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WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome, GHSA wrestling community!

Are you ready for several days of intense excitement? Wrestlers from all classifications and from all parts of Georgia will compete in the 2012 Georgia High School Association Traditional Wrestling Championships – a real highlight of the GHSA year. On behalf of the Georgia High School Association and its corporate partners, I want to thank you for your support at this year's State Championship matches and for your support of high school wrestling throughout this season.

The GHSA could not offer quality tournaments such as this without the hard work of a large number of volunteers who give of themselves tirelessly. This championship event is hosted by the Atlanta Takedown Association, whose members have participated in its planning and operation. A special word of thanks goes out to these volunteers led by Bud Hennebaul, Tournament Director, and to GHSA Assistant Executive Director, Gary Phillips, who is the GHSA administrator for Wrestling. The staff of the Arena at Gwinnett Center stands ready to help you if you have any needs.

The GHSA is extremely grateful for the support of a number of corporate partners. As you look through this program and as you look

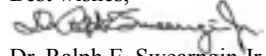
around the Arena, please note the names of these fine partners – and please use their products and services whenever possible.

The quality of wrestling in Georgia continues to grow tremendously as athletes, coaches and officials perform at new levels of excellence.

This championship event will showcase great wrestling and outstanding coaching. These athletes have persevered through the battles maintaining their weight in a healthy manner, and they have endured long practices and intense competitions.

The Georgia High School Association strongly believes that lifelong lessons about discipline and hard work are learned in the competitive arenas of high school athletics, and this is especially true with wrestling. Now, get ready for exciting wrestling action. Support your wrestlers vigorously, and remember to demonstrate good sportsmanship always.

Best wishes,



Dr. Ralph E. Swearingin Jr.
GHSA Executive Director

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WSB-TV WILL TELEVISION THE WRESTLING FINALS LIVE ON SAT., FEB. 18 FROM 4-6 PM AND ON METV ON COMCAST 248/CHARTER 127 FROM 6-7 PM. GHSA.TV WILL VIDEO STREAM LIVE ALL 14 WEIGHT CLASS FINALS ON EACH OF THE FIVE (A - 5A) CLASSIFICATION'S CHAMPIONSHIP MATS. DVDS CAN BE ORDERED AT GHSA.TV. ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE FINALS BY GEORGIA PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE ATHLETIC IMAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT GHSAPHOTOS.COM

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2012 STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Round #1	Weigh-in (AA-AAAAA)	12:00noon-3:00pm
	Coaches Meeting (AA & AAAAA)	3:30pm
	Coaches Meeting (AAA & AAAAA)	4:15pm
	Round of 16 (AA-AAAAA)	5:00-10:00pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Round #2	WB's 1st Round (AA-AAAAA)	8:30-11:00am
	Weigh-in (A)	9:00-10:00am
	Coaches Meeting (A)	10:15am
Round #3	Quarterfinals - All Classes	11:00am-2:15pm
Round #4	WB's 2nd Round (AA-AAAAA)	2:15-4:45pm
Round #5	Consolation Quarters - All Classes	4:45-6:30pm
Round #6	Semifinals All-Classes	7:00-9:30pm
	Weight Outs (After completion of weight class up to 1 hour)	

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Round #7	Consolations Semis - All Classes	9:30-11:15am
Round #8	Consolations Finals - All Classes	11:15am-1:00pm
	Championship Opening Ceremonies	3:30pm
Finals	Championship Finals and Awards - All Classes	4:00pm


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The 2012 Georgia High School Association Traditional Wrestling State Tournament Guide is published by Score Prep, a division of Score Atlanta, in conjunction with the GHSA. The guide was designed by DJ Galbati, managed and edited by Stephen Black and Fletcher Proctor, information provided by the GHSA and photos on the cover are courtesy of Rob Saye, LeeAnn Young and Brian L. Morgan. I.J. Rosenberg is the president and publisher of Score Atlanta. For more information on Score Prep, go to Scoreatl.com or call 404-256-1572.






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FINALS PREVIEW



Breaking down the five classifications

By Ricky Dimon

Winter seasons are wrapping up and titles are ready to be won throughout the state of Georgia as high school action heats up in February. On the mats, the 2012 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Championship takes place Thursday through Saturday at the Gwinnett Center. After grappling their way through intense area and sectional qualification, wrestlers across all five classifications are now seeking glory for their respective schools.

CLASS A ...

Bremen has won three consecutive traditional state titles, but the team will be hard-pressed to hold off a host of other contenders in 2012. The Blue Devils lost to Gordon Lee in the semifinals of last month's dual championships in Macon. Gordon Lee then fell to Holy Innocents' 31-29 in the controversial final round. Commerce, which finished fourth at the duals behind Bremen, is also expected to contend along with Social Circle.

The Blue Devils, however, remain loaded in their quest to make it four in a row. Zach Young (120 pounds), Ryne Eriquezzo (138) and Joe Bexley (285) all have realistic shots at the title in their respective weight classes. Looking for redemption after their sour second-place finish in Macon, the Trojans will be led by Jonny Ragsdale (106), Alex Spires (126) and Ethan West (160).

Holy Innocents' looks to build on its dual triumph behind team leaders Brendan Quigley (126), Wes Fanning (132), Jason Grimes (170) and Lee Davis (182).

CLASS AA ...

