

REYNOLDS  
WRESTLING  
MAG

A New  
Season  
Begins

December 2011



# Destiny Calls — Taylor Answers

**C**asey Taylor is already in the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame. Already a legend at Reynolds High School. He didn't need this gig to nail down a spot as a Reynolds Wrestling legend. The fact that he wanted this job speaks volumes about our new coach. Casey Taylor cares deeply about the Reynolds Wrestling program. Cares enough to put his own neck on the line to safeguard it because when you really understand the situation Coach Taylor has placed himself in, there is actually very little for him to gain. If he's

successful, no one will blink, because he's expected to be successful in a program that has never known anything else. But, if he falters, then real damage can result.

You know how it goes ... people like nothing more than a good old-fashioned train wreck.

Honestly, I don't see a train wreck coming. I only see one locomotive and a track clear of obstacles. Furthermore, I believe that Coach Taylor is as prepared as any coach could be. He excelled on the mat, so he knows what it takes to be successful as an athlete. He's served on the RHS coaching

staff for more than a decade and has watched, studied and learned under one of the greatest coaches in Pennsylvania wrestling history. And he has the full support of the Reynolds Wrestling community. Nobody is second guessing the move to name Casey Taylor as the Reynolds High head coach. He's our guy and we got his back.

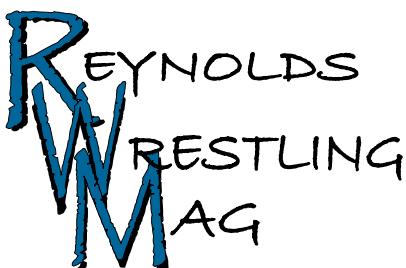
It doesn't seem that long ago that Coach Taylor was out on the mat as a high school wrestler. I remember those days and had the privilege of writing about two of his three state championships. The one thing that I remember most about Casey Taylor, the wrestler, is the way he responded when he got behind. It didn't happen very often

during his 123-10-2 career, but when it did, he was like a man possessed. He never boo-hooed or made excuses, he got busy. He amped up his game and didn't stop working until he found a way to win. Looking back, I think Casey reveled in the challenge that the sport of wrestling provided him and he simply loved to compete.

You know it's funny, and it didn't get talked about much last season, but the fact is that Reynolds lost the last two dual matches it

*"It's okay for you to think about what you want to do, until it's time to start doing what you're meant to do."*

From the movie, "The Rookie"



Published monthly during the Pennsylvania high school wrestling season and periodically in the off-season

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wrestled last season. I guarantee you Coach Taylor remembers that, and personally, I hope he starts his coaching career with the mindset that his team is trailing.

New weight classes for the 2011-12 season are going to take a little getting used to. With four weight classes at or above 182 pounds, one could argue that the whole dynamic of the sport has changed.

The scales have tipped in the direction of the heavier guys with a potential 24 points hanging in the balance. The new weight classes that begin with the 2011-12 season are: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285.

## A View From Matside

By Don Shaffer



**CAUTION**

2011-12

Reynolds Raiders

**AHEAD**

# Taylor's Task: Keep the Wins Coming!

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

**W**hen you really break it down, first-year head coach Casey Taylor has just one assignment: to win. While that may be a grossly over-simplified determination, Taylor certainly understands the lofty expectations and authentic pressures that accompany his new job.

"To be 100% honest, before the season started, I was very nervous ... constantly double-checking my practice schedules and my lists ... making sure everything was in order; but now that practice has started, my optimism is growing every day," Taylor said.

"We've got a great group of kids who are very motivated to continue the Reynolds Wrestling tradition and they are working very well together. It's a great atmosphere to be a part of."

The team's willingness to work hard has allowed Taylor and varsity

assistant coaches Joe Reichard, Michael Hills and Mark Bartolo to settle into their roles quickly.

"As a coaching staff, we are very focused ... ready to help build these guys," Taylor said. "We've got a ton of potential in our practice room."

## 2011-12 Schedule,

## Page 7

Luckily, when Brian Hills retired after 25 Hall of Fame seasons, he didn't take all the talent with him.

Senior Dylan D'Urso and junior Austin Matthews are bona fide superstars. Blake Heim is a returning state qualifier and the Raiders welcome back 10 wrestlers who posted a dozen or more wins last season.

That's a foundation any coach would love to build around.

"I think we have a great mix of wrestlers," Taylor said. "We've got a lot of kids with experience, some who are inexperienced and another

group somewhere in the middle. When I look at this group as a whole, I see a lot of balance."

D'Urso, a team captain, is a three-time state semifinalist and has never finished worse than fourth at the state tournament (4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>). He opens his senior campaign with a gaudy 132-17 career record and recently committed to Mercyhurst College, where he will join his brother Tony (RHS '08) on the wrestling roster.

"Great leaders lead by example," Taylor said. "Dylan can be vocal when he needs to be, but the big thing about him is that he trains hard and he competes hard. Other kids are watching him and if he slows down in one of the drills they might think it's okay to slow down. To his credit, Dylan doesn't take any time off. He's a great example in that way and it has certainly helped pushed him to become the wrestler he is today."

Heim will anchor the Raiders' lineup at heavyweight. He qualified for the state tournament a year ago while going 38-12. He

boasts 79 career wins and has the ability to make the earth shake with his patented headlock. Taylor is confident that Heim will be competitive with the best wrestlers in the state.

“Blake is going to be our steady guy at the top. We know that he will give us a solid match every time out,” Taylor said. “Plus, he’s doing the little things in the practice room to make this team better, like taking the time to show some of the younger kids the proper technique. He’s really taking a veteran approach.”

Three other seniors - Justin Rhodes, Matt Tofani and Tyler Miller - return to starting spots, while a fourth - Tommy Davis - is now ready for his role in prime time. Miller was voted as one of the team captains by members of the team.

Rhodes, 25-17 and a regional qualifier a year ago, is nursing a football injury and will not be ready for the start of the season. Once he is ready, he will return to work on his resume that currently contains 42 wins.

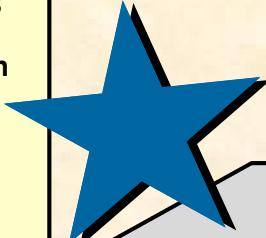
Miller, with 21 wins, was solid last season as was Tofani (18). Miller, like Rhodes, was a Regional qualifier while Tofani failed to advance out of the District tournament largely due to an ill-timed ankle injury. Taylor said the trio will be counted on heavily.

“All three of these guys have had success in the past and the biggest reason for that success is that they all have a tremendous amount of heart, no one can question that,” Taylor said. “Now, we are really pushing them to work hard on the technical side ... to develop a different kind of strength and they have accepted that challenge and are working hard at it.

### Top 10 Returning Wrestlers

#### With Most Wins Last Season

1. Dylan D’Urso	46
2. Austin Matthews	44
3. Blake Heim	38
4. Mason McCollum	30
5. Justin Rhodes	25
6. Neal Engstrom	24
7. Tyler Miller	21
8. Jamar Henry	21
9. Matt Tofani	18
10. Alex DiGregorio	13



### DYLAN D’URSO

With 48 wins, the RHS senior would move into second place on the school’s all-time win list.

“Our senior class is battle tested. They know their roles and they know that we will be leaning on them a little harder this year,” Taylor added. “I fully expect them to respond to this challenge.”

Davis, who has seen limited varsity duty the last two seasons, will need to adjust quickly to the role of a starter.

Sam Napodano and Jake Simpson are the other seniors on the roster. Napodano, who continues to progress from a severe motorcycle accident, won a pair of junior varsity bouts last season.

**ALL-TIME**

**682-77-2**

**DUAL-MATCH RECORD**

# 2011-12 Reynolds High School

## Varsity Wrestling Roster

(unofficial)

### Seniors

Dylan D'Urso  
Tommy Davis  
Blake Heim  
Tyler Miller  
Sam Napodano  
Justin Rhodes  
Jake Simpson  
Matt Tofani

### Juniors

Curtis Arnold  
Cam Cianci  
Neal Engstrom  
Jamar Henry  
Matthew Leise  
Austin Matthews  
Chris Nottingham  
Tyler Ohl  
Logan Rickert  
Clay Stoyer

### Sophomores

Alex DiGregorio  
Robert Foulkrod  
Tylor Gongloff  
Trevor Griswold  
Mason McCollum  
Dustin McCurdy  
Kegan Miller  
Austin Moffett  
Dallas Sposito  
Levi Stoyer  
Denton Zeronas

### Freshmen

Michael Bartolo  
Michael Millero  
Nick Nottingham  
Dominic Rimer  
James Slater  
Jake Stoyer  
Ryan Zeronas

# Reynolds Wrestling

## 100-Match Winners

1. Mason Beckman 196-12
2. Cody Kelly 179-25-0
3. (tie) Matt Dunn 176-11  
Lawrence Beckman 176-27-0
4. Aaron Nestor 156-32-0
5. Justin Nestor 153-11-0
6. Mason Stewart 147-45-0
7. (tie) Jason Nestor 137-19-0  
Jason Walter 137-20-0  
Mark Bodo 137-21-0
11. Justin Hollobaugh 135-31-0
12. (tie) Steve Popovitch 133-22-0  
Travis Battles 133-29-0  
Mike Edwards 133-43-0
15. **Dylan D'Urso 132-17\***
16. Adam Matthews 131-37
17. Jonathan Hazi 130-13
18. (tie) Stephen Nestor 129-40  
Will Ringer 129-53-0
18. Casey Taylor 123-10-2
19. Bob Tumpak 122-29-0
20. Jason Brown 121-56-0
21. (tie) John Tofani 117-15-1  
Nick Sommerfeld 117-35-0
23. Jerry Kendall 115-17-0
24. Luke Taylor 114-43-0
25. Corey Brown 112-40-0
26. Mike Miller 109-63-0
27. Jake Habel 105-32-0

\* - Active Wrestler

Matthews worked his tail off in the offseason to build on an already solid reputation - he was a PIAA runner-up last year - by knocking off a couple of nationally-ranked wrestlers. He appears primed to take his talents to the next level.

"Austin conditions like Aaron Nestor, drills like Matt Dunn and wrestles live like a caged animal," Taylor said. "He trains with a purpose and he wants everything that's out there waiting for him. He wants all of it."

"Whatever adjective you want to use to describe him, that's the kind of wrestler Austin is," Taylor said. "But, the best thing about Austin is that he remains humble. In many respects, he is just one of the guys. I don't know how many times I've caught him just sitting, talking with our elementary wrestlers. He is a tremendous example for them to look up to."

While Matthews (87-14) is the big gun in the junior class he is not the only one who possesses talent. Jamar Henry was probably the Raiders' most improved wrestler last season and saw his record blossom from 7-19 as a freshman to 21-17. He continues to make progress as does Neal Engstrom, another two-year letterman who has already wrestled 85 varsity matches.

Overall, the junior class is deep as Cam Cianci, Curtis Arnold, Matt Leise and Chris Nottingham all have varsity experience. Other junior class members are Tyler Ohl, Clayton Stoyer and Logan

# Returning Lettermen



- ◆ Dylan D'Urso \*\*\*
- ◆ Blake Heim \*\*\*
- ◆ Tyler Miller \*\*
- ◆ Justin Rhodes \*\*\*
- ◆ Matt Tofani \*\*
- ◆ Cam Cianci \*
- ◆ Neal Engstrom \*\*
- ◆ Jamar Henry \*\*
- ◆ Austin Matthews \*\*
- ◆ Alex DiGregorio\*
- ◆ Mason McCollum\*
- ◆ Austin Moffett \*

\* - numbers of letters won

Rickert. Rickert and Stoyer did not wrestle last season, but they are not without experience. It wouldn't surprise Coach Taylor to see one or both of them in the starting lineup.

"They'll have to earn their spots in eliminations, but both kids are great athletes," Taylor said. "They didn't wrestle last year, but they continued to train, lifting weights and getting stronger."

"I've tried to prepare them for our December schedule and how hard it will be to win matches; so if they can withstand that mentally then I think they'll do very well once we come back home in January," Taylor said. "We're excited about the progress they have made in just the first week or so."

A severe football injury and complications that followed will keep Cianci on the sideline all season.

"We're going to miss Cam because he is a tough, hard-nosed kid," Taylor said. "I feel bad for him on a personal level because I think he would have had a chance this year to really settle into a weight class that was comfortable. Last year, and even the year before, he was pretty much all over the map for us."

The sophomore class also runs deep and boasts a dozen members led by the steady Mason McCollum who worked his way to a 30-win season as a freshman.

Alex DiGregorio (13 wins), Austin Moffett (7 wins) and Levi Stoyer (4 wins) also gained varsity experience.

"McCollum sort of attached himself at the hip with Austin (Matthews) this summer and went out and wrestled some of the best competition around," Taylor said. "I think it was good for him to be exposed to some other coaches and wrestling styles. I sense a different maturity level with him ... he's now a seasoned veteran as a sophomore. I know his goals are high and really the sky is the limit for him. We're confident we'll get big things out of him."

It was DiGregorio who filled a gaping hole at 103 pounds for RHS last season and he settled in quickly, advancing all the way to the Northwest Regional.

Other sophomores are Robert Foulkrod, Tylor Gongloff, Tyler Gregg, Trevor Griswold, Dustin McCurdy, Kegan Miller, Dallas Sposito and Denton Zeronas.

Freshman Michael Bartolo will start at 106 pounds for the Raiders, and Coach Taylor could not rule out seeing Michael Millero in the varsity lineup before the year is out.

"The biggest fear we had with Bartolo is that he would be too light for the 106 pound class, but he really worked hard to get his weight up and he came in weighing 108 or 109 so we feel very good about where he is at," Taylor said. "He's jumped right in there and mixed it up with the



## BLAKE HEIM

Senior Blake Heim, with 79 career wins, is one of three returning state qualifiers.

# 99

The number of PIAA place-winners in RHS history



## AUSTIN MATTHEWS

A defending PIAA Class AA runner-up, Matthews needs just 13 more wins to reach 100 in his high school career.

older guys and he's earning their respect," Taylor added of Bartolo.

"Millero, though I'm not sure he's going to have a regular spot, will see action with the varsity," Taylor said. "We're pretty deep right there through the middle weights, but he will definitely be in the mix battling for a spot."

Other freshmen are Nick Nottingham, Dominic Rimer, James Slater, Jake Stoyer and Ryan Zeronas. Overall, the team roster includes 37 wrestlers.

"I think this is the most kids we've had out for the team in about 15 years," Taylor said. "It may shake out a little bit, but we don't have too many kids wrestling just for the fun of it. Most of these guys are dedicated to the sport and I expect them to be around all year. Our challenge as a coaching staff will be to get them as many matches as possible."

In closing, Taylor said, "I love the focus that I'm seeing from these kids. Their focus is right where I want it to be. Sometimes the more veteran kids tend to be complacent with drills, but these guys understand that it's part of the process for bringing our younger kids along and their willingness to work hard has been great. They are willing to sell out in every practice."

Taylor believes that level of commitment is what will drive the Raiders to another successful season.

## Starting Line-up



This chart lists the starting lineup that the Raiders will use to open the season at the Ironman Tournament. Wrestlers are listed by name, grade, last season's record, and career record.

