hong (22-0). Sequete is No. 2 at 182 behind Fox Chapel's Mike Mahon (27-3).

"We didn't wrestle consistently enough this year to get those top seeds," Stoner said. "That doesn't mean we can't battle our way through. We're capable of doing that with a number of kids."

The top five placers in each weight class advance to next weekend's WPIAL Championships.

Despite placing second at the state meet last season, Seneca Valley's Newell is seeded No. 2 behind Sam Hillegas (32-1) of North Hills.

"We didn't wrestle North Hills in a dual this year, but Louis lost to Hillegas at the PowerAde tournament," SV coach Kevin Wildrick said.

"The seeding for the section is pretty basic and it's usually fair. Almost everyone went head-to-head with everyone else, so it's not hard to figure out."

Wilk agreed. "The seeding doesn't matter much in this tournament. You have to beat the best kids to win, anyway," he said.

Butler's other top wrestlers include fourth-seed Jack Codispot (26-9) at 126, third-seed Scotty Dietrich (29-5) at 138, fourth-seed Tom Greaves (26-7) at 195 and fifth-seed Seth McCrea (22-8) at 285.

"We've got kids who can fare well down there," Stoner said. "We need to put in a good day of wrestling."

Seneca Valley's Jason Geyer (22-9) is seeded second at 106. Nick Montalbano (19-10) is third at 126, Drew Vlasnik (21-10) fourth at 132, Alex Fischer (25-9) third at 145, Ty Gross (25-3) third at 160.

"I'm thinking, realistically, we can get seven kids through," Wildrick said. "We usually get between five or eight, so that would be normal for us."

For Mars, Noah Hunkele (20-7) is seeded third at 106, Justin Petrilena (19-6) fifth at 170.

"We could get as few as four and as many as six on to the WPIAL," Wilk said. "Anything less than four would be a disappointing tournament for us."

Hornfeck nets section mat title for Mars County sends 22 to WPIAL meet

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



Saavon Mosby, right, of Butler takes on Shaler's Ron D'Amico in the 220-pound title match Saturday at the WPIAL Section 3 Championships. Mosby settled for second in the tournament with a 5-0 defeat.
TYE CYPHER/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

FOX CHAPEL — Alex Hornfeck struck a balance — and found a historical section championship to go with it.

The Mars junior 126-pound wrestler won his weight class Saturday during the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 Championships at Fox Chapel. He became the first Planet wrestler to claim a section title since Mars moved up to AAA.

"I'm pretty proud of that," Hornfeck said. "It's been a goal of mine all year. Now I want to be a state qualifier."

Hornfeck (29-1) dominated in winning the section. He pinned Malakai Bennett of North Hills in 38 seconds, decisioned Butler's Jack Codispot 11-1 in the semifinals and decisioned Seneca Valley's Nick Montalbano 8-2 in the finals.

Codispot and Montalbano have combined for 50 wins this season.

"Alex has always been a competitor who works very hard in practice," Mars coach Jason Wilk said. "This year, he's learned to enjoy it more. Sports are supposed to be fun.

"He works just as hard, but he's having more fun with it, too."

Hornfeck admitted he's enjoying the ride much more this season. He reached the section finals last year before losing.

"I was almost too intense," he said of last year. "Having fun wrestling takes a lot of the stress off."

Hornfeck was Butler County's lone section champion Saturday, but he will join 21 other county wrestlers at the WPIAL Championships this weekend at Canon-McMillan. The top five placers in each weight class at the section meet advanced.

Butler and Seneca Valley advanced seven each while Mars is sending six and Knoch two.

Among the Planet wrestlers moving on is 138-pound freshman Max Lamm. Filling in for injured teammate Jake Richardson, Lamm (7-10) took fifth place. He is a blind wrestler.

"Max amazes me every single time I watch him on the mat," Wilk said. "He's inspirational and he's a talented kid."

Seneca Valley had four section runner-ups: Jason Geyer (24-10) at 106 pounds, Louis Newell (35-3) at 113, Montalbano (21-11) at 126 and Alex Fischer (27-10) at 145.

Newell was a state runner-up last season. Two of his three losses this year are to unbeaten freshman Sam Hillegas (35-0) of North Hills. Hillegas pinned his way through the tournament.

