

MARQUEE MATCHUPS

103

First match is battle of undefeated wrestlers as River's Josh Bartrug faces Oak Glen's Zach Brown. Brown also has a twin, Tyler, who wrestles at 112. The other match pits two freshmen against each other. Both Sawyer Leppla and Frankie Williams were OVC champions. They have never wrestled, as Leppla wrestled last in the lighter weight class. Both have extensive youth backgrounds, and this could be the beginning of an ongoing rivalry on the mats. Williams' hardest challenge of the year the year came in the quarterfinals when he escaped a pin at the buzzer in his match with #2 see Darin Heavlin to come back and record a pin of his own.

112

Indian Creek's Devin Mazik certainly has his work cut out for him as the 112-pound semifinals feature 2 state finalists, David Jeffrey (WV state champion, Wrestling USA Top Sophomores Special Mention), Andrew Bertubin (OH Division II runner-up). Also in the semifinals is Jeremy Border (fourth place in Ohio at 103 last year). Bertubin is a returning OVAC champion and defeated Border 3-2 in last year's OVAC final. However, Border defeated Bertubin 6-4 earlier this season, thus he is the #2 seed.

119

This weight class features three 4-time OVAC placewinners. Dillon Nolte and Preston Foster both finished third last year. Nolte took fifth in the district and was a state alternate at 125 last year, but dropped to 119 this year. He avenged his one loss in the quarterfinals when he defeated Steubenville's Shawn McGhee 10-4. Foster is wrestling in his fourth season at 119. The upstart of the weight class is Shadyside freshman Alex Quinn. In the quarterfinals, he defeated Beaver Local's John McComas, who was a Division II fifth-place finisher last year. Quinn has not lost a match since the beginning of the season. Wiltshire placed 6th in last year's OVAC and qualified for the Division II state tournament at 119 last year.

125

This weight class features a nationally-ranked wrestler in Wheeling Park's Kyle Bauer, who's #15 on the Wrestling USA Top Juniors list, and #1 seed and returning OVAC champion Arizona Miller of Beaver Local. Looking to play the role of the spoiler are first-year varsity wrestlers Kole Koper of Oak Glen and Briar Shively of Parkersburg South.

130

Shadyside's Ian Baker is actually certified to wrestle at 119, but with talented teammates like Alex Quinn and Chase Kinemond, he had to bump up to 130, where he finds himself the #5 seed and wrestling in the semifinals. His opponent Dillon VanDyne was an Ohio Division II 7th-place finisher. VanDyne owns an early season win over Seth Callarick of St. Clairsville, who is the returning OVAC champion at this weight and a 4-time OVAC placewinner, thus VanDyne is the #1 seed. Norman finished 3rd in WV last year and is on the Wrestling USA Top Sophomores Special Mention list.

135

This weight class features the big dogs versus the underdogs. OH Division II state qualifiers Art Hobley and Jacob Border are staying true to their seeds. Union Local's Mitchell Friede has had a great tournament, upstaging two seeded wrestlers en route to his semifinal matchup with #1 seed Hobley. #7 Cody Churchill gave himself a present for his 16th birthday yesterday when he defeated #2 Jimmy Gessler of Bridgeport to gain a spot in the semifinals.

140

Paolo and Green are returning WV state champions and ranked #1 in their respective weight classes. Paolo is a defending OVAC champion and 4-time tournament placewinner, while Green is making his debut at the OVAC with first-year team Parkersburg South. Green has spent a total of 21 seconds on the mat this weekend, having a forfeit and two very quick pins to his name (7 and 16 seconds). The other two wrestlers in the semifinals, Sam Faykus and Brandon Staudacher, are both OH state qualifiers

145

Dylan Ice has 8 consecutive pins in the OVAC wrestling tournament dating back to last year. Last year's Hercules Award winner is staying true to form this year. Dominic Prezzia has been at 152 all year and purposely dropped to 145. He's a Fargo freestyle runner-up and currently ranked #12 in Wrestling USA's list of Top seniors. The underdogs in the semis are Cameron's David Schlieper and Parkersburg South's Cody Richards, both of whom have placed in the WV state tournament.

152

Kurtis Jefferis is a 4-time OVAC placer and is the returning champ at 145. Danny Costa has battled injuries over the years, but hard work and perseverance have paid off and he finds himself in this year's semifinals. Kenny Nickerson is a Division II state qualifier, with all of his losses coming at 160. Now that he's at his true weight, he's demonstrating his state tournament caliber. Bo Cooper is a WV state runner-up and is actually going for his 100th win in today's semifinals.

160

Unlike some of the other weight classes, 160 features some of the lesser-known wrestlers in the tournament, however, Marshall Mason, Kyle Crooks, Paul Blake and Bobby Richmond all qualified for their respective state tournaments, with Blake placing 3rd in WV. All four are returning OVAC placewinners. Mason's highlight of the tournament was knocking off #1 seed Doug Eddy of Harrison Central.

171

This class features two nationally recognized wrestlers in Chris Smith (Wrestling USA #25) and Max Nogay (Wrestling USA Special Mention). Max is a all-around athlete and is ranked #1 in WV As quarterback of the Weirton Madonna football team, heled the Blue Dons to the Class A state title. Kahl is the upperclassmen of the up and coming Shadyside team. Mike Nentwick, a senior, is a returning OVAC placewinner and is reaping the benefits of having Jake Henderson as a workout partner.

189

Henderson is an OH state qualifier, 3-time OVAC placewinner, and owns a 10-3 victory over Oak Glen's Justin Greathouse this year. Greathouse placed in both the OVAC and WV state tournaments last year. Jeff Oberdick placed 4th in last year's OVAC and faces Parkersburg South's Steven Brogle, a first year varsity wrestler with only one loss who is celebrating his 16th birthday today!

215

Rylan Pyciak is the only returning OVAC placewinner at 215. Pyciak owns a 3-1 decision over Cambridge's Caleb Gunn, who's battled through tough decisions en route to the semis. Big Red's Jamey DeVaul placed 8th last year at 189, and also has close wins over both Gunn and Davis. Davis is building a future for himself being the only sophomore in 215-pound semifinals.

285

John Eckroth placed 7th in last year's OH Division II state tournament and 6th at the OVAC. Aaron Silverio defeated Michael Berardi 1-0 earlier in the season. Wheeling Park's Zack Kimmons placed 3rd at the WV state tournament last year. Berardi is a first-year starter who knocked off #2 J. J. Intorre in the quarterfinals.