106– Michael Bartolo, fr., 0-0, 0-0	152– Tyler Miller, sr., 21-20, 25-26
113– Alex DiGregorio, so., 13-12, 13-12	160– Matt Tofani, sr., 18-15, 33-29
120– Neal Engstrom, jr., 24-22, 43-42	170– Austin Moffett, so., 7-15, 7-15
126– Mason McCollum, so., 30-17, 30-17	182– Jamar Henry, jr., 21-17, 28-36
132– Dylan D'Urso, sr., 46-6, 132-17	195– Tommy Davis, sr., 2-5, 2-7
138– Austin Matthews, jr., 44-5, 87-14	220– Logan Rickert, jr., 0-0, 0-0
145– Levi Stoyer, so., 4-3, 4-3	285– Blake Heim, sr., 38-12, 79-29

# Steve Popovitch's ALUMNI NEWS

As can be expected for a high school wrestling program that has had the success of Reynolds, a large contingent of alumni are competing at the collegiate level. The following briefly summarizes season outlooks and early results:

Thiel College's coaching staff is very excited about their starting line-up and 30% of it is composed by former Raider wrestlers/coaches.

The team is led by **Corey Brown ('08)**, who is putting together one of the best careers in Thiel's wrestling history. Corey has already become the program's first three-time All-American, and looks to close his career by becoming Thiel's first National Champion.

Corey has also excelled in the classroom: he's made the dean's list each semester and he's been named an NWCA Scholar All-American each of the last two seasons. Corey's gotten off to a hot start this season as he's earned a tournament championship and finished runner up in another. He also defeated a nationally ranked opponent in a dual meet against Mt. Union. He's off to an 8-1 start (his only loss was to the No. 3 ranked D-II wrestler), and is currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation. He has already twice been named Thiel's male athlete of the week and was the initial PAC wrestler of the week for 2011-12.

**Will Ringer ('09)** is beginning the season as the starting heavyweight for the Tomcats after taking that spot over in the middle of the season last year and posting double digit wins.

Will placed in both of the Tomcat's early season tournaments, finishing sixth at the Ithaca Invite and fifth at the W&J Open.

Former Raider volunteer coach **Alec Miller**, is starting at his more natural 149 pound class, after wrestling up at 157 last season. His early season has been highlighted by a runner-up finish at Ithaca.

**Aaron Nestor ('07)** is competing in



**Corey Brown** has been a poster child for Thiel College athletics over his four-year career. He has excelled both on the mat and in the classroom.

his senior season for Rider. Aaron has moved up to 149 pounds after wrestling 141 last year. Aaron won two matches each at the Binghamton Open and the Keystone Classic. He also owns a dual match win over Princeton.

Red-shirt freshman **Clint Morrison** is also wrestling for Rider. Clint is the son of Raider great **Tim Morrison ('78)**. Clint has gone 3-3 as a starter at 184.

**Tony D'Urso ('09)** is in his junior season at Mercyhurst. He is starting at 149 pounds and has won a pair of matches at each the W&J Open and the Laker Open.



**Tony D'Urso**

It was recently announced that current Raider star Dylan D'Urso plans to join his brother at Mercyhurst next season.

**Cody Kelly ('09)** is competing in his junior season at Cornell University

(currently the fifth ranked D-I program), but has yet to see action.

**Luke Taylor ('10)** is starting at 165 for the Coast Guard Academy. Luke opened the season with a runner-up finish at the Roger Williams invitation, going 4-1. Luke then went 1-1 at the Doug Parker invitational before being forced to withdrawal from the tournament with an injured shoulder. Luke will miss some time with the injury, but hopes to return to the mats after winter break.

**Adam Matthews ('11)** is starting at 133 pounds for North Carolina State University. He won his first collegiate bout before dropping a pair at the Wolf Pack Open.

**Mason Beckman ('11)** is off to a strong start to his collegiate career at Lehigh University.

Beckman has compiled an 8-4 record in the early going, including a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the University of Buffalo Open, and is currently on a four-match winning streak after going undefeated at the North East Duals.

# Reynolds High School

## 2011-12 Varsity Wrestling Schedule

Day	Date	Event	Location	
December				
Friday	December 9	ASICS Ironman Tournament	Cuyahoga Falls	OH
Saturday	December 10	ASICS Ironman Tournament	Cuyahoga Falls	OH
Friday	December 16	King of the Mountain Tournament	Mill Hall	PA
Saturday	December 17	King of the Mountain Tournament	Mill Hall	PA
Tuesday	December 20	OIL CITY	HOME	
Thursday	December 22	CATHEDRAL PREP	HOME	
Wednesday	December 28	Manheim Lions Holiday Tournament	Manheim	PA
Thursday	December 29	Manheim Lions Holiday Tournament	Manheim	PA
January				
Tuesday	January 3	at Lakeview	Stoneboro	PA
Thursday	January 5	at Commodore Perry	Sheakleyville	PA
Saturday	January 7	Region I Mega Match (at Hickory HS) (vs. Slippery Rock, West Middlesex, Mercer, Sharpsville, Hickory)	Hermitage	PA
Monday	January 16	ERIE McDOWELL	HOME	
Wednesday	January 18	GROVE CITY	HOME	
Saturday	January 21	Ultimate Duals (vs. Brookville, Fort LeBoeuf, Pen Argyl, Benton, Biglerville)	Brookville	PA
Wednesday	January 25	SHARON	HOME	
February				
Saturday	February 4	District 10 Class AA Team Duals	Edinboro	PA
Thursday	February 9	PIAA Class AA Team Championships	Hershey	PA
Friday	February 10	PIAA Class AA Team Championships	Hershey	PA
Saturday	February 11	PIAA Class AA Team Championships	Hershey	PA
Friday	February 17	Section 3-AA Championships	Sharon	PA
Saturday	February 18	Section 3-AA Championships	Sharon	PA
Friday	February 24	District 10 Class AA Championships	Sharon	PA
Saturday	February 25	District 10 Class AA Championships	Sharon	PA
March				
Friday	March 2	Northwest Regional Class AA Championships	Sharon	PA
Saturday	March 3	Northwest Regional Class AA Championships	Sharon	PA
Thursday	March 8	PIAA Class AA Individual Championships	Hershey	PA
Friday	March 9	PIAA Class AA Individual Championships	Hershey	PA
Saturday	March 10	PIAA Class AA Individual Championships	Hershey	PA



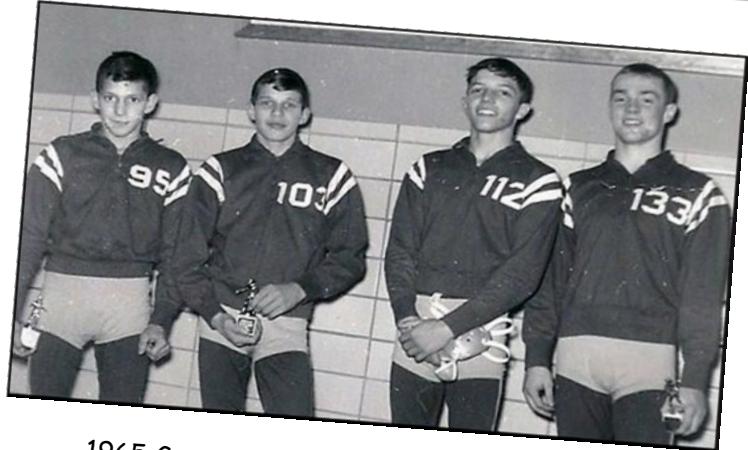
# The Back Page



2011-12 Varsity Cheerleaders



Team Captains Tyler Miller (l) and Dylan D'Urso with Coach Casey Taylor



1965 Greenville Tournament champions (l-r)  
John Woods, Jim Woods, Bruce Unangst & John Irvine

## Reynolds Wrestling Trivia

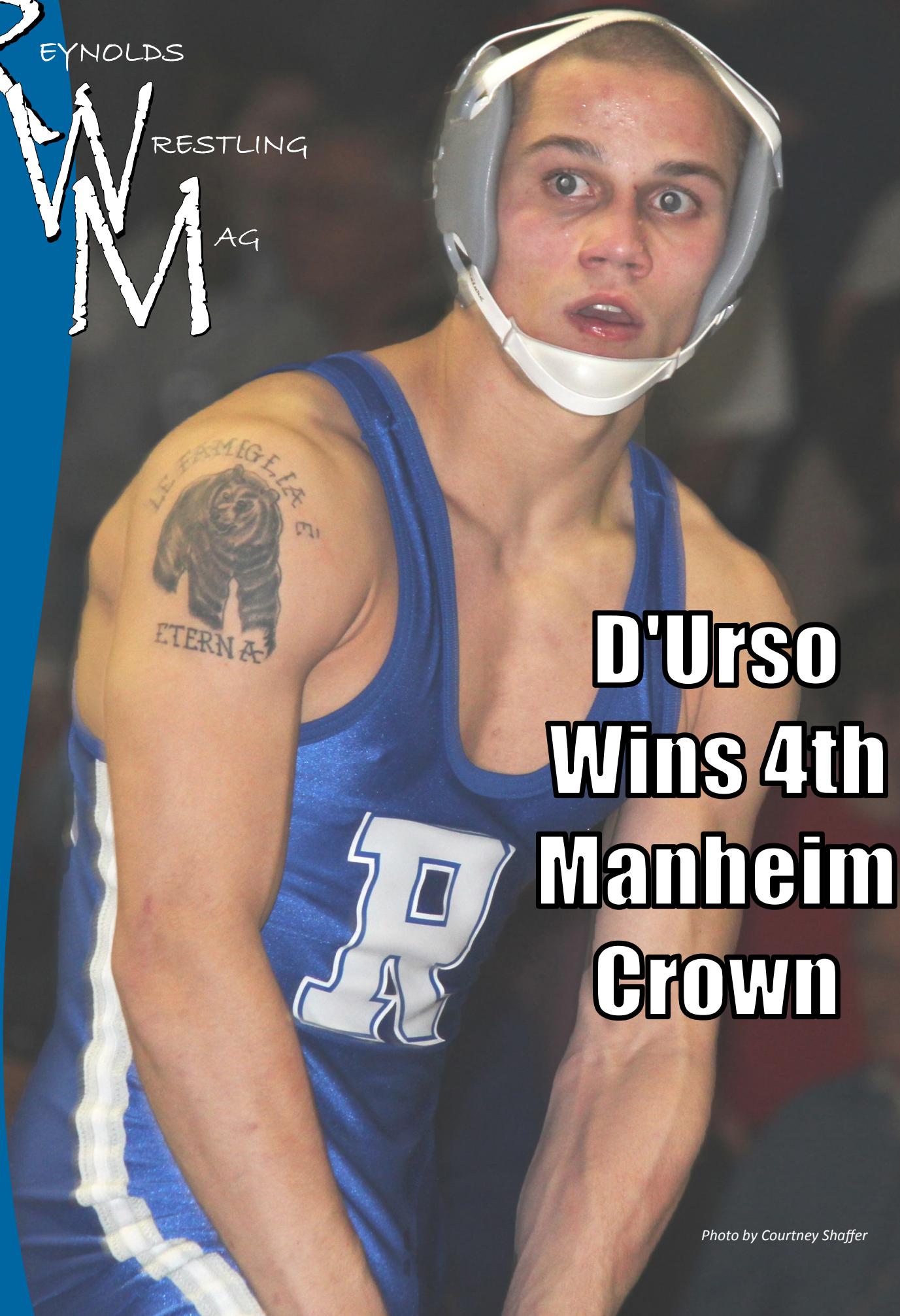
**New Question:** Where were the State Wrestling Championships held in 1975 when RHS put three wrestlers in the state finals and Jeff Shipton won his state title?

**Previous Question:** Of Mason Beckman's 12 career losses, how many came during his freshman season?

**Answer:** Of Beckman's 12 losses, 8 came during his freshman season.



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# D'Urso Wins 4th Manheim Crown

January 2012

Photo by Courtney Shaffer

# There's Always Something to Write About

This is the place where I get to write about anything I want. Anything. This December there is so much ground to cover that I'm not sure where to begin.

I could start at the beginning, with the Ironman and Austin Matthews' incredible run. Or, maybe I could lead-off with Coach Casey Taylor's first-ever dual match which was a home shutout against Oil City. Then, there's this Dylan D'Urso fella who graces the cover of this month's issue. Becoming a 4-time Manheim champ is truly epic.

But wait, there's more because this issue also covers Brian Hills being named to the Mercer County Athletic Hall of Fame and Alumni Editor Steve Popovitch writes a sweet feature on the long-awaited Beckman-Megaludis match. Road Crew, new shoes and wow. The challenge quickly becomes not what to write about, but how to fit

it all in.

**UPCOMING DUALS** — Better buckle your seat belts, because January is going to be an incredible month for dual matches. The Raiders have circled Jan. 16th on the calendar. That is the day state-ranked McDowell visits the RHS gym. Reynolds has not lost a home dual match since 1994, and Casey Taylor tells me he doesn't intend to see that string broken, at least not without a fight. I look for the Raiders to pull out all the stops that night when hype, emotion and talent all collide.

The Raiders will have little time to recover from that emotional evening before heading out to Brookville on Jan. 21 for the Ultimate Duals. Waiting there will be a host of state-ranked squads including Biglerville, Pen Argyl, Brookville, Benton and District 10 rival Fort LeBoeuf.

**GETTING HEALTHY** — The Raiders

have been battling injuries all season. Cam Cianci, Justin Rhodes, Dylan D'Urso and Tommy Davis have all missed at least one match because of a variety of injuries. Getting healthy for these upcoming duals is surely the team's No. 1 priority.

## NEXT MONTH'S HEADLINES—

Blake Heim is next in line to join the 100 win club and the team will have inched ever so close to its 700th all-time win. Like I said, there's always something to write about.

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# D'Urso Makes Magic at Manheim

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

MANHEIM, Pa.—Dylan D'Urso joined an exclusive club by winning his fourth Manheim tournament title, and Austin Matthews also won a championship as the Raiders placed sixth at the 16-team holiday event which concluded Dec. 29.

By winning his fourth title, D'Urso becomes just the fourth wrestler to accomplish the feat in the tournament's 42-year history. The others are Jordan Oliver of Easton, Mark Angle of Cannon McMillan and Jeff Cervone of Meadville. In winning the 132-pound bracket, D'Urso improved his season mark to 10-0 and his career ledger to 142-17.

"The coaching staff is very proud of Dylan for joining an elite list of four-time Manheim champions," said Coach Casey Taylor. "We have had some outstanding wrestlers compete at the holiday tournament who weren't able to win one title, so to win four is very, very special."

Matthews, who won the 100th match of his high school career in Wednesday's quarterfinal round (*see related story below*), kept his season rolling along with an individual title at 138 pounds. He improved his sensational season record to 15-1 and his career mark to 102-15.



"Austin is one of the quickest to reach 100 wins in school history," Taylor said. "He is a special talent that seems to be getting better each time he steps on the mat. I know I speak for many fans that love to watch him wrestle and feel that he is one of the most entertaining young wrestlers in the state."

The Raiders got third place finishes from Tyler Miller (152) and Blake Heim (285). Heim posted a 5-1 tournament record and Miller went 4-1. Other place-winners were Jamar Henry, fourth at 182 pounds, and Matt Tofani, sixth at 160. Raiders Justin Rhodes (145), Tommy Davis (195) and Logan Rickert (220) survived to wrestle on Day 2 of the tournament but did not place.

## 100th Win For Austin Matthews

Nationally-ranked Austin Matthews has had a busy December, winning 15 matches and championships at the King of the Mountain and Manheim tournaments. He was a finalist at the Ironman tournament.