Butler had three section runner-ups in Caleb Baxter (26-3) at 160 pounds, Christian Sequete (15-3) at 182 and Saavon Mosby (25-10) at 220. All three lost to the No. 1 seed in the finals.

Unbeaten Eric Hong (25-0) decisioned Baxter 12-2. Fox Chapel's Mike Mahon (30-3) decisioned Sequete 10-4 at 182 and Mosby dropped a 5-0 decision to Shaler's Ron D'Amico (35-1) at 220.

"Mahon is a tough kid and he hit Christian with a lateral drop for a five-point move," Butler coach Scott Stoner said. "That was the difference in that match."

"Caleb ran into the North Allegheny kid, who is a very good wrestler, but who transferred there this season and is controversially eligible, in my judgment. Saavon was very competitive against the Shaler kid, who is outstanding. He just couldn't mount any offense against him."

Despite winning no section titles, Stoner feels good about the contingent he still has wrestling.

"We did well in dual meets this year, but we only had four or five guys really put together great years," he said. "The seven we got through really had to work to get there.

"I like the way they battled."

SECTION 3 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Butler County wrestlers qualifying for WPIAL tournament

Butler

126 pounds-Jack Codispot (29-10) 3rd; 138-Scotty Dietrich (31-7) 4th; 160-Caleb Baxter (26-3) 2nd; 182-Christian Sequete (15-3) 2nd; 195-Tom Greaves (29-8) 3rd; 220-Saavon Mosby (25-10) 2nd; 285-Seth McCrea (24-10) 5th

Knoch

120-Kameron Grassi (12-11) 4th; 170-Eric Green (19-7) 4th

Mars

120-Nolan Wicker (10-9) 5th; 126-Alex Hornfeck (29-1) 1st; 138-Max Lamm (7-10) 5th; 170-Justin Petrilena (20-8) 5th; 182-Nick Schriver (20-10) 3rd; 220-Max Aubrecht (15-17) 5th

Seneca Valley

106-Jason Geyer (24-10) 2nd; 113-Louis Newell (35-3) 2nd; 126-Nick Montalbano (21-11) 2nd; 132-Drew Vlasnik (23-12) 4th; 145-Alex Fischer (27-10) 2nd; 160-Ty Gross (28-12) 3rd; 195-Drake Church (19-16) 4th

Butler Eagle

Article published February 28, 2017

Five Butler Junior High wrestlers placed at the District VII Championships recently.

Steven Green placed fourth while Caleb Hartung was fifth, Cooper Baxter sixth, Hunter Neff seventh and Nate McMaster eighth.

Green also qualified for states by placing third in the 132-pound division at the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Area 7 qualifier on Sunday. The PJW Junior High State Finals are next weekend in Johnstown.

In elementary wrestling, Santino Sloboda took second place in the 10-under/60-pound division at the Burrell Super Trophy Open tournament on Sunday.

Taking second place at Sunday's Burrell Novice Tournament were Braylon May, Kelley Schaukowitzsch, Owen Dressler and Sutton Stoner.

Ryan Collins and Noah Chupka finished third.

Butler Eagle

Article published March 2, 2017

Matmen await challenge 21 area wrestlers prep for tourney

By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor

Wrestlers live for challenges.

Ultimate challenges await a pair of second-seeded wrestlers — Seneca Valley 113-pounder Louis Newell and Mars 126-pounder Alex Hornfeck — if they can reach the finals of their respective weight classes this weekend in the WPIAL Tournament at Canon-McMillan High School.

Newell (35-3), a junior, is on the opposite side of the bracket from top-seed Shawn Hillegas (35-0), a freshman from North Hills who pinned him in the section finals. Two of Newell's three losses this year are to Hillegas.

"That (Hillegas) kid is very good and Louis just got caught," SV coach Kevin Wildrick said of the section finals. "We would love another shot at him.

"But down there, you go one match at a time. You can't overlook anybody. There are plenty of good wrestlers in every division."

Hornfeck (29-1), a junior, is a section champion and is seeded behind unbeaten Franklin Regional senior Spencer Lee (28-0), who has never lost a high school match.

"Lee is considered the best high school wrestler in the country," Mars coach Jason Wilk said. "It'd be great if Alex went up against him because that would mean he made the finals.

"No one in the gym would expect Alex to win, but just stepping on the mat with arguably the greatest Pennsylvania wrestler ever would be unbelievable. You take your shot and see what happens."