During that stretch of December success, Matthews became the 28th Raider to reach 100 career victories. Win No. 100 came during the quarterfinal round of the Manheim tournament with a tech fall over Matthew Dillon of Bald Eagle Area.

"Austin is a special wrestler," said Coach Casey Taylor. "And one of the fastest ever to reach 100 wins."



# Hills Named to County Hall of Fame

It has been announced that Brian Hills will be part of the Class of 2012 that will be inducted into the Mercer County Athletic Hall of Fame. His resume indicates that he belongs there.

As head coach of the RHS wrestling team, Coach Hills won 370 matches and developed 17 PIAA state champions. Eight times his team's won team state titles. Seven times he was named District 10 Coach of the Year and three times he was the PIAA Class AA Coach of the Year. In 2006, he was named the top wrestling coach in the Northeastern U.S.

Hills' accomplishments are not limited to his coaching ability. As a wrestler at RHS he logged a stellar 81-9-2 career record and was a state finalist as a senior. He went on to be a two-time National Qualifier at Thiel College. He also was a standout football player at RHS and at Thiel where he won four varsity letters and was the team's captain as a senior.



## Touching their Soles

### Moffett Family Donation Buys New Shoes for RHS Wrestlers

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

The name John "Bucky" Moffett will always sit atop many Reynolds Wrestling all-time lists.

That's because Moffett was the first to do a lot of things at RHS, including the first to become a Section and District 10 champion, that back in 1961.

When Bucky passed away recently, the Moffett family made a special effort to include the Reynolds Wrestling program among his beneficiaries.

Family members felt led to make a considerable monetary donation to the program through the Reynolds Wrestling Boosters Club.

Ultimately, that money was used to buy new wrestling shoes for all members of this year's high school team.

The Moffett family has roots that run deep in Reynolds and western PA

wrestling. Bucky wrestled for the Raiders in the 60's, his brother Lemoyne in the 70's, and his youngest brother Scott in the 80's.

Scott's son Austin is a member of this year's team, as is Austin's cousin Justin Rhodes.

Going way back, Bucky's great uncle Harold McClure was the first head coach at Penn (Greenville) High School and his father, John, wrestled on the first ever Penn High team in 1935-36.

During Reynolds' inaugural season in 1960-61, Bucky, a junior, won Section and District 10 titles becoming the first Raider to win those events. (Larry Uber won the 1960 Section championship while wrestling for Greenville.) His first and only loss of the season came at the Regional tournament.

His senior season, Moffett was unde-



Photo by Connie Sorg  
Justin Rhodes (l) and Austin Moffett display the shoes that were purchased for the varsity team

feated heading into the postseason. He got sick the week of Sections and didn't attend school all week. He showed up for Sections and battled his way to the finals but lost a decision to an unseeded wrestler. He ended his career with a 29-2 high school record, having never lost a dual meet.

He went on to wrestle two years at Clarion, compiling an 11-5-1 record before entering the US Navy where he served aboard one of our country's first nuclear powered submarines — the USS Thomas Edison — during the Vietnam era.

# Matthews Opens Season With a **BANG!**

## Team Finishes Tied for 12th at Ironman

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH — For most high school wrestlers it's a pretty ridiculous way to open the season. Maybe wrestle a couple of matches and sit around drinking slushies for the rest of the weekend. But for the few who possess extreme mat skills, the ASICS Ironman Tournament at Walsh Jesuit High School is an opportunity to compete against the best scholastic wrestlers in the country.

As a team, the Reynolds Raiders performed above expectations, just missing out on a spot in the Top 10, while finishing tied for 12th with 69 points. There were 72 teams represented at the event.

Individually, junior Austin Matthews was the star of the show, steamrolling his way into the championship finals and in the process, decking the tournament's second seed.

In the 138-pound finals, Matthews was stopped short



*Photo by Connie Sorg*

of a title by Walsh Jesuit's Nate Skonieczny, a two-time Ironman champ who entered the tournament as the No. 2 ranked wrestler in the country. With his second-place performance, Matthews firmly cemented himself as one of the elite wrestlers in the country.

Senior Blake Heim (285) did not return home empty handed, securing a 7th place finish at 285 pounds. He won five matches at the tournament, more than any other Raider.

Sophomore Alex DiGregorio was next on the win list with three victories and senior Mat Tofani and sophomore Mason McCollum evenly split four more wins. Winning one match each were Neal Engstrom, Matthew Leise, Levi Stoyer, Austin Moffett, Jamar Henry and Tommy Davis. Michael Bartolo, Tyler Miller and Logan Rickert also competed for the Raiders.

Senior Dylan D'Urso, who had twice previously placed at the Ironman, sat out the tournament with a minor injury. The consensus was that any potential reward of placing at the Ironman was just not worth the risk of aggravating the injury.



*Photo by Connie Sorg*

# Steve Popovitch's ALUMNI NEWS

# Special Report

## Megaludis Downs Beckman in Long-Awaited Clash

By STEVE POPOVITCH  
RWM Alumni Editor

Last year, Reynolds fans watched **Mason Beckman ('11)** complete one of the greatest careers in school history. Mason won two state titles, two Iron-man titles and finished his career with a 102 match-winning streak.

He closed out his storied career ranked second in the country, behind another PA product: Nico Megaludis. Megaludis was a three-time Class AAA state champion for Franklin Regional High School and 176-1 in his high school career; but their equally brilliant careers would end without the two PA studs facing each other, which left fans open to debate who the true No. 1 really was.

Fans finally got to see the two superstars battle each other on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> as Megaludis and the Penn State wrestling team traveled across the state to meet Lehigh in the 100<sup>th</sup> dual match between two schools, and I was fortunate enough to be able to make the trip up from Virginia.

The strong presence of Raider Nation helped me make a favorable impression on my company's CEO, who accompanied me on the trip.

We ran into Mason's Dad, **Ron Beckman ('82)** before we entered the jam-packed Stabler Arena, and once we made it to our seats, I looked to my left and saw we were seated near legendary RHS coach **Neal Lineman**, who had made the trip with his son and grandson. Mason's brother **Lawrence Beckman ('07)** was, naturally, also in attendance.

There were many entertaining bouts



Lehigh's Mason Beckman works to escape from PSU's Nico Megaludis

during this dual meet, but it was the first one of the night that was the target of my attention. With the crowd buzzing, Beckman and Megaludis took the mat to open the dual.

The first period had the most action as Beckman fought off a Megaludis shot early. Beckman then was able to get deep on Megaludis' legs, and nearly completed the takedown with a dump finish, but Megaludis went into a full split and fought the shot off for a stalemate.

From here Megaludis took over, scoring a takedown late in the first period. He tacked on an escape and a point for riding time to close out a 4-0 victory.

While Mason wasn't able to pull out a victory, he proved that he's right there with the best in the country (Megaludis is currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup>), and I hope the two meet again over the course of their promising college ca-

reers.

In Mason's other recent action, he came up clutch for the Mountain Hawks against Penn. In dual that started with the heavyweights, 125 was the final bout. Beckman took the mat with the team score 18-15, needing a win to seal the match. Beckman won 3-2 clinching the dual for Lehigh.

Beckman moved up to 133 pounds to compete at the Midlands Championships. He went 2-2 in that event, beating a familiar foe, Geoff Alexander of Maryland in the consolations. Beckman wrestled Alexander several times during his high school career including an ultimate tie breaker victory in last year's state semifinals.

It is my understanding is that Beckman will stay at 133 pounds for the remainder of the season. Holding the weight became too demanding for him. Lehigh next competes at Cornell on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.

# King Me

## D'Urso, Matthews

### Earn titles at KOM

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

MILL HALL, PA— Senior Dylan D'Urso stepped onto the mat for the first time this season and was most impressive in rolling to an individual title at the King of the Mountain Tournament. Austin Matthews joined D'Urso in the winners circle as RHS finished sixth in the 32-team field.

Reynolds' other place-winners were Mason McCollum (126) and Matt Tofani (160) who finished sixth, and Jamar Henry (182) who placed 8th.

D'Urso dominated the 132-pound bracket, rolling to a 5-0 record which included wins over McDowell's Shawn Spearman and past PIAA champion Arty Walsh of Schuylkill Valley.

Matthews won his finals match when he was the beneficiary of a controversial illegal slam call. In the semifinals, Matthews defeated Biglerville's Laike Gardner, a defending PIAA runner-up.

Erie McDowell, a team the Raiders will wrestle on Jan. 16, won the tournament.

#### King of the Mountain

##### Team Standings

1. McDowell	190
2. Perry (Ohio)	187
3. Parkland	159
4. Latrobe	137.5
5. Philipsburg	137
6. Reynolds	121
7. DuBois	117.5



# ROAD CREW'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT KEEPS RAIDERS ON THE MOVE

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

They've earned themselves a bit of a reputation for their loud and bawdy behavior, but this Band of Brothers are Raider loyalists to the end.

What you probably don't know about this Motley Crue of RHS extremists is that without them, the Raiders might not have ever been able to attend tournaments like the Ironman, King of the Mountain or Beast of the East.

"It all started out as a bit of a joke, we were talking to Coach Hills at one of the tournaments, I think it was down at Philipsburg, and he said to us, 'You guys are like our road crew,' and that name just sort of stuck," said Jim Reash, the current Road Crew president. "I would say that was about 1999."

"The funny thing about it was, that at the time, none of us even had kids in the program," Reash added. "We just loved watching Reynolds wrestling."

That good-natured formation of the Road Crew took a more serious tone within months as budget cuts within the Reynolds School District began having an adverse affect on the wrestling team. When word came down that the team would no longer be able to travel to in-season, two-day tournaments because the district could not afford to pay the expenses, the Road Crew took action.

"I think initially the Road Crew talked about doing a scholarship, but when the budget cuts came I approached them to see if they would be willing to help us with travel expenses," said former RHS coach Brian Hills. "Going to a tournament like Beast of the East, that's a pretty heavy expense and the school just wasn't able to pay it any more."



"We knew we wanted to do something, so we got our heads together and we came up with the idea to have a golf outing," said lifelong Road Crew member Bill Palmer.

The amount of money raised each year has fluctuated, and RC members admit there have been "good years and bad years," but their ongoing support has never wavered.

"The golf outing is always a very enjoyable time, it's held in September just before the season gets started," Hills said.

"We've never spent a dime of the money on ourselves; never bought a jacket with it, not a T-shirt," added Dan Stoyer. "Every penny we raise goes to support the kids."

One of the best memories for Reash was the first year the Raiders won the state duals title. The Road Crew helped organize an impromptu parade and held a chicken-wing reception for the team back at the Reynolds VFW.

"When I saw the looks on the faces of the kids that day, I knew that everything we had ever done was worth it," Reash said. The Road Crew hosts similar receptions each year after the Brookville duals.

More recently, the Road Crew has started buying gifts for the senior wrestlers. Though they work independently from the Booster's Club, the Road Crew always works with them to support the program in many different ways including helping out at the elementary tournament and reverse raffle.

Current and past members of the Road Crew, include: Gordy Reash, Jim Reash, Bill Palmer, Dan Stoyer, Mike Yesko, Rick Stoyer, Brad Stoyer, Louie Horvath, Pete Myers, John Dunn, Rick Dunn, Jim Scelsi, and Mark Scelsi.

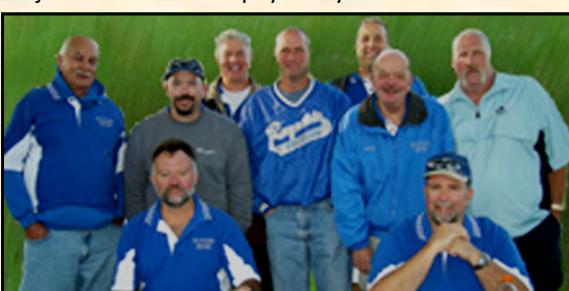




Photo by Connie Sorg

Junior Logan Rickert scores a fall against Oil City

## Raiders Humble Prep

The host Reynolds Raiders stayed red hot in the early part of the season by humbling visiting Cathedral Prep, 54-10, on Dec. 22.

The Raiders' vigor was best illustrated by Levi Stoyer (145), a sophomore who has won less than 10 career matches. Stoyer simply dismantled a far more experienced opponent, building a big lead and then ending the bout early with a fall.

Mason McCollum (126), who is quickly blossoming into a line-up VIP, also notched a fall for RHS as did Logan Rickert (220), Dylan D'Urso (132) and Jamar Henry (182). Austin Matthews (138) and Tommy Davis (195) accepted wins via forfeit.

Adding decisions were Michael Bartolo (103), Tyler Miller (152), Clayton Stoyer (170) and Blake Heim (285).

Photo by Connie Sorg



Sophomore Levi Stoyer was outstanding against Cathedral Prep

# RHS Blanks Oil City in Taylor's Debut

Coaching in his first ever dual match, Casey Taylor got a welcome, yet unexpected surprise when his squad made the night even more special with a 76-0 dismantling of visiting Oil City on Dec. 20th. The match was the Raiders' home and season opening dual match.

For the hosts, it was a work of beauty as only two of the 14 matches went the distance. Alex DiGregorio scored a 14-0 major decision at 113 pounds, while Austin Moffett avenged a loss from last year's dual with a 9-2 win over Casey Johnson, arguably the Oilers' top wrestler.

Moffett, who won the recent Butler JV tournament, was inserted into the lineup at 182 pounds when Jamar Henry was bumped to 195 to cover for the injured Tommy Davis. Johnson beat Moffett in last year's dual, 13-8.

Mason McCollum (126), Dylan D'Urso (132), Austin Matthews (138), Levi Stoyer (145), Tyler Miller (152), Clayton Stoyer (170), Logan Rickert (220) and Blake Heim (285) all scored pins for RHS. Neal Engstrom contributed a tech fall.

The match started with DiGregorio's major and ended when Michael Bartolo accepted a forfeit at 106.

The Raiders wrestled just two dual matches during the month of December which is dominated by big-name tournaments.

# Steve Popovitch's ALUMNI NEWS

## Another Crown for Thiel's Brown

**Corey Brown ('08)** kept things rolling at Thiel College, claiming an individual championship at the Ohio Northern Invitational, going 5-0.

He also picked up a fall in a dual match against Washington & Jefferson. Corey was named the PAC wrestler of the week on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> for second time this season, and most recently was announced as the PAC Athlete of the month for December.

Corey's season ledger stands at 13-1 and he's been ranked as high as No. 4 in the D-III national polls.

**Will Ringer ('09)** is competing at 285 for Thiel and recently went 2-2 at the Ohio Northern Invitational. He dropped a tight 3-2 decision against Mt. Union to the top ranked heavyweight in the nation – Derek Hisson.

Thiel wrestles at the Waynesburg Invitational on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Aaron Nestor ('07)** came up big for Rider in a dual against Old Dominion University. Nestor knocked off Brennan Brumley, who was ranked a head of him in the CAA rankings, in a pivotal

match of Rider's 16-15 team win.

Clint Morrison, son of **Tim Morrison ('78)**, also picked up a win in the ODU dual and recently went 1-2 at the prestigious Midlands Championships. Rider's next action comes versus Harvard and Brown, at Rutgers University on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Luke Taylor ('10)** has been off the mat with an illness and injury, but hopes to return on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> when the Coast Guard Academy travels to Ursinus College to compete in the North/South Duals.

**Tony D'Urso ('09)** dropped a pair of tight decisions against Seton Hill and East Stroudsburg University. Mercyhurst returns to action against UPJ on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> in Johnstown.

North Carolina State's **Adam Matthews ('11)** recently returned to the mat after missing time with an injury. He dropped a 4-2 decision against



Rider's Aaron Nestor

Citadel's Kyle Casaleotto in a dual.

Then, at the Southern Scuffle this past weekend, Adam advanced to the round of 16 where he ran into top seed and the country's 5<sup>th</sup> ranked 133 pounder, David Thorn of Minnesota.

After falling to Thorn, Adam dropped a close decision in the consys to be eliminated from the tournament. NC State next wrestles at home in the Wolf Pack Duals on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

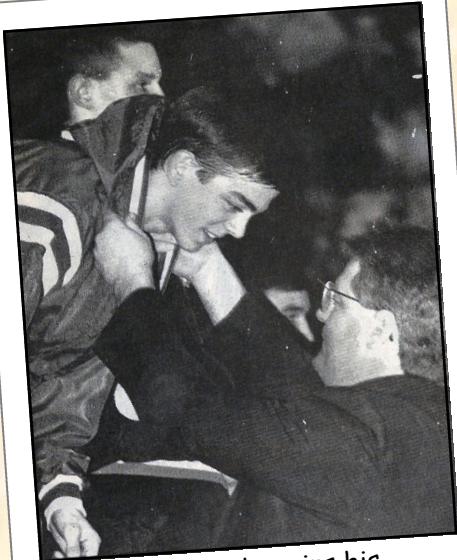
*(If you have alumni news to share with the readers of RWM, please email me at: stevenpopovitch@gmail.com)*



The 2011-12 North Carolina State wrestling team includes former Raider Adam Matthews (first row, second from left)

# The Back Page

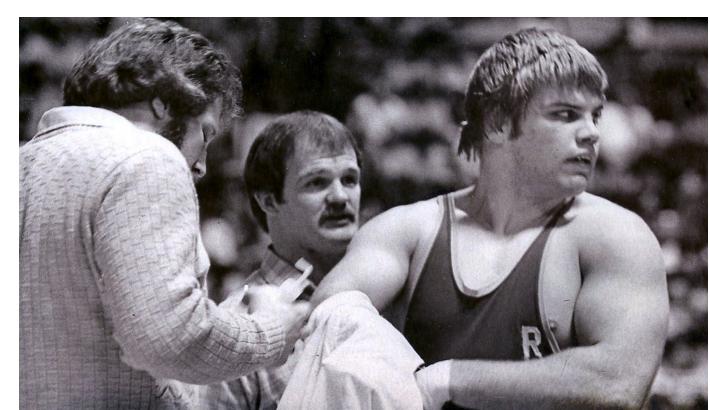
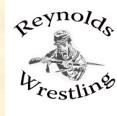
## 2011-12 Junior High



Casey Taylor wins his first gold medal in 1993



Photo by Art Williams



Kevin Brandt at the 1982 state tournament

### REYNOLDS WRESTLING TRIVIA

**New Question:** In 2006, Reynolds put four wrestlers in the state finals. Can you name them?

**Previous Question:** Where were the State Wrestling Championships held in 1975 when RHS put three wrestlers in the state finals and Jeff Shipton won his state title?

**Answer:** The 1975 PIAA Class B Wrestling Championships were held at Penn State University's Rec Hall.



### December Win Leaders

Austin Matthews	15
Blake Heim	14
Matt Tofani	10
Dylan D'Urso	10
Tyler Miller	9
Jamar Henry	9
Mason McCollum	8

February 2012

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# Wrestling in the Instant Information Age

Through the many years that Brian Hills served as head coach at RHS, he and I built a pretty solid relationship.

Whenever I had a question, needed some information for RWM, or just wanted to ask about a rumor I had heard, Brian was always willing to speak with me. I took great comfort in knowing that Coach Hills was always just a phone call away.

Now that Casey Taylor is the head coach, things have changed. I think I've only spoken to Coach Taylor over the phone once or twice all season. He and I have been keeping in touch by texting.

The benefit of texting is that there is never a busy signal and in most instances, I have my answer within a matter of seconds. Another benefit is that I don't have to take notes. He does the typing for me!

I was sort of skeptical about all this texting when the season first



started; but, I've got to admit, it's pretty cool to have my answers in seconds instead of minutes.

**ALMOST PERFECT**—Coach Taylor came within a whisker of having his first regular season end in perfection, with a loss by criteria being the only blemish on his rookie ledger.

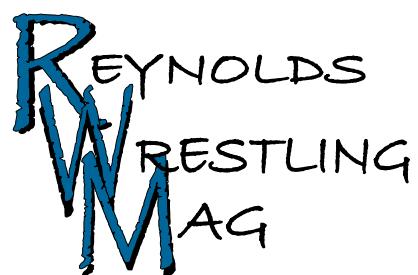
The record will show that Taylor's first team finished 16-1 in dual matches, bumping the school's all-time record to 698-78-2.

The Raiders will look to win their 700th match at the D-10 duals on Feb. 4. Depending on how things shake out, that win could come against Greenville. That would be ironic, because Reynolds also won their 600th match against the Trojans in Edinboro.

jans in Edinboro.

**WHO'S NEXT**—Austin Matthews and Blake Heim became the 28th and 29th wrestles to join the RHS 100 win-club this season, but it will likely be late next season before another Raider joins them.

The race to become the 30th Raider to reach 100 wins will likely come down to a battle between sophomore Mason McCollum and junior Jamar Henry. Both could get there next season.



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**District 10 Class AA  
Dual Match Championships  
Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012  
McComb Field House  
Edinboro University of Pa.**

**View the full D-10 Class AA bracket on The Back Page**

# Do you Believe in Miracles?

Cam Cianci and his family made the 65-mile drive to UPMC Presbyterian last week to schedule Cam's final surgery. After months of hospital stays, operations, complications and therapy, finally, they were getting close to putting this nightmare to rest.



By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

It's probably a good thing they were sitting down, because nothing could have prepared the Cianci's for what the surgeon said.

"The doctor told us that he had never seen anything like it," said Cam's father, his voice obviously shaken. "He said that Cam's leg had somehow redeveloped the muscle tissue that was surgically removed. The doctor called it a miracle. He said they can't really pinpoint it, or tell us exactly what happened; but he gave Cam a clean bill of health and told him that he could go home with no restrictions. There was no need for any additional surgery."

For a family that had been through so much trauma and so much pain, it was like heaven's gates swung open and the angels started singing.

"This is a miracle was all I could think," Mr. Cianci said. "I just couldn't believe it. I still can't believe it."

Unlike his father, Cam was able to process the news quickly. He knew exactly what it meant. He turned to his father and announced, "I'm going to wrestling practice tonight!"

When he first looked down at his phone, Coach Casey Taylor thought it was a joke. A text message saying that Cam was going to be at practice that night? Yeah, right! Coach Taylor had a reason to doubt, and that's because nobody

expected Cam to participate in any kind practice this season. In fact, next season was still a question mark in the minds of many who were following his recovery.

Once confirmed, the news spread quickly around RHS that Cam was coming to practice and when Cam walked into the wrestling room, his teammates were waiting.

"It felt pretty awesome to have my teammates supporting my return and it felt really good to be back in the gym," Cam said. "I really never thought I would be able to wrestle again with having so much muscle taken out of my leg and all of the complications that I had."

"The kids were great; they really clapped it up for him. It was a real emotional moment," Taylor said of Cianci's return. "We held Cam to a snail's pace that first day because I was still in shock that he was even here."



Originally, Cam was injured in a Sept. 16 football game against West Middlesex. While running downfield on a kickoff, he got crunched in a pile of players and broke both the tibia and fibula of his right leg.

What followed over the next few months would test his family's limits.

He was taken from the football field by ambulance to Sharon Regional and on Saturday had a rod and two pins placed to help mend his fractured bones. The orthopedic surgery went well, but complications erupted, and Cam's condition deteriorated at an alarming and life-threatening rate.

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Home, Sweet Home



*Photo by Connie Sorg*

Sophomore Mason McCollum gets free from McDowell's Noah Burkhart

## Raiders Down McDowell in Clash of D-10 Champs

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

It was a rare meeting between reigning District 10 Class AA and AAA dual match champions. But on this night, in this gym, the Reynolds Raiders proved that they were more than up for the task, downing the visiting McDowell Trojans, 36-24, in front of a packed house.

McDowell came to town down three starters and it cost them, as the Raiders sniffed out the soft spots and took advantage, winning all three of those bouts — two of them by fall.

Reynolds came out firing, winning three of the first four bouts and jumped out to a 15-3 advantage.

Sophomore Austin Moffett bumped up to 195 pounds and ignited the Raiders' early run with a second period

fall. Blake Heim (285) added a decision and Michael Bartolo (106) broke up a tight match with a second period fall to extend the lead.

Neal Engstrom (120) and Dylan D'Urso (132) sandwiched Mason McCollum's win at 126 lbs. with falls and RHS led 30-9 after eight bouts. D'Urso's win was the 150th of his career.

Wins by juniors Austin Matthews (145) and Jamar Henry (170) were enough to seal the deal as the Raiders improved to 10-0 under the direction of first-year head coach Casey Taylor.

The victory keeps in tact a Reynolds home winning streak that dates back to December of 1993.

Prior to the match, the Raiders honored former head coach Brian Hills on the announcement of his induction into the Mercer County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Reynolds  
has not lost  
a home wrestling  
match since  
Dec. 1993

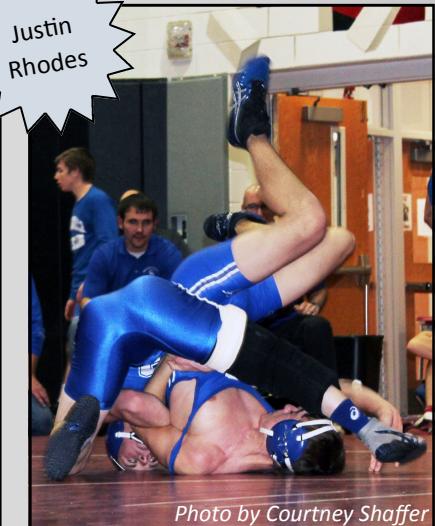
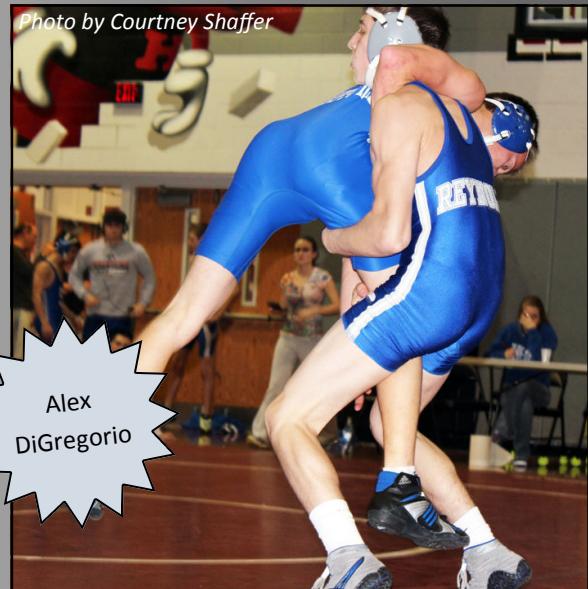
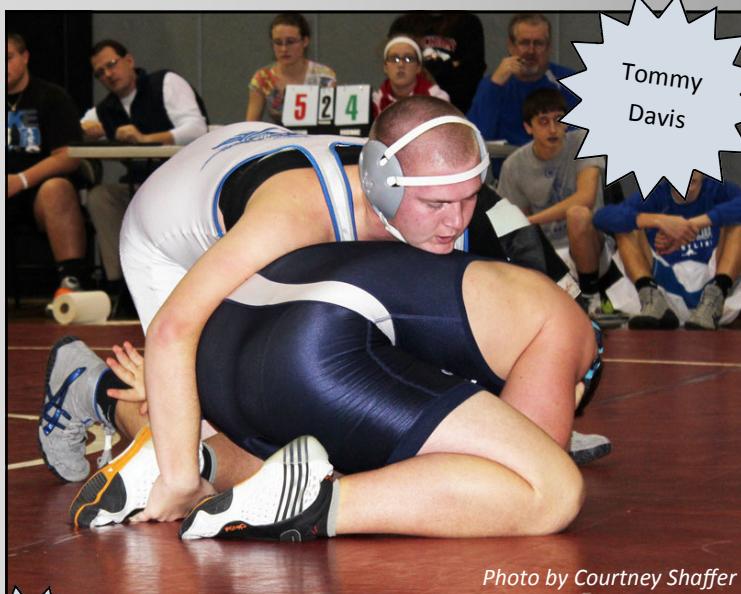
# Heim Joins the 100-Win Club



**B**lake Heim won only 9 matches as a freshman, but that didn't stop him from becoming in the 29th Raider to reach 100 career victories.

Heim reached the century mark at the Region I Mega Match at Hickory High on Saturday, Jan. 7. For the record, Heim's 100th win came when he accepted a win via forfeit versus Slippery Rock.

"Reaching 100 wins in the upper weights is a difficult goal to achieve," said Coach Casey Taylor. "Add in the fact that Blake wrestled varsity sparingly his freshman year and that makes the accomplishment even more significant. Blake has set his goals very high this year and is working hard to achieve them."



## Region I Mega Match

Hickory High School

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012



# Raiders 6th at GLOW

Despite having only 12 wrestlers entered, the Raiders placed 6th out of 15 teams at the always-tough GLOW junior high tournament held in Latrobe, Pa.

Champions were Gage Bayless (80), Chaise Hauck (85) and Gene Ringer (250). Hauck beat a PAJW state champion to win his title and Ringer rocked his bracket with three falls in a combined 42 seconds.

## Reynolds Place-winners:

80- Gage Bayless, 1st  
85- Chaise Hauck, 1st  
105- Joel Leise, 2nd  
115- AJ Osborne, 4th  
250- Gene Ringer, 1st



Reynolds wrestlers (l-r) Joel Leise, AJ Osborne, Gene Ringer, Chaise Hauck and Gage Bayless.

## Bison Brawl Champs



Gage Bayless (left) and Chaise Hauck both placed first at the Bison Brawl Junior High Tournament. Both are 7th graders.

4 Raiders  
Are First at  
Northwestern

Here are results from the Northwestern Junior High Pool Tournament on Jan. 14th.

As a team, the Raiders finished second out of 15 squads entered.

## Reynolds Place-winners:

80- Gage Bayless, 1st  
85- Chaise Hauck, 1st  
90- Dan Gurley, 7th  
95- Drew Osborne, 2nd  
100- Jack Moroco, 6th  
105- Joel Leise, 2nd  
110- Alec Reiter, 1st  
115- AJ Osborne, 4th  
122- Ben Wilcox, 11th  
145- Jared Uhrin, 7th  
155- Cole Rickert, 3rd  
250- Gene Ringer, 1st

# JUNIOR HIGH UPDATE

# Svirbly Has Cardinals Singing

**John Svirbly ('02)** continues to build a winning tradition as the head coach of Cochranton's wrestling program.

Despite being down on numbers this season, Cochranton was able to place in the top eight at the recent Tool City Tournament, while entering just 10 wrestlers.