Lee is committed to the University of Iowa, one of the premier collegiate wrestling programs in the country.

Five other Butler County wrestlers are seeded among the top eight in their respective weight classes. Butler's Caleb Baxter (26-3) is seeded third at 160 pounds, behind North Allegheny unbeaten Eric Hong (25-0) and Belle Vernon's Zachary Hartman (33-5).

"I'm glad Caleb got seeded third and is on the opposite side of Hong," Butler coach Scott Stoner said.

"That kid is a national prep school champion and you don't want to see him until the finals."

Seneca Valley 106-pounder Jason Geyer (24-10) and Butler 182-pounder Christian Sequete (15-3) are seeded fifth. The Raiders' Alex Fischer (27-10) at 145 and the Golden Tornado's Saavon Mosby (25-10) at 220 are seeded eighth.

Sequete, a junior, is seeded behind four seniors — Bethel Park's Nick Bonaccorsi (32-0), Penn-Trafford's Matt McGillick (23-8), Fox Chapel's Mike Mahon (30-2) and Greensburg Salem's Teegan Hahn (28-4).

"Christian could possibly get up there (into the top four) but there are a lot of talented kids," Stoner said.

Whiler Mosby is seeded eighth, Stoner believes he could be a wild-card, based on his unpredictable performances on the mat.

"Though he's only a sophomore, Saavon has great ability and athleticism," he said. "He doesn't choose to use it all of the time. That gets frustrating because he is an outstanding wrestler when he wants to be."

In Wildrick's view, the seeding isn't all that important.

"The seeding doesn't really matter," SV's coach said. "If it did, the other kids wouldn't show up and the seeds would just wrestle for the (PIAA) spots.

"We want to go in with the attitude we can beat anybody lining up on the other side of the mat. You have to take that approach."

Wilk said Mars' 170-pounder Jason Petrilena and 182-pound Nick Schriver could pull off surprises.

"Unseeded wrestlers have gotten hot, had big days and snuck through before," he said. "You have to have the confidence you can do it."

The WPIAL tourney gets under way with pig-tail and preliminary round matches at 11 a.m. Friday. The

quarterfinals and first-round consolations begin at 6 p.m.

Second-round consolations begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with the semifinals set for noon. The consolation finals are at 5:30 p.m., the championship finals at 7 p.m.

BUTLER COUNTY WPIAL QUALIFIERS

106 pounds-Jason Geyer (Seneca Valley) 24-10

113-Louis Newell (Seneca Valley) 35-3

120-Kameron Grassi (Knoch) 12-11, Nolan Wicker (Mars) 10-9

126-Alex Hornfeck (Mars) 29-1, Jack Codispot (Butler) 29-10, Nick Montalbano (Seneca Valley) 21-11

138-Scotty Dietrich (Butler) 31-7, Max Lamm (Mars) 7-10

145-Alex Fischer (Seneca Valley) 27-10

160-Caleb Baxter (Butler) 26-3, Ty Gross (Seneca Valley) 28-12

170-Eric Green (Knoch) 189-7, Justin Petrilena (Mars) 20-8

182-Christian Sequete (Butler) 15-3, Nick Schriver (Mars) 20-11

195-Tom Greaves (Butler) 29-8, Drake Church (Seneca Valley) 19-16

220-Saavon Mosby (Butler) 25-10, Max Aubrecht (Mars) 15-17

285-Seth McCrea (Butler) 24-10

Butler Eagle

Article published March 4, 2017

Matmen close in on finals

3 Butler County wrestlers advance to WPIAL semis

Three Butler County wrestlers advanced to the WPIAL Southwest Regional semifinals after wins on Friday at Canon-McMillan High School.

Butler's Caleb Baxter (160 pounds), Seneca Valley's Lewis Newell (113) and Mars' Alex Hornfeck (126) will have a chance to compete for WPIAL titles Saturday.

Baxter was dominating in his two wins Friday.

He pinned Caleb Lehman of Gateway in 2:31 and then came back with a major decision of Ryan Weizen of Norwin, 11-2.

Newell was also dominant.

He pinned Gavin James of Plum in 2:43 and followed that up with a 13-3 major decision over Jacob Downing of North Allegheny.

Hornfeck pinned Brady Sherlock of West Mifflin in 1:42 and then won a 5-0 decision over Jason Miller of Norwin.