The Cardinals also earned a bid to the upcoming District 10 Class AA dual meet championships for the second consecutive season, even though they later were forced to withdraw because of injuries.

Thiel College's **Will Ringer ('09)** dropped two very close decisions at the Bud Whitehall duals, before being bested by the nation's top D-III heavyweight in the Mt. Union dual match.

Will bounced back very well from that loss, by going undefeated at the Mel Berry Duals. Thiel wrestles Waynesburg on Wednesday, February 1st in their last home dual of the season. The match is scheduled to begin at 7pm.

**Corey Brown ('08)** continues his impressive senior campaign at Thiel. Corey was crowned champion at the Waynesburg Invitational with a 4-0 record. He followed that up with a perfect weekend at the Bud Whitehall Duals, going 5-0.

He then picked up a win in a dual against Mt. Union before having another perfect day at Thiel's Mel Berry Duals, going 3-0 there.

Corey's 2011-12 ledger currently stands at 26-1. He hasn't lost since early November and has won 19 straight matches. His streak has catapulted him to the No. 1 position on the latest Brute-Adidas NCAA D-III rankings at 133lbs. Corey was also named the PAC's wrestler of the week for the third time this season.

**Tony D'Urso ('09)** has moved up in weight for Mercyhurst College, and is now competing at 157 lbs. Tony won his first two bouts at the new weight before dropping a decision in his most recent outing.

Mercyhurst has two home duals next weekend, taking on Ashland University at 7pm on Friday, and Shippensburg Saturday at 1pm.

Speaking of new weight classes, **Mason Beckman ('11)** is responding well to a starting spot of 133 pounds. After winning multiple matches at the always tough Midlands Tournament, Mason dropped a tough 7-6 decision against #6 ranked Frank Perreri of Cornell. Mason led going into the third period, but eventually lost on a riding time point. Beckman then pulled off a come-from-behind win of his own against 17th ranked Aaron Kalil of Navy. Beckman trailed 5-2 in the third period, but rallied to tie and pulled off the win with a takedown in overtime.

Beckman continued to wrestle well winning his next three bouts, two by major decisions, before having his winning streak stopped in controversial fashion. Beckman was battling Oklahoma's Jordan Keller, when the two became engaged in a scramble at the end of the first period, Beckman rolled across his own back and the ref slapped the mat as the buzzer sounded. Mason's record for the season stands at 20-7.

Here is a quote about Beckman by Lehigh head coach Pat Santoro:

"Mason's starting to find himself a little bit," Santoro said. "He's up a weight class; but this is a better weight class for him. He has energy now. This will do a lot for his confidence, but he has to continue to grow into this weight class, get more confident and wrestle harder."

After a weekend off, Lehigh travels to New England to take on Harvard on February 12th at noon.

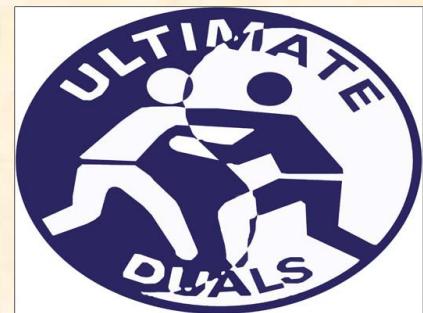
**Luke Taylor ('10)** remains out of the Coast Guard Academy's line up as he continues to recuperate from a shoulder injury.

**Aaron Nestor ('07)** has also been out of Rider's line up and his teammate, Clint Morrison - **Tim Morrison's ('78)** son – also missed time for Rider with an injury. Recently, Clint was able to return to competition and has won 5 of his last 8 matches.

**Adam Matthews ('11)** has elected for a change of scenery and has left North Carolina State University.

Adam is back home and is working, we will work to break the news when and if Adam decides where he will continue his academic and, hopefully, wrestling career.

*Steve Popovitch's* **ALUMNI NEWS**



Senior Matt Tofani scores two on the edge

## Raiders Win Four, Fall to LeBoeuf on Criteria

By DON SHAFFER

RWM Editor

BROOKVILLE, Pa. — Matt Tofani, Blake Heim, Austin Matthews and Mike Bartolo all went 5-0 to help lift the Reynolds Raiders to a 4-1 mark at the 17th annual Ultimate Duals on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The Raiders won their first four contests, beating Benton (53-13), Pen Argyl (33-23), Biglerville (46-15) and Brookville (38-19) to set the stage for a dramatic showdown with District 10 rival Fort LeBoeuf.

The Raiders and Bisons have a recent history of close, competitive matches and this round was no different. When the dust settled, the scoreboard read 27-27, but Fort LeBoeuf was awarded the victory based on the fact that they won more individual matches (8-6).

Still, it was a productive day for the Raiders and their rookie head coach Casey Taylor who stayed upbeat after his first career coaching loss.

"I'm proud of our kids' efforts; we're



Junior Jamar Henry works a tilt

getting closer and closer to where we want to be. We just have to tighten a few screws and keep on working," Taylor said. "We'll get there."

Most wrestling fans expect to see a re-match between the Raiders and Bisons in the D-10 duals finals on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Brian Hills, who retired from coaching at the end of last season, was recognized by the Ultimate Duals for 16 years of attendance. Hills could not attend the event because he was busy being enshrined into the Mercer County Athletic Hall of Fame.



Photo by Connie Sorg



Photo by Connie Sorg

Blake Heim (l) had a 20-second fall and Michael Bartolo scored his in 30 seconds as the Raiders topped Grove City

## RHS Makes Quick Work of Grove City

**F**ive pins and five forfeits made it a speedy night of wrestling as the Raiders rolled to their 11th straight win of the season, knocking off Grove City, 66-8, in a Region I contest on Jan. 18. The win assured the Raiders of at least a share of the region crown.

Dylan D'Urso (132) and Austin Matthews (138) opened the night

with pins for RHS and Blake Heim (285), Michael Bartolo (106) and Mason McCollum (126) followed suit.

At 152 pounds, Tyler Miler worked to a 5-1 decision over Trey Maher, and Logan Rickert blanked Cameron Marlowe 3-0 at 220 pounds.

Wes Phipps, a defending PIAA

state runner-up, defeated Austin Moffett by tech fall at 182 pounds and Jesse Rivera, a returning Regional qualifier, topped Neal Engstrom 5-0 at 120 pounds for Grove City's only wins.

Reynolds won the Junior High match by a score of 51-0 to improve to 3-1-1. There was no junior varsity match.

## Raiders win Region I, Close Regular Season at 16-1

**R**eynolds concluded a perfect Region I campaign, honored its seniors and defeated Sharon, 52-13, all in one night's work.

Seniors Dylan D'Urso, Tommy Davis, Blake Heim, Tyler Miller, Sam Napodano, Justin Rhodes and Matt Tofani were honored before the match.

Also honored were this year's RHS Hall of Fame inductees which included Brian Hills (coach and wrestling), Justin Nestor (wrestling), Jerry Kendall (wrestling), Mike Gentile (football & wrestling) and Bob Esmond (football & wrestling).

On the mat, pins were scored by Jamar Henry, Blake Heim, Mike Bartolo, Matt Leise and Austin Matthews. D'Urso missed the match with a knee injury.



Tyler Miller battles with Sharon's Xavier Ross

# Do You Believe in Miracles?

Toward the end of the surgery, Cam had developed an extremely rare condition called Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) which is an inherited disorder triggered by certain types of anesthesia. It causes a metabolic crisis and sends the body's temperature soaring above 105 degrees. The speed at which MH strikes and the rarity of the condition makes it difficult regulate before it damages vital organs. It wasn't long before a decision was made to fly him to UPMC Presbyterian for specialty care.

"After my first surgery in Sharon, that was probably the scariest part, when I woke up and saw so many people surrounding my bed ... nurses, doctors, mom, dad, my girlfriend, sister, coach (Jerry) Pacifico and my Priest. I got a little nervous," Cam said. "I didn't really know what happened, but I knew I was taking a helicopter ride to another hospital. I remember asking the priest if I was going die. He just said he was there to bless me."

After spending the weekend on oxygen, cooling blankets and a pain pump, Cam had improved enough that an orthopedic doctor visited on Monday to assess the fractured leg. As soon as the doctor saw Cam's leg, he ordered emergency surgery for a condition called Compartment Syndrome.

Compartment Syndrome occurs when the muscles in the leg become so swollen that they cut off circulation. Subsequently, the muscles and nerves die from a lack of nourishment. To reduce the pressure, the surgeon opened Cam's leg on both sides from the knee to ankle and eliminated the dead muscles.

Cam's mother, Chris, works as a nurse. She recalls that during those hours how difficult it was.

"Initially, I think that being a nurse and understanding what was happening was just terrifying," she said. "It is one

**"I didn't really know what happened, but I knew I was taking a helicopter ride to another hospital. I remember asking the priest if I was going die. He just said he was there to bless me."**

thing to deal with serious situations in a professional setting, but when it is personal and it is affecting your baby it is totally different. I think the hardest part is trying to be strong so that your child doesn't see the fear in you."

Three times that week Cam's leg was opened and three times dead tissue was removed. In all, Cam lost about one-third of the muscles in his lower leg. Because of his earlier difficulties, Cam had to have spinal anesthesia for all three of those surgeries. He was buttoned up with more than 100 stitches and numerous staples. After two full weeks in the hospital, Cam was finally discharged from Presbyterian. Unfortunately, he never made it home.

Cam became extremely ill on the ride home and he was taken by his parents directly to UPMC Horizon in Greenville where he was diagnosed with kidney stones. He was re-admitted to Presbyterian on Monday with renal failure

and went directly to surgery to have a stent placed and the kidney stones removed.

Cam had one more surgery – his sixth - to remove the stent on Oct. 18, but his body was thrown into crisis one more time on Oct. 20 and he was admitted to Presbyterian for a third time, this time to be treated for spinal meningitis related to the anesthesia used in his kidney surgery. Finally, Cam came home for good on Monday, Oct. 24th.

In the weeks and months that followed, Cam stayed busy doing physical therapy and paid monthly visits to his orthopedic surgeon who saved his leg and his life. During that time, a tutor was hired so he could keep up with his school work. He did not return to RHS until Jan. 9th.

When reliving all her son has been through, Mrs. Cianci related an episode from last summer when Cam fell asleep while driving to work early one morning. The Jeep he was driving rolled 5 or 6 times, yet Cam walked out of the emergency room with only a few bruises and scratches. "The only part of his car that was salvaged was the driver's seat. Thank God he was wearing his seat belt," she said.

It seems God has been intervening in this young man's life a lot these days.

"Prayer definitely played a huge role in all of this. Without the prayers and support from family, friends and even people we didn't personally know, I don't believe we would be where we are today," Mrs. Cianci said.

"We definitely had angels watching over Cam."

# Raiders Drown Sailors

STONEBORO—Seven Raiders had falls, two collected forfeits and two others added decisions as the Raiders topped host Lakeview, 60-9, on Jan. 3.

The three Raiders who lost that night, Neal Engstrom (120), Austin Moffett (170) and Logan Rickert (220) all wrestled well.

Engstrom lost in the ultimate tie-breaker period and Rickert misfired on a late desperation takedown attempt.

“Both of those guys (Engstrom and

Rickert) could have just as easily been the winner tonight,” Taylor said. “But, sometimes it’s the tough losses that make you realize just how far you can go in the postseason. I was very proud of both Neal and Logan tonight.”

The win moved the Raiders to 3-0 in dual matches, 2-0 in the conference.

The junior varsity won its match vs. Lakeview, 6-3, to move to 3-0 while the Junior High also won, 27-3, to square up its mark at 1-1-1.



Photo by Connie Sorg

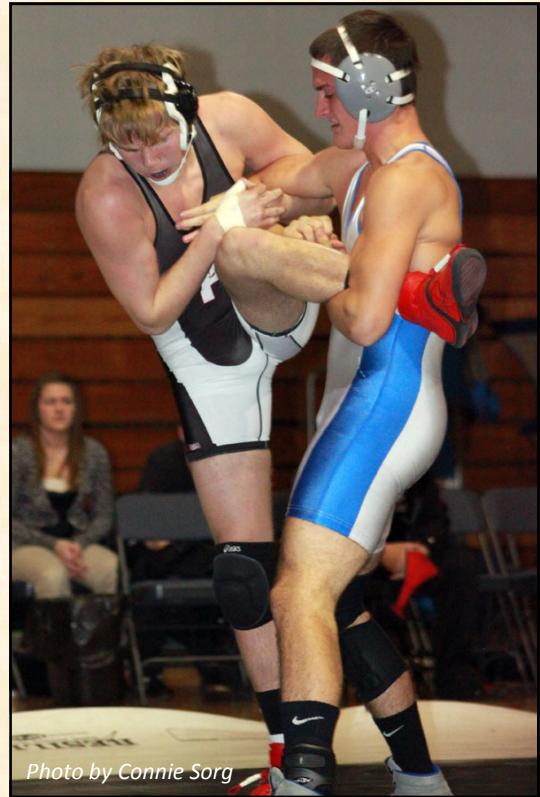


Photo by Connie Sorg

## RHS Blanks Panthers

SHEAKLEYVILLE—The host Panthers forfeited seven matches contributing to the Raiders’ lightning-quick, 78-0, win at Commodore Perry on Jan. 5.

The most competitive match of the night was at 160 pounds where senior Matt Tofani worked to a 4-2 win over Ian Anthony, who most would point to as the Panthers’ top wrestler.

The only other match of the night that didn’t go the distance was a 9-5 win by Justin Rhodes at 145 pounds.

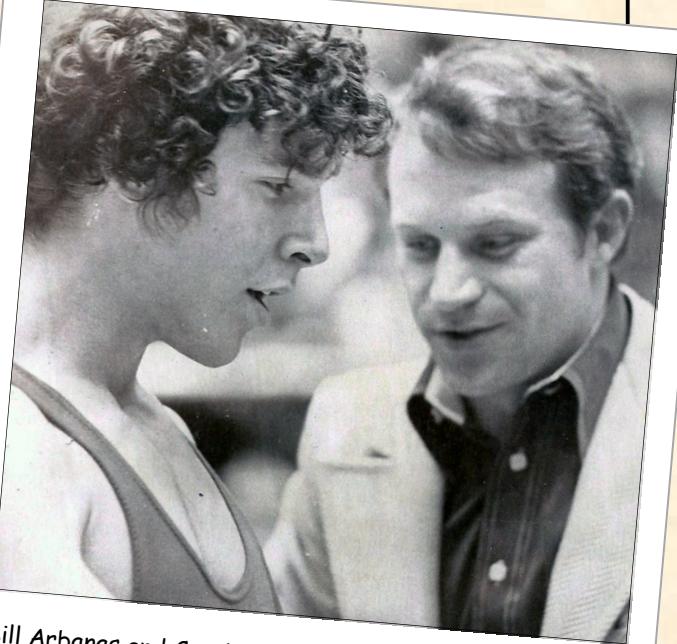
Collecting falls for RHS were Mason McCollum (126), Dylan D’Urso (132), Austin Matthews (138), Logan Rickert (220) and Blake Heim (285).



Photo by Connie Sorg

# The Back Page

## District 10 Class AA Wrestling Championships



Bill Arbanas and Coach Mark Reichard at the 1978 PIAA Championships where Arbanas finished 3rd at 145 lbs.



Brian Hills, front row, left, was inducted into the Mercer County Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2001.

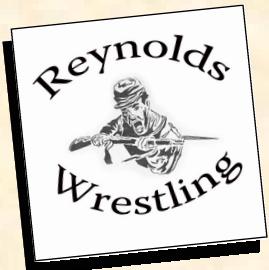
**Congratulations  
Coach Hills!!**

### REYNOLDS WRESTLING TRIVIA

**New Question:** What is the worst dual-match loss (in terms of points) in school history?

**Previous Question:** In 2006, Reynolds put four wrestlers in the state finals. Can you name them?

**Answer:** In 2006, the four Raiders who appeared in the state finals were PIAA state champions Matt Dunn and Mike Edwards, and runners-up Cody Kelly and Aaron Nestor.



R EYNOLDS  
W RESTLING  
M AG

# Nationally-Ranked Austin Matthews

March 2012

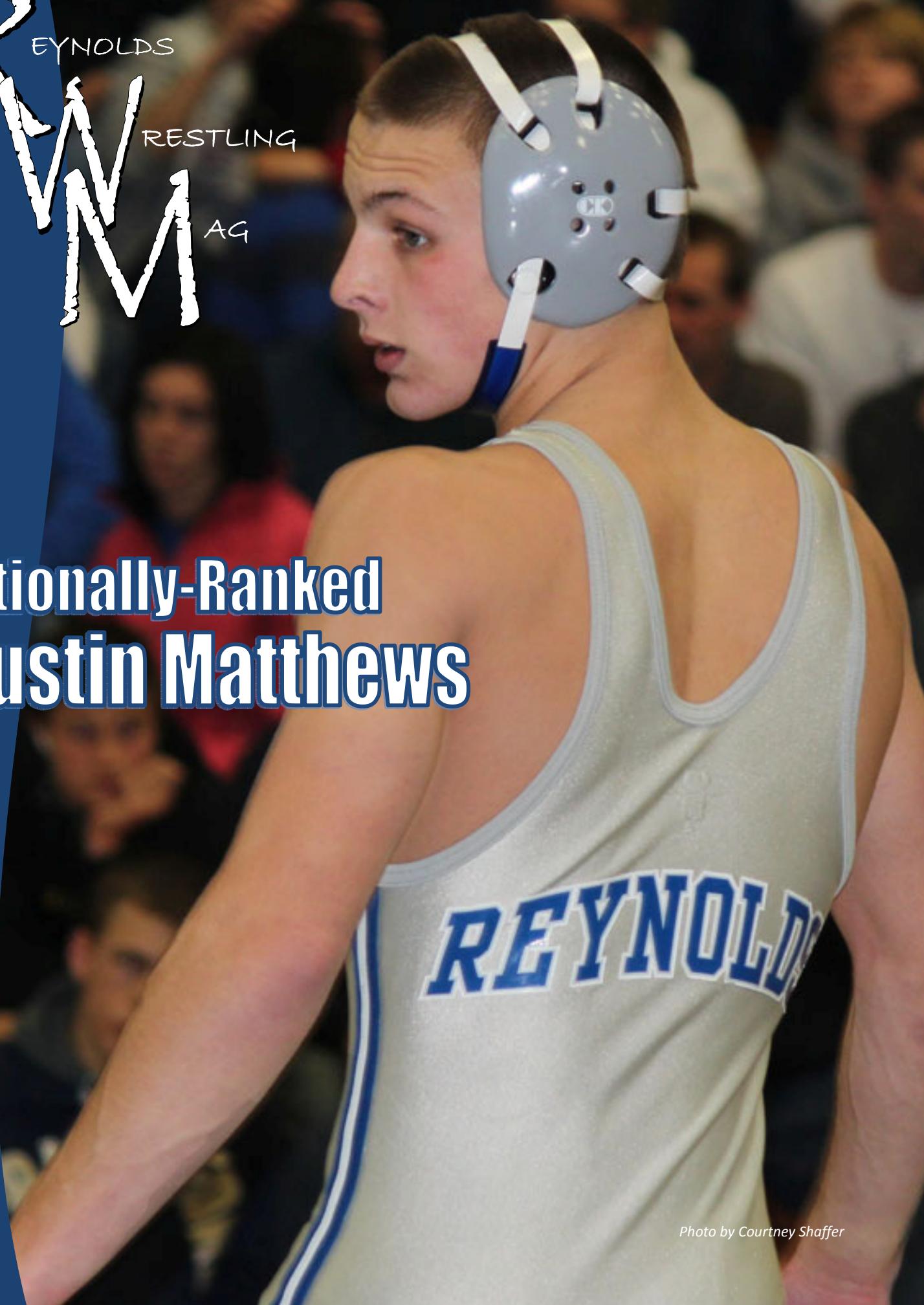


Photo by Courtney Shaffer

# The Reynolds Wrestling Reality Show

I bet you've seen at least one of those reality shows on TV. Whether the show is about building motorcycles, running a pawn shop or managing a pumpkin farm in Oregon, all those shows – in reality – share a common theme of family.

It's only taken me about five decades to figure it out (not bad for a man), but I think I've finally been able to single out that it's the families that make Reynolds Wrestling so special.

Families don't come and go in this program, they linger. That's why I hug Mrs. Stoyer every time I see her, and shake Neal Lineman's hand and enjoy so much getting to know the parents of today's wrestlers like the McCollums, the Engstroms, the Rickerts and the Millers – all great people. The light bulb is finally on for me, Reynolds Wrestling is all about the family.

I know there are exceptions, and if you looked long enough and hard enough you might find some people who disagree with me. But if you've ever been to a Reynolds wrestling match and have taken the time to look through the crowd you can't help but notice that every generation is represented. Building those long-lasting, family-type relationships are what the Rey-

nolds wrestling program excels at.

I've driven more than 2,000 miles following the Raiders this season and during those travels, I've had some good times watching the wrestling and doing the radio broadcasts with Dan Albaugh and Rob Coleman. But nothing, and I repeat nothing, comes close to the fun I had hanging with the Reynolds wrestling parents and the wrestlers in Hershey.

There are times in life where you laugh and chuckle and enjoy each other's company. Then there are times when you laugh so hard that it feels like your head is going to pop off. This was one of those kind of nights.

For me, it was a great reminder of what it really means to be part of the greatest wrestling community in Pennsylvania.

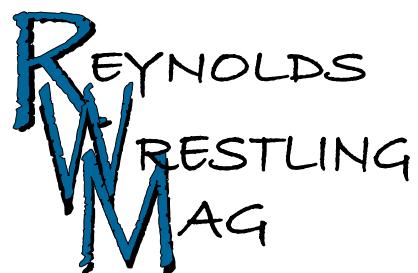
Family. I'm telling you, it's the families.



Griffin just might be on the Reynolds team that wins its 1,000th match

## A View From Matside

By Don Shaffer



*Published monthly during the Pennsylvania high school wrestling season and periodically in the off-season*

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# 700



Photo by Connie Sorg

Freshman Mike Bartolo scores six against Greenville

## Raiders Top Trojans for 700th Win

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

EDINBORO, Pa. —The Reynolds High School Wrestling program reached the 700-win milestone in the semifinal round of the District 10 Class AA Team Championships, claiming a 51-16 win over Greenville.

At the time, the win moved the Raiders' all-time, won-loss mark to 700-78-2.

With the match starting at 106 pounds, Reynolds dominated from the outset, jumping out to a 38-0 lead and had the match mathematically buttoned up before Greenville put its first points on the board.

Keyed by Mike Bartolo (106), Alex DiGregorio (113), Neal Engstrom (120), Mason McCollum (126) and Austin Matthews (138) the Raiders scored falls in five of

the first six weight classes.

Dylan D'Urso (132), Justin Rhodes (145) and Tyler Miller (152) all added major decisions as the Raiders rolled to wins in the first eight bouts.

Reynolds' other wins were claimed by Jamar Henry (182) and senior Blake Heim, who closed the match with a fall at 285.

At 160 pounds, Raider senior Matt Tofani was edged by Randy Perkins, 2-0; and at 220 pounds, Logan Rickert lost in overtime to Tyler Gentile.

Freshman Mike Millero appeared in the first varsity match of his career and was pinned by Greenville standout Cody Copeland.

The win advanced the Raiders to the championship finals of the D-10 duals for the 14th straight year.

# Raiders Close Season at 701-81-2

# Steve Popovitch's ALUMNI NEWS

## Brown Focused on D-III National Tourney

By STEVE POPOVITCH  
RWM Alumni Editor

Corey Brown has had success at every level of his wrestling career. He got started in the sport in fifth grade (which some would consider late in the wrestling rich village of Transfer) and finished fourth in the PJW State Tournament in just his third year competing.

He also had a stellar high school career, winning 112 matches for the Raiders. His 176 takedowns in the 2008 season still rank him third on school's all-time list; and he earned a state medal in Hershey to cap his senior season.

As impressive as his success wearing the Blue & Gray was, he has really blossomed as a member of the Thiel College wrestling team. Corey has been named Thiel's athlete of the week an astonishing nine times throughout his wrestling career. He just recently won his fourth-straight Presidents' Athletic Conference title, helping lead Thiel to the team crown.

**"It's all I think about, it's all I dream about."**

*- Thiel's Corey Brown*

The next time Brown steps on the mat to compete, he will likely become a rare 100 match-winner at the collegiate level (his current career record stands at 99-24).

Perhaps even more impressive than Corey's achievements on that mat, is that he's been able to do it while excelling in the classroom, being a leader



**Corey Brown is ranked No. 2 in the country at 133 lbs.**

and role model for his peers. Corey has made the Dean's List in all seven semesters that he's attended Thiel. He has also been named a Scholar All-American, by the National Wrestling Coaches Association, in each of the past two seasons.

Thiel assistant coach, Jeff Linn put it this way: "Corey is an extremely rare form of a student-athlete. He is someone who not only excels in the classroom and on the mat, but is a great person. He exemplifies dedication and heart when he wakes up each morning. He never complains and has a contagious attitude that makes others believe they can also succeed."

As Corey's four-year wrestling career winds to a close, he still has one goal that he hopes to accomplish. Corey became Thiel's first three-time All-American last season when he finished 8<sup>th</sup> at the NCAA tournament, but this year he plans on becoming Thiel's first

national champion.

"It would mean the world to me to bring a national title back. It's all I think about, it's all I dream about," Brown said, adding that he "would have never gotten this far without all the love and support from the great Raider Nation."

Corey enters the post season with a 29-1 season record, ranked second in the country at 133 pounds.

Thiel head coach Craig Thurber echoed coach Linn saying: "Corey has been a super person and tremendous leader for our team. We're looking forward to Corey putting and exclamation point on his already outstanding career."

Corey will compete at the Midwest Regional on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH. The National Championships will be held on March 9-10 in La Crosse, WI.



Photo by Connie Sorg

Austin Matthews wraps up LeBoeuf's Riley Smith

## Raiders Make 14th Straight D-10 Final

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

EDINBORO, Pa. — The Reynolds Raiders rolled their way into the District 10 Team Championship finals match for a 14th consecutive season, but came up just short, dropping a 31-28 decision to defending PIAA runner-up Fort LeBoeuf.

The match started at 113 pounds and LeBoeuf jumped out to a 10-0 lead with three straight wins before Dylan D'Urso's major decision at 132 and Austin Matthews' fall at 138 lbs. tied it up.

Two Bison decisions upped their lead to 16-10 before an injury to senior captain Tyler Miller cut short his season and career. Miller suffered a dislocated elbow and was forced to default out of his match.

That default put the Raiders in a big hole (22-10) but they weren't ready to roll over. Matt Tofani (160) worked his way to a decision and sophomore Austin Moffett (195) stepped up with a huge fall to keep the Raiders' hopes alive; but a fall by state-ranked Bison Evan Dailey at 220 sealed the Raiders' fate.

Blake Heim (285) scored a decision and Mike Bartolo (106) added a fall to set the final score. The loss snapped the Raiders'



An injury to RHS senior captain Tyler Miller at the District 10 Team Tournament has brought an unfortunate and early end to his high school career.

# Nottingham, Leise, Millero

## Win Corry JV Tourney Titles

CORRY, Pa.—The Reynolds junior varsity wrestling team had four wrestlers go undefeated and five others suffer just one loss as the squad turned in a strong performance at the recent Corry tournament.

Freshman Nick Nottingham turned in a perfect 3-0 mark, placing first at 113 lbs. Nottingham gutted out an overtime victory in the finals.

At 132 pounds, junior Matthew Leise followed a similar path, going 3-0, placing first and winning his championship bout in overtime over a seasoned wrestler from McDowell.

Freshman Mike Millero (152) also took top honors, placing first while looking impressive against some strong upperclassmen.

At 145 pounds Levi Stoyer wrestled very well, winning a pair of bouts, including one over Brad Malinowski of Fort LeBoeuf. Unfortunately, Stoyer was pulled out of the event for “precautionary measures,” according to JV Coach Joe Reichard.

Placing second for the Raiders were James Slater (152), Clay Stoyer (170) and Chris Nottingham (285).

Slater’s only loss was to his teammate Millero; Stoyer dropped a 4-3 decision to LeBoeuf’s Vince Pastine; and Nottingham is starting to really

come around after recent knee surgery.

“Clay looks better each time he steps on the mat, and Slater had a real nice come from behind win in the semifinals,” Reichard said.

Also for Reynolds, Kegan Miller (145) and Robert Foulkrod (220) were third, Jake Stoyer (182) was fourth, Ryan Zeronas (285) was fifth and Dustin McCurdy (160) ended sixth.

“Miller lost a decision to LeBoeuf’s part-time starter Middleton and battled back for third,” Reichard said, adding, “Foulkrod’s only loss was to the eventual tourney champ from DuBois. He is quietly having a very nice season for us.”

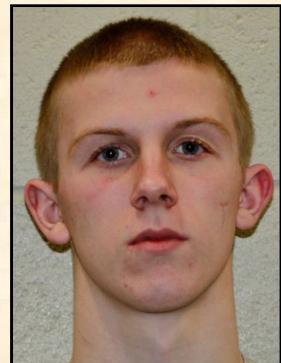
“Zeronas picked up some experience and won some hard fought matches,” said Reichard, adding that both of Jake Stoyer’s wins were by fall and McCurdy also had a pin.

“Overall, as a team, we wrestled very well. It was great to get the kids some matches,” Reichard said.

Other teams competing included: Fort LeBoeuf DuBois, McDowell, Saegertown, Cathedral Prep, Greenville, Corry, Cambridge Springs, Northwestern, General McLane, Youngsville, Oil City, Cochranton, Strong Vincent and Maplewood.



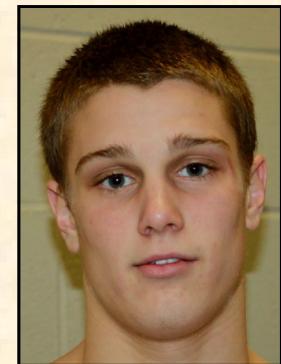
Nick Nottingham



Matthew Leise



Mike Millero



Levi Stoyer

*The Road to Hershey Begins*

Section 2-AA Tournament

Feb. 17-18, 2012

Sharon High School

# Raiders Win One, Drop a Pair in Hershey

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

HERSHEY, Pa.— The Reynolds Raiders made their 8th consecutive appearance at the PIAA Class AA Team Championship tournament and their 11th appearance overall in the 14-year history of the event.