Baxter will square off in the semifinals against Zachary Hartman of Belle Vernon. Newell will also face a Belle Vernon wrestler in Jacob Dunlop of Belle Vernon. Hornfeck will battle Noah Levett of Kiski.

Baxter, Newell qualify for PIAA Mars' Hornfeck falls seconds short

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

Louis Newell was less than a minute away from winning his second straight Class AAA Southwest Regional wrestling title.

But the final 50-plus seconds belonged to North Hills' Sam Hillegas.

Newell tallied a takedown in both the second and third period of the 113-pound title bout Saturday at Canon-McMillan High School.

The effort gave him a 4-2 lead before Hillegas managed a reversal with 51 seconds left to tie the score at 4-4.

Hillegas then scored a pair of near-fall points in the closing seconds and defeated Seneca Valley's junior 6-4.

"Louis' 4-2 lead came after a scramble and it lasted for about four or five seconds," said Raiders' coach Kevin Wildrick. "That's when Hillegas got on top of him."

Newell reached the final round with a 5-3 decision over Belle Vernon's Jacob Dunlop. That bout was tied at 2-2 with two minutes left before the former executed an escape just three seconds into the third period. He scored a takedown 50 seconds later.

Newell won a regional title at 106 pounds last year and went on to wrestle in the state final before losing. He will compete at the PIAA event in Hershey later this week.

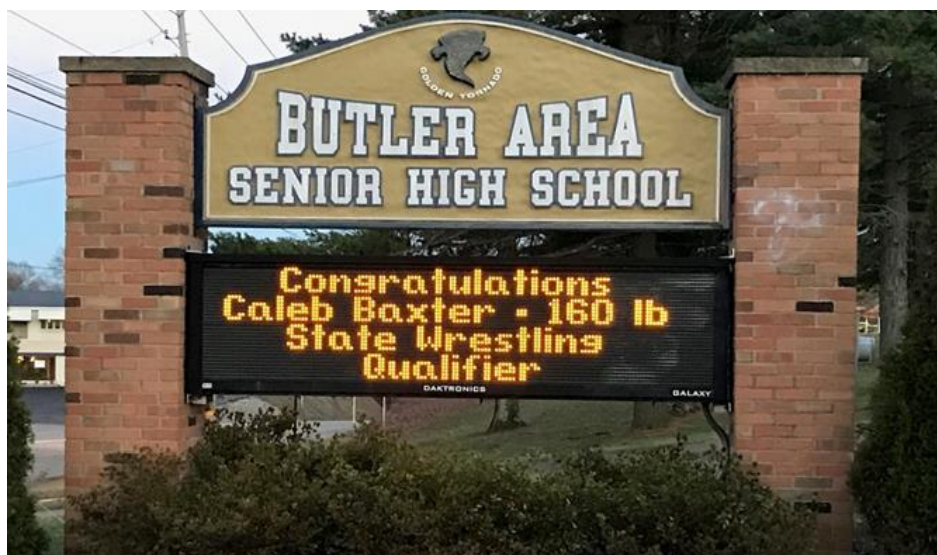
"He's as strong as he was last year," insisted Wildrick. "He just ran into a very strong wrestler."

Also qualifying for the state tournament was Butler senior Caleb Baxter, who rebounded from an 11-0 semifinal loss to Belle Vernon's Zach Hartman to win a pair of 2-0 decisions and finish third at 160 pounds.

The first win came in the fourth round of consolations where he met Greensburg Salem's Jesse Quatse. Baxter scored the only points of the bout with a first-period takedown. He duplicated that sequence in the bout for third place against Bethel Park's Jason Montgomery.

"Other than the semifinal loss, Caleb wrestled smart down there," said Butler coach Scott Stoner. "Being a senior, it's great to see him get to states. We're proud of him."

Mars' 126-pounder, junior Alex Hornfeck just missed out on extending his season.



Butler Elementary Place at Season End WAWA Tournament

Numerous Butler elementary wrestlers placed in the end of year WAWA tournament, also last weekend at South Fayette High School.