In the opening round, the Raiders squared off with undefeated Boiling Springs, the same team that had bounced them from the tournament a year earlier. It was an epic slugfest that came down to the closing seconds of the last bout but when the final score was hung, the Raiders were on the short end of a 31-30 decision.

Boiling Springs went on to advance to the finals before falling to powerful Bethlehem Catholic while the Raiders dropped to the consolation bracket.

Day Two of the three-day event started well for RHS, and they had little trouble with Mt. Union, disposing of them 48-9. Jamar Henry set the tone early with a fall at 170 pounds and Blake Heim (285) and Mike Bartolo (106) followed suit as the Raiders romped by winning 11 of the 14 matches contested.



Reynolds wrestled well in the match and picked up key wins from Austin Moffett (who had a fall at 195 pounds), Mike Bartolo (106) and Justin Rhodes (138). Coach Taylor made some calculated risks with his line-up but even that reshuffling could not change the outcome as LeBoeuf won the match by a score of 33-28. The loss set Reynolds' final dual match record at 19-4.



Photo by Connie Sorg

The win over Mt. Union set up another match with a familiar opponent Fort LeBoeuf, which had gotten bumped out of the winners bracket by eventual Class AA champion BeCaHi.

It was the third meeting between Reynolds and the Bison this season in the third different location, but unfortunately the results were similar.



Photo by Connie Sorg

# Intermat 138-pound National Rankings

Rank	Name	High School	State	Class	College
1	John Meeks	Des Moines Roosevelt	IA	Senior	Iowa State
2	Nate Skonieczny	Walsh Jesuit	OH	Senior	Iowa
3	Quinton Murphy	Holley Central	NY	Senior	Indiana
4	Todd Preston	Blair Academy	NJ	Senior	Harvard
<b>5</b>	<b>Austin Matthews</b>	<b>Reynolds</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>Junior</b>	
6	Tyler Liberatore	Wharton	FL	Senior	Arizona State
7	Solomon Chishko	Canon-McMillan	PA	Sophomore	
8	Devon Jackson	Yorktown	IN	Senior	Purdue
9	Chase Ferman	Broken Arrow	OK	Senior	
10	Tony Deangelo	Southern Alamance	NC	Senior	Missouri
11	Natrelle Deminson	Bakersfield	CA	Senior	
12	Bryant Clagon	Toms River South	NJ	Junior	
13	Nikko Villarreal	Gilroy	CA	Sophomore	
14	Jack Bass	Allen	TX	Sophomore	
15	Luke Zeiger	Glasgow	MT	Senior	
16	Jake Marlin	Creston	IA	Junior	
17	Steve Spearman	Erie McDowell	PA	Senior	
18	Shayne Tucker	Bella Vista	CA	Junior	
19	Grant Lamont	Maple Mountain	UT	Junior	
20	Alfred Bannister	Bishop McNamara	MD	Sophomore	

## Raiders Shine at Junior High Event

### NWPA Junior High Tournament

MEADVILLE, Pa.—The Reynolds Junior High team competed in the Northwest Pennsylvania Jr. Hi tourney at Meadville recently. About half of all District 10 schools attended (both AA & AAA). Team points were not kept.

“Overall, not a bad day,” said Reynolds junior high assistant coach Chris Osborne. “We still have some things to work on. We are very young. Most of our seventh graders will still be eligible for 11-12 at JO’s this year.”

The following is a breakdown of how all the Raider entries fared.

Wgt.	Name	Grade	Record	Place
80	Gage Bayless	7	2-0	1st
85	Chaise Hauck	7	3-0	1st
90	Dan Gurley	8	0-2	dnp
95	Drew Osborne	7	2-2	dnp
100	Joel Leise	7	4-0	1st
105	Jack Moroco	7	1-2	dnp
110	Damion Gearhart	7	0-2	dnp
115	AJ Osborne	8	5-1	3rd
122	Ben Wilcox	7	1-2	dnp
138	Jared Uhrin	7	5-1	3rd
155	Cole Rickert	7	2-1	2nd
250	Gene Ringer	8	1-1	2nd



# The Back Page

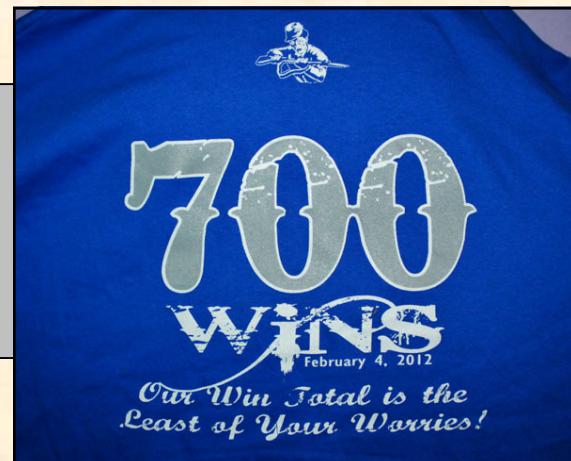
## Amateur Wrestling News High School Individual Rankings Feb. 14, 2012

### 138 Pounds

1. John Meeks-Sr, Roosevelt, IA
2. Nate Skonieczny-Sr, Walsh Jesuit, OH
3. Quinton Murphy-Sr, Holley, NY
4. Todd Preston-Sr, Blair Academy, NJ
5. Tyler Liberatore-Sr, Wharton, FL
6. Solomon Chisko-Soph, Canon-McMillan, PA
- 7. Austin Matthews-Jr, Reynolds, PA**
8. Chase Ferman-Sr, Broken Arrow, OK
9. Brandon Sorenson-Jr, Denver/Tripoli, IA
10. Bryant Clagon-Sr, Toms River South, NJ
11. Devon Jackson-Sr, Yorktown, IN
12. Matt Cimato-Sr, LaSalle, PA



Clearfield Tournament champions from December 1978 were (l-r) Keith Dawes, Brick Stewart and Kevin Kasic



The  
700-Win  
T-shirt

## REYNOLDS WRESTLING TRIVIA

**New Question:** Can you name the Reynolds freshmen who have appeared in the state finals?

**Previous Question:** What is the worst dual-match loss (in terms of points) in school history?

**Answer:** The worst dual-match loss in school history came to Wilson at the 2002 PIAA Team Championships. The score was 44-6, a loss by 38 points. The worst regular-season dual match loss came in the 1982-83 season vs. Liberty, OH, 44-9, a 35-point loss.



REYNOLDS  
WRESTLING  
AG

April 2012



# Taylor Lays Solid Foundation in First Season

As of the completion of the 2011-12 season, Casey Taylor is no longer a rookie head coach. There are a lot of positives to take away from his first season as Reynolds High School's head wrestling coach. A lot.

But there were also enough coulda-woulda-shoulda moments to drive any coach crazy. Those are the memories that Coach Taylor will carry. Those are the memories that, I believe, will drive him to even greater success as the RHS wrestling coach.

For the record, Taylor's first season ended with a 19-4 dual match record, finishing second at the D-10 Duals. Reynolds won a Section team title, finished 2nd at Districts, 3rd at Regionals and 2nd at the PIAA Championships.

**GREAT ENDING** — It was an outstanding ending to the wrestling season, and no, I'm not talking about what Dylan, Austin and Blake

did at the Giant Center. I'm talking about what the 'lil Raiders did at Hersheypark Arena.

Reynolds qualified 16 wrestlers for the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling State Championships and

brought home 10 state place-winners, including

state champion Beau Bayless. It's a wonderful feeling, and I'm sure a great comfort to Coach Taylor, knowing that there is some serious talent headed his way. (*See the full story on page 7.*)

**SAYING GOODBYE** — It's never easy when someone we care about dies. Whendy Kozminski's passing was especially tough.

Whendy became the Sports Editor at The Record-Argus a few years after I left. I was always flattered when she came to me to ask

a question about Reynolds or wrestling in general. I remember how impressed I was that she wanted to get it right ... that she cared.

As we became friends, I learned that Whendy cared about a lot more than getting her wrestling stories right. She cared deeply for her family, her friends and her community.

Please remember to keep Whendy's husband, Brian, and her three boys in your prayers. They lost an incredible wife and mom.



By Don Shaffer

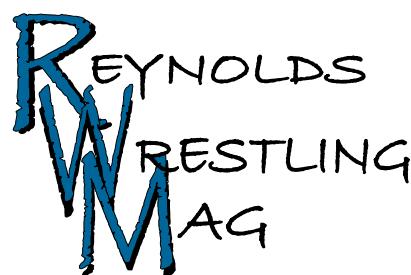
## Ava Bayless is Reynolds' First Female State Champion



PROGRESS, Pa. — Ava Bayless became the first female Reynolds wrestler to ever win a state championship when she rolled to a 50-pound Intermediate Division (1st thru 3rd grade) title at the inaugural Pennsylvania Girls State Championships on March 11, 2012.

Bayless breezed through her bracket, dominating all of her opponents and had a fall in the championship finals.

RWM would like to extend its congratulations to Ava and her family.



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# Raiders Return With 3 Medals & the PIAA Runner-up Trophy

By DON SHAFFER

RWM Editor

HERSHEY —The Reynolds Raiders sent three wrestlers to the PIAA Class AA Championships. All three wrestled like champions.

Senior Dylan D'Urso closed out his outstanding high school career with his first appearance in the state finals while earning his fourth PIAA medal. Junior Austin Matthews battled his way to a second straight state finals appearance and earned his third PIAA medallion. Senior Blake Heim wrestled a near-perfect tournament, carding an impressive 4-1 record to finish in third place.

The combined efforts of the RHS trio earned Reynolds second place in the team standings, marking (at least) the 22nd time that Reynolds has placed in the top three in a post-season state championship tourna-

ment.

“I’d gladly give it up to give my guys gold medals,” Taylor said of the 2012 PIAA runner-up trophy. “But still, it was a pretty good weekend. I’m disappointed for them because I know that they wanted to win, but

I am certainly not disappointed in their efforts.”

D'Urso has been a model of consistency throughout his scholastic career winning four Section, District and Regional titles as well as four Manheim tournament championships. In his final go-round in Hershey he wrestled spectacularly. He won his opening round match

by tech fall before disposing of Line Mountain's Seth Lansberry, 5-2, in the quarterfinals.

It was a dramatic, third-period reversal in his semi-

*(Continued on page 3)*



Joe Reichard (l) and Casey Taylor cheer on Dylan D'Urso



Photo by Connie Sorg

Dylan D'Urso reacts after winning his PIAA semifinals match

final match with returning state runner-up Laike Gardner that propelled D'Urso to the PIAA finals where he squared off with nationally-ranked Randy Cruz of Bethlehem Catholic.

With time winding down and D'Urso actively seeking a winning takedown, Cruz was penalized for illegal head scissors which sent the bout into overtime where, ultimately, Cruz won a 5-3 decision.

D'Urso finished 39-2 this season and closed his career at 171-19, good enough for 5th place all-time on the RHS win list. He has signed to wrestle collegiately with Mercyhurst where he will join his brother, Tony.

"We're going to miss Dylan," Taylor said of his senior standout. "He's been a leader and a role model for us for a lot of years."

Matthews was back in the state finals for the second straight year and this time his opponent was Mike Raciato of Pen Argyl, a defending champion.

Raciato won a couple of scrambles for takedowns but the real killer was a second-period spladle that the two-time champ used for three, near-fall points.

Matthews finished strong in the third period and cut into Raciato's advantage, but lost by a final score of 11-8.

Matthews closes his junior season with a 48-2 record and he is now 135-16 in his career, already tied for 13th on the RHS win list. He is a three-time state place-winner, finishing 8th, 2nd and 2nd.

Finishing 3rd, Heim wrestled a strong state tournament and put an exclamation mark on his outstanding career.

Heim was at states in 2011 but missed placing by a single match. It was a weekend of revenge—of sorts—for Heim because this year he twice beat the wrestler that kept him from placing last year.

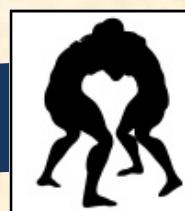
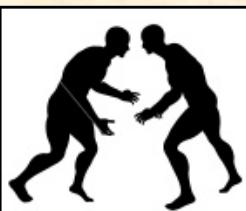
In all, Heim posted a 4-1 record at Hershey helping the Raiders to an an impressive 10-3 mark as a team.

Heim closes out his senior season with a 44-8 record. His 123 career wins tie him with Casey Taylor for 23rd place on the RHS win list and he is third among heavyweights, trailing only Mike Edwards (133) and Will Ringer (129).

# PIAA Class AA Team Standings

(THE LAST 15 YEARS — 1998-2012)

2012	3. Reynolds 58.5	9. (tie) Burrell/ Ridgway 41	5. Freedom 50	8. North Schuylkill 32
1. Bethlehem Catholic 111	4. Wyomissing 50	2006	6. Juniata Valley 45	9. Bloomsburg 30.5
<b>2. Reynolds 59.5</b>	5. Westmont Hilltop 43	<b>1. Reynolds 114</b>	7. Brockway 42	10. Claysburg-Kimmel 30
3. Fort LeBoeuf 56	6. Burrell 41.5	2. Northern Lehigh 58.5	8. Tyrone 38	<b>2000</b>
4. Benton 53	7. (tie) Grove City/Delone Catholic 38.5	3. Burrell 56	9. Jeannette 37	1. Wyalusing 93
5. (tie) Greenville/Mifflinburg 48	9. Schuylkill Valley 37.5	4. Northwestern Lehigh 51.5	10. Meyers 34	2. Claysburg-Kimmel 65
7. Bermudian Springs 33.5	10. Greenville 37	5. Pius X 44	2003	3. Northern Lehigh 63.5
8. (tie) Seneca/Hanover 33		6. Brandywine Heights 42	1. Wilson 87	4. Benton 52
10. (tie) Pen Argyl/Tri-Valley 31			<b>2. Reynolds 71</b>	5. Biglerville/Pen Argyl 49
2011			3. Brandywine Heights 63	7. Cameron County 48
1. Burrell 85			4. Bloomsburg 61	8. Burrell 39
<b>2. Reynolds 83.5</b>			5. Loyalsock 58.5	<b>9. Reynolds 37.5</b>
3. Bethlehem Catholic 76			6. Brockway 53	10. Loyalsock 35
4. Muncy 59.5			7. Meyers 42	<b>1999</b>
5. Derry 51			8. Burrell 41	1. Wyalusing 91
6. Benton 42.5	<b>2008</b>	7. Bermudian Springs 38	9. Wyalusing 34	2. Brookville 82.5
7. Pen Argyl 41	1. Shady Side Academy 91	8. Fort LeBoeuf 36	10. Delone Catholic 32	<b>3. Reynolds 65</b>
8. Saucon Valley 38	2. Northwestern Lehigh 62.5	9. Southern Huntingdon 35.5	2002	4. Cameron County 59
9. Seneca 34	3. Burrell 51	10. Line Mountain 34	1. Wilson 132	5. Claysburg-Kimmel 56
10. Line Mountain 33.5	<b>4. Reynolds 44</b>	2005	2. (tie) Freedom/Wyalusing 51	6. Canton 49
2010	5. Montoursville 41	<b>1. Reynolds 83</b>	4. Bloomsburg 41	7. Northern Lehigh 40
1. Benton 93	6. Benton 41	2. Curwensville 56	5. Delone Catholic 36	8. Benton/Loyalsock 39
2. (tie) Shady Side Academy/Schuylkill Valley 64	7. Line Mountain 40	3. Schuylkill Valley 53	6. Forest Hills 31	10. Washington 37.5
<b>4. Reynolds 53.5</b>	8. (tie) Bermudian Springs/Canton 38.5	4. Wyalusing 47	<b>7. (tie) Reynolds/Oley Valley 29</b>	<b>1998</b>
5. Ridgway 47.5	10. Jefferson Morgan 32	5. Tyrone 41	9. Pius X 28	<b>1. Reynolds 73</b>
6. Athens 47	<b>2007</b>	6. (tie) Bermudian Springs/Lake Lehman/Mt. Pleasant 40.5	10. (tie) Maplewood/Richland 27	2. Northern Lehigh 56.5
7. Montoursville 44.5	<b>1. Reynolds 61</b>	9. Mercer 35	2001	3. Loyalsock 45
8. Burrell 43	2. (tie) Shady Side Academy/Line Mountain 58	10. Forest Hills 34	1. Brandywine Heights 62.5	4. Wyalusing 41.5
9. Westmont Hilltop 42	4. Northern Lehigh 51	2004	<b>2. Reynolds 61.5</b>	5. Brookville 41
10. Juniata 41	5. (tie) Keystone Oaks/Northwestern Lehigh 44	1. Loyalsock 67.5	3. Shady Side Academy 55.5	6. Bedford 40
2009	7. Westmont Hilltop 42	2. Bloomsburg 67	4. Wilson 53	7. Beth Center 38.5
1. Shady Side Academy 84	8. Sharon 41.5	<b>3. Reynolds 66</b>	5. Pine Grove 45	8. (tie) Cochranton/Claysburg-Kimmel 34
2. Benton 74		4. Forest Hills 62.5	6. Northern Lehigh 44	10. Hershey 33
			7. Commodore Perry 35	



# Heim, D'Urso, Matthews Crowned NWR Champs



Austin Matthews topped Brock Zacherl for his 3rd Northwest Region title

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

SHARON — Three seemed to be the weekend's magic number as three Raiders won titles, three qualified for states and RHS placed third in the team standings. Seniors Blake Heim (285) and Dylan D'Urso (132) and junior Austin Matthews (138) were the Raiders' three champs.