Those placers follow:

OPEN Tournament

1st place: Santino Sloboda, Andrew Bortmas, Levi Donnel

2nd place: Wesley Osmer

3rd place: Ryan Miller, Landon Christie

4th place: AJ Baker

Novice Tournament

1st place: Sutton Stoner, Noah Chupka, Dominic Miller, Legend Wilkerson, Braylon May, Carter Simko

2nd place: Ryan Collins, Justice Viano, Dominic Nero, Ethan Leless, Kelley Schaukowitsch, Dawson Davis, Matt Zinkhan

3rd place: Ira Stiefel, Keaton Matteson, Troy Ritson, Saxon Stoner

4th place: Brodie Davis, Noah Reiger, Nicanor Andrada



Butler Elementary Wrestling W.A.W.A. League Place winners.

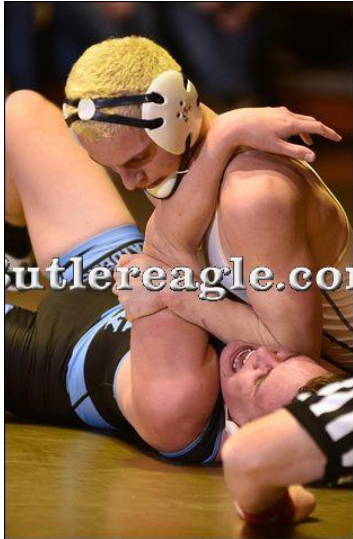
Butler Eagle

Article published March 9, 2017

Finishing with a flurry

Butler's Baxter, SV's Newell look for mat success at PIAA tourney

By John Enrietto, Eagle Sports Editor



Butler senior 160-pound wrestler Caleb Baxter has reached the PIAA Championships for the first time.

BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

HERSHEY — Butler senior Caleb Baxter and Seneca Valley junior Louis Newell are competing in the PIAA Wrestling Championships this weekend. Matches begin today — and they got there via different paths.

When Newell was a freshman, he won 35 matches and wound up placing eighth at 106 pounds. When Baxter was a freshman, he didn't wrestle at all because of a broken elbow suffered during football season.

Last year, Newell returned to the state meet and wound up placing second. Baxter fell short of a PIAA berth due to a pair of 1-0 losses at the WPIAL tourney.

"I felt for the kid. That was a tough way to end his season," Butler coach Scott Stoner recalled.

"Louis exceeded his own expectations by placing (in Hershey) as a freshman," SV coach Kevin Wildrick said. "He gained an idea of what he was capable of and I think that helped set up his success last season."

Now both are primed for more success.

Baxter (30-4) was scheduled to face fourth-place region placer Hunter Vogels (34-14) of Boyertown in his first PIAA match at 160 pounds today. That winner gets No. 3 seed Jonah Barley (39-2), a senior from Penn Manor.

"There are a lot of wrestlers with multiple losses ... Everyone's beatable," Stoner said. "If he has a good weekend, I see no reason why Caleb can't place out here. Facing a fourth-place finisher (at region), he has a good match to start out with."

Baxter, 87-23 in his career, had a solid WPIAL Tournament with one exception — an 11-0 loss to Belle Vernon's Zach Hartman in the semifinals.

Besides that match, Baxter allowed only two points in four matches, scoring a pin in 2:31 and winning decisions of 11-2, 23-0, 2-0.

"He (Hartman) kept scoring on me with the same move — his tilt — and I couldn't stop it," Baxter said.

"I know how to defend against it now.

"If we meet again, things will be different."

Newell (38-4) was scheduled to face freshman Rafael Portilla (35-6) of Carlisle in his first-round match today at 113 pounds. A win would put him up against senior and top seed Matt Wilde (43-3) of Boyertown.

"Our goal is to improve over last year and we were second last year," Wildrick said.

Newell, 112-17 in his career, ran into a nemesis in North Hills freshman Sam, Hillegas (39-0) in the WPIAL finals and dropped a 6-4 decision in the final minute. Three of Newell's four losses this year are against Hillegas.

"He scrambles on the mat really well and he's strong," Newell said. "Those are huge advantages for him. Most kids can't scramble like he can.

"I'd love one more shot at him this year. I came pretty close the last time."

Newell and Hillegas could only meet in the state title match or in the consolation bracket.

Wildrick said one of Newell's biggest assets is his composure in big matches.

"His demeanor is one of the things that makes him so tough to beat," the coach said. "He's got the athleticism and good technique, but he never lets himself get too high or too low mentally on the mat. "He just keeps working hard."

Baxter sees hard work as the key to his potential success this weekend as well.