D'Urso kept his postseason run perfect as he won his fourth Northwest Regional title and Matthews won his third. Heim copped his first-ever NWR crown.

In the team race, Reynolds scored 92.5 points to finish behind team champion Fort LeBoeuf (109) and

runner-up Brookville (103).

Six other Raiders qualified and participated in the tournament but none were able to place in the top four.

Mike Bartolo (106) and Mason McCollum (126), a freshman and sophomore respectively, bowed out of the tournament in the consolation semifinals. McCollum wrestled very well, winning three matches and Bartolo was a semifinalist.

Reynolds' other Regional qualifiers were Alex DiGregorio (113), Justin Rhodes (145), Jamar Henry (170) and Austin Moffett (182). All four won a match at Regions.



3 Raiders won NWR titles—D'Urso (132), Matthews (138) and Heim (285)

## 4-TIME REGIONAL CHAMPS

1. Matt Dunn
2. Mason Beckman
3. Dylan D'Urso

# D'Urso, Matthews Win District 10 Titles

By DON SHAFFER  
RWM Editor

SHARON — Senior Dylan D'Urso won his fourth District 10 individual championship and junior Austin Matthews earned his third as the Reynolds Raiders turned in a strong showing at the District 10 Class AA Championships.

Reynolds entered 13 wrestlers into the tournament and 9 placed in the top 6 to earn a trip to the Northwest Regional. The Raiders placed 2nd in the team standings with 165 points.

## 4-TIME D-10 CHAMPS

1. Matt Dunn
2. Lawrence Beckman
3. Mason Beckman
4. Dylan D'Urso



*Photo by Connie Sorg*

Senior Dylan D'Urso rides Cochranton's Matt Bryer en route to his fourth D-10 title

They trailed only Fort LeBoeuf (206). Greenville (112), Grove City (90) and Saegertown (83) trailed Reynolds and rounded out the top five.

In winning his fourth D-10 title, D'Urso became just the fourth Raider to accomplish the feat joining Matt Dunn, Lawrence Beckman and Mason Beckman.

Blake Heim (285) and Mike Bartolo (106) both finished 2nd RHS. Senior Justin Rhodes (145) was 3rd, sophomore Alex DiGregorio (113) was 4th, sophomore Mason McCollum (126) and junior Jamar Henry (171) were 5th and sophomore Austin Moffett (182) was 6th. Neal Engstrom qualified but did not place.

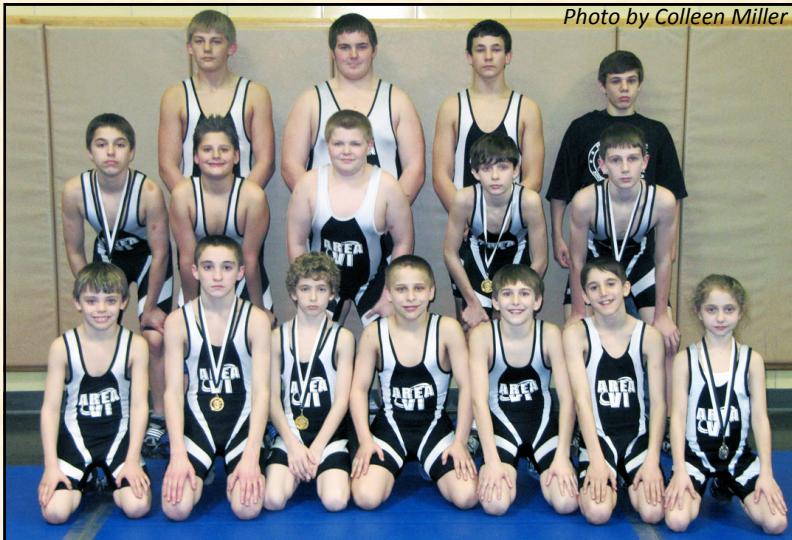


*Photo by Connie Sorg*



Senior Justin Rhodes (l) finished 3rd at 145 pounds and Alex DiGregorio was 4th at 113 pounds

# Reynolds Sends 16 to PJW States 10 Return with Medals!!



**Beau Bayless**  
**2012 PAJW State Champion**

## L'il Raiders Keep the Tradition Alive

HERSHEY—Beau Bayless won a state championship and 9 other Raiders returned home with medals as Reynolds' junior wrestling program wrapped up a tremendously successful season.

In winning the 9-10 year old, 55 pound division, Bayless won his first-

round match 13-2 and then didn't give up a single point in his final three bouts, winning 2-0, 3-0 and 2-0.

Reynolds' other place-winners included runner-up Evan Miller and third-place finishers Chaise Hauck and Jared Uhrin. Cole Matthews, Cole Rickert and Gene Ringer all finished 5th and Michael Bartolo was 7th. Kaeden Berger and John Rocco-Daniello brought home 8th place medals.

Bayless is Reynolds' sixth PAJW state champion since 2006 and the program's 32nd overall.

<b>Reynolds Wrestling</b>	
<b>Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling</b>	
<b>State Qualifiers</b>	
8 & Under	70-Noah Fuchs, 1st place
50-Ava Bayless, 2nd place	80-Cole Matthews, 1st place
60-Kaeden Berger, 1st place	85-Chaise Hauck, 1st place
9-10 Age Division	100-Joel Leise, 1st place
55-Beau Bayless, 1st place	105-Ben Wilcox, 2nd place
105-Rocco John-Daniello, 2nd place	145-Jared Uhrin, 1st place
120-Evan Miller, 1st place	160-Cole Rickert, 1st place
11-12 Age Division	13-14 Age Division
65-Tylir Shannon, 2nd place	77-Gage Bayless, 1st place
	107-Michael Bartolo, 1st place
	252-Gene Ringer, 1st place



# Raiders Win 16th Straight Section Crown

## D'Urso Becomes 10th Raider To Win Four Titles

By DON SHAFFER

RWM Editor

SHARON —The Reynolds Raiders rolled 8 wrestlers into the finals and 6 won titles as Coach Casey Taylor's squad scored more than 200 points in winning their 16th straight Section team title.

Leading the way for RHS was senior Dylan D'Urso who claimed his fourth Section championship, becoming the 10th Raider to win four titles. D'Urso had no problem rolling through his bracket, scoring three falls along the way.

Joining D'Urso atop the podium were Mike Bartolo (106), Mason McCollum (126), Austin Matthews (138), Jamar Henry (171) and Blake Heim (285). The title was the third for Matthews, who as a junior is in line to join the 4-time club next season. The titles were the second for Henry and Heim.

The team standings showed Reynolds in first place with 210 points. Sharon was second with 142, Sharpsville third at 121 and Grove City fourth with 119.

Placing second for the Raiders were Alex DiGregorio (113) and Justin Rhodes (145). Third-place finishes went to Levi Stoyer (152), Matt Tofani (160) and Tommy Davis (195). Neal Engstrom (120) and Austin Moffett (182) were both fourth. Junior Logan Rickert posted a 1-2 mark and failed to place.

Logan Rickert



Sophomore Mason McCollum wraps up his first Section title

### 4-TIME

### SECTION CHAMPS

1. Jonathan Hazi
2. Casey Taylor
3. Jason Nestor
4. Justin Nestor
5. Matt Dunn
6. Mike Edwards
7. Aaron Nestor
8. Lawrence Beckman
9. Mason Beckman
10. Dylan D'Urso



# Steve Popovitch's ALUMNI NEWS

## Brown, D'Urso Named Academic All-Americans; Beckman Earns Trip to D-I National Championships

Led by Thiel star **Corey Brown ('08)**, the 2012 post season proved to be successful for the former Raiders competing at the collegiate level.

Brown capped off his college career in style by earning All-American status for the fourth straight year. Brown opened the national tournament on fire, winning his first two bouts by major decision. He then lost a heart-breaking, 5-4 decision to seventh-seeded Jordan Westfall of Coe College in the quarterfinals. That loss dropped him into the consolation bracket.



Brown bounced back by winning his next bout to secure the All-American finish. Corey finished eighth in the tournament, ending his career with a record of 109-27 and, arguably, as the top wrestler in Thiel College history.

Corey was also recently named an Academic All-American for the third straight year. As a team, the Tomcats finished seventh among the 25 ranked Division III wrestling programs with a team grade-point average of 3.417.



Brown was not the only former Raider to excel in the classroom, **Tony D'Urso ('09)**, earned second team Academic All-American status. Tony carries an impressive 3.94 grade point average, while majoring in biology.



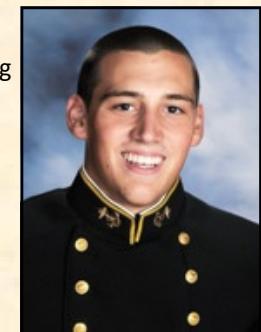
Lehigh University freshman **Mason Beckman ('11)** had a strong performance at the EIWA tournament. He advanced all the way to the semi-finals before falling into the consolation bracket, and eventually finished fourth.

That finish was good enough to earn Beckman a trip to the NCAA Division I National Championships. Mason got the toughest of draws in the first round and bowed to eventual national champion Logan Steiber of Ohio State.



Beckman bounced back to win a match in the consolations before being eliminated from competition. He finished his freshman season with a very strong 32-15 record while wrestling at both 125 and 133 pounds.

After missing a large portion of the season to injury, the Coast Guard Academy's **Luke Taylor ('10)** took the 165-pound class by surprise at the New England Wrestling Association Championships.



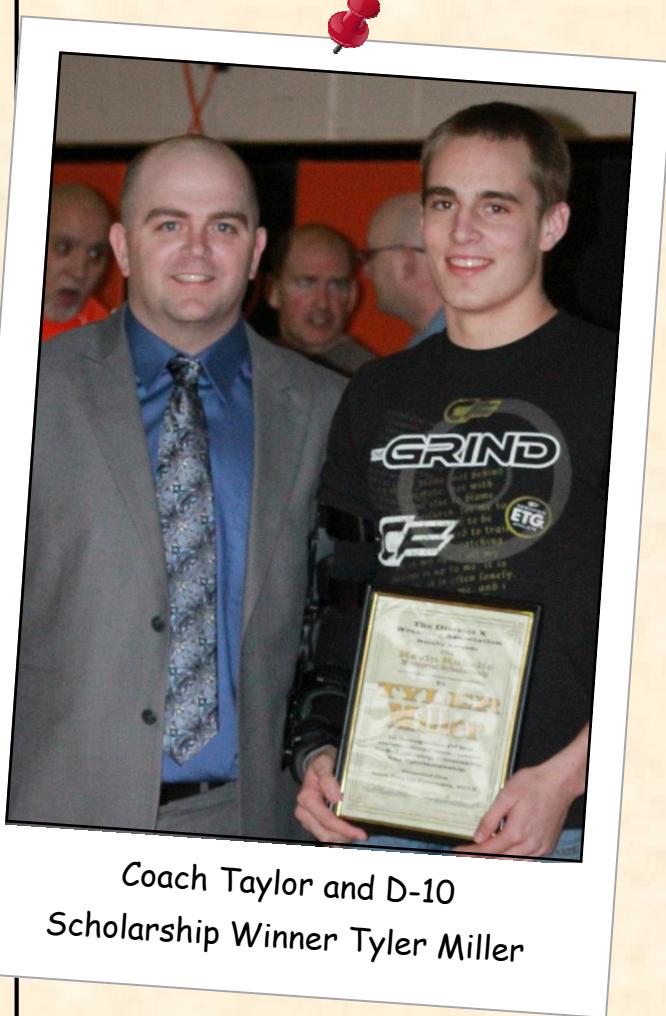
Luke entered the tournament as the number five seed, but advanced to the semi-finals with a quick first-round fall, and a major-decision over the number four seed.

Luke ended up with a runner-up finish (NEWA wrestles to a true second) and 5-1 record. He finished with two falls, two majors and a 7-point decision.

Taylor was slighted, however, by the selection committee who elected to give the third-place finisher, whom Luke defeated, a bid to the national tournament. Luke's only losses in the tournament came to the champion and eventual 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher at the NCAA tournament.



# The Back Page



2011-12 WIN LEADERS		
Wrestler	Wins	
1. Austin Matthews	48	
2. Blake Heim	45	
3. Dylan D'Urso	39	
4. Matt Tofani	31	
5. Jamar Henry	31	
6. Michael Bartolo	31	
7. Mason McCollum	30	
8. Justin Rhodes	24	
9. Alex DiGregorio	23	
Austin Moffett	23	

2011-12 PIN LEADERS		
Wrestler	Pins	
1. Austin Matthews	26	
2. Blake Heim	21	
3. Dylan D'Urso	20	
4. Michael Bartolo	18	
5. Mason McCollum	15	
6. Austin Moffett	12	
7. Alex DiGregorio	10	
8. Logan Rickert	9	
9. Tommy Davis	7	
Justin Rhodes	7	
Matt Tofani	7	



## REYNOLDS WRESTLING TRIVIA



**New Question:** Who was Reynolds' first Manheim tournament champion?

**Previous Question:** Can you name the Reynolds wrestlers who appeared in the state finals as a freshman?

**Answer:** Reynolds' four freshmen state finalists are Justin Nestor (1st), Matt Dunn (1st), Cody Kelly (2nd), and Mason Beckman (2nd).