"I don't know much about a lot of these other wrestlers ...You just have to be yourself, wrestle your match and what happens, happens," Baxter said. "I don't think the (state tourney) atmosphere will bother me. I've been wrestling for a long time."

He plans to continue wrestling in college. Waynesburg, Thiel, Mercyhurst and Pitt-Johnstown are among the interested schools.

Newell has been wrestling for a long time as well.

"Ever since I was little, wrestling for clubs, going to camps, it's all helped me," Newell said. "I placed fifth in states in eighth grade.

"Everything else just sort of happened from there."

Stoner said mental toughness can make it happen for Baxter.

"You have to mentally prepare yourself," the coach said. "It's the experience and excitement of being there with the best in the state.

"Find a way to win by a point and move on ... One match at a time."

Butler Eagle

Article published March 10, 2017

Newell, Doerflinger win in Hershey

Seneca Valley's Louis Newell and Slippery Rock's Michael Doerflinger are both still alive for a state title after first-round victories at Thursday's PIAA wrestling championships in Hershey.

Newell, a junior, won an 8-2 decision over Carlisle's Rafael Portilla in Class AAA's 113-pound bracket. Following a scoreless first period, Newell scored on an escape and takedown within 11 seconds in the second period and never trailed.

Newell will take on Easton's Diego Santiago in the quarterfinals today.

Doerflinger, also a junior, was trailing Schuylkill Valley's Jack Bennett 4-2 late in the second period before the former closed the Class AA 138-pound bout with a flurry.

He pulled even with a reversal with 35 seconds left in the second, then managed an escape, takedown and two near-fall points in the final period to claim a 9-4 decision.

Doerflinger will face Ligonier Valley's Alex Caldwell in the quarterfinals.

Butler 160-pound senior Caleb Baxter will wrestle Upper Perkiomen's Jacob Folk in the second round of Class AAA consolations today after going 1-1 Thursday.

In the preliminary round, Baxter prevailed in a 5-4 overtime decision over Boyertown's Hunter Vogels.

Baxter was on the short end of a 4-1 score after two periods before tying the bout with an escape and takedown, the latter with just 22 seconds remaining in the third period.

Baxter advanced when Vogels was called for unsportsmanlike conduct with 46 seconds left in the overtime period, which awarded the deciding point to Baxter.

In his first-round bout, Baxter was unable to score in a 4-0 loss to Penn Manor's Jonah Barley.

Butler Eagle

Article published March 11, 2017

One step closer

SV's Newell, SR's Doerflinger in state wrestling semifinals

A pair of Butler County wrestlers are closing in on a PIAA title.

Seneca Valley's Louis Newell (113 pounds in Class AAA) and Slippery Rock's Mike Doerflinger (138 pounds in Class AA) advanced to the semifinals with wins on Friday at the PIAA Wrestling Championships at the Giant Center in Hershey.

Newell won a 3-1 decision over Diego Santiago from Easton to punch his ticket to Saturday's semifinals where he will meet Ed Scott of DuBois.

Newell, who finished runner-up last year at the PIAA championships at 106 pounds, is 40-4.

Doerflinger is also semifinal bound after dispatching Alex Caldwell of Ligonier Valley, 4-3.

Doerflinger will face undefeated Max Murin of Central Cambria in the semifinals.

Murin is 39-0 and has won all three of his PIAA matches by pin.

Butler's Caleb Baxter (160) won a consolation bout against Jake Folk of Upper Perkiomen by pin in 1:47, but was eliminated with an 8-3 loss to Luke Nichter of Chambersburg.

Butler Eagle

Article published March 20, 2017

Youth Sports

A pair of Butler elementary wrestlers qualified for the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Championships by placing first at the Area 7 Tournament last weekend in Pittsburgh.

Levi Donnel, age 11, took first in the 12U/70-pound division.

Santino Sloboda, age 9, won the 10U/55-pound division.

Both wrestlers will travel to Wilkes-Barre for this weekend's PJW finals.

Three other Butler wrestlers placed at the Boardman Open Tournament in Ohio.

Clayton Dressler (13/14 age group) went 3-0 to win the 98-pound weight class.

Sutton Stoner (7/8) also won all three of his bouts to top the field in the 80-pound weight class.

Owen Dressler (9/10) was 4-1 and finished runner-up at 77 pounds.