Georgia's most dominant wrestling dynasty is without a doubt Jefferson. The Dragons have won 11 consecutive traditional state titles dating back to 2001, the first eight in Class A and the last three in Class AA. They sent a message loud and clear that No. 12 is on the way when they simply overwhelmed opponents at duals. All five of Jefferson's matches en route to the championship were decided by at least 46 points. Leading the way for Jefferson will be defending champions Cain Finch (152) and Forrest Przbysz (170) along with Isaac Kelly (132) and Jace McColskey (182).

Lovett and Greater Atlanta Christian hope to make things interesting, if not for first place, then at least for the No. 2 spot. The Lions, who finished runners-up in Macon, are paced by Kyler Allen (106), Cory Erdoes (182) and Patrick Emerson (195). Manning the fort for the Spartans are Zach Feuerbach (160), Carter Clinebell (113), Caleb Bumpers (120) and Parker Fair (220).

CLASS AAA ...

Speaking of dynasties, Gilmer is on the

verge of achieving such a status—if the team has not already. Following the Bobcats' 2011 traditional state championship, they have won two in a row and four of the last seven. A fifth title would match their number of duals triumphs in the same span, as the Bobcats prevailed last month in Macon for duals championship No. 5 in the last eight years. Gilmer will rely in part on Cameron Perry (106), Daniel Bautista (113), Justin Karr (120) and Johnie Flakes (138).

Continuing to make life hard on the Bobcats will be Heritage-Catoosa. The Generals crushed all other contenders at duals before losing to Gilmer by a close 29-27 decision in the final. They have a chance of getting over the hump for a traditional title on the strength of Madison Martin (126), Landon Reed (132), Logan Perkins (145) and Andy Bratton (170). West Laurens, Locust Grove and Carrollton could also be in the mix near the top.

CLASS AAAA ...

Pope is looking dominant and riding a wave of momentum heading into the traditional state tournament. The Greyhounds won their first state duals title last month after finishing either second or third in each of the last four seasons. None of their five opponents came within 20 points in Macon, and they drubbed Woodland-Cartersville 56-10 in the final. In fact, Pope's closest decision was a 44-21 defeat of Ware County in the second round. Now, the Greyhounds are ready to defend their 2011 traditional championship. They appear to have way too much depth for the rest of the field, with a powerhouse roster featuring Cameron Munsey (113), Tyler Haskin (126), Jake Henson (152), Joey Tabaccino (170) and Trevor Stevens (195).

If the rest of the competition is battling

for second place, Rockdale County may be in line for a runner-up finish despite failing to qualify for duals. The Bulldogs boast a trio of individual stars—Alonzo Allen (106), Ulises Ponce (132) and Jose Robledo (145)—that will produce plenty of points. Woodland-Cartersville (second at duals), Whitewater (third) and Loganville (fourth) should also make strong showings.

CLASS AAAAA ...

After some serious drama in Macon, the stage is set for another blockbuster showdown between Collins Hill and Camden County. The two teams squared off in the duals final last month and wrestled to a 27-27 deadlock. Camden County, widely considered the underdog, captured the title on a criteria tie-breaker (two pins to Collins Hill's one).

The Eagles are out for revenge and may be better-suited for the traditional tournament. They feature numerous title contenders, including Sean Russell (106), Ryan Milhof (113), Drew Ferguson (120), Spencer Rickman (132) and Andrew Krawulski (170). The Wildcats are hoping to duplicate their duals performance, and in order to do so, they will rely on production from the heavier weight classes. Gray Jones (182), Michael Johnson (195), Desmond James (220) and Alex Washington (285) are key cogs in the impressive Camden Co. lineup.

Archer (third place at duals), Peachtree Ridge and North Forsyth will be contenders in the competition for third place. Lassiter underwhelmed in Macon with losses to Roswell and Lowndes, but the Trojans are loaded with talent and should put several individuals on the traditional podium.

Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.



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DATE: Saturday, February 18, 2012

TIME: 7:30AM - 8:45AM

LOCATION: Gwinnett Center (next to the Gwinnett Arena – a 3 min. walk)

COST: \$10.00/person (\$5 for H.S. wrestlers/no charge for H.S. coaches)

WRESTLING FACELIFT



Arena preps for state's best wrestlers

By Ryan Caiafa



The Arena at Gwinnett Center has been home to world class entertainment since its opening in 2003 and will once again play host to the 2012 GHSA State Wrestling Championships from Feb. 16-18. Top acts from across the country, including Coldplay, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kanye West, and major sporting events, including the 2010 SEC Women's Basketball Tournament and several live World Wrestling Entertainment broadcasts have utilized the arena.

EXPERIENCED HOSTS ...

The arena is currently home to Arena Football's Georgia Force and the East Coast Hockey League's Gwinnett Gladiators. Dur-

ing the 2011-12 NCAA Basketball season, the Georgia Tech men's and women's teams have played home games at the arena. Wrestling isn't the only high school sport to crown state champions at the Gwinnett Arena, as the GHSA Basketball State Championships have also taken place here since 2004. Despite being more intimate than many major arenas across the country, Gwinnett Arena still possesses a knack to reel in some of the nation's biggest entertainers and sporting events.

In order to prepare to host the state's biggest high school wrestling tournament, the arena must undergo a significant facelift so that the entire floor can accommodate several matches going on at the same time. As

noted earlier, the arena is home to the Gwinnett Gladiators, which means that there is a hockey rink underneath the arena floor. The majority of the hockey surroundings must be taken down, as the glass and dashers must be removed in order for the mats and scorers' tables to be installed on the floor. One of the penalty boxes is removed in order to create access to the dressing rooms and training rooms and the other penalty box stays intact for media space.

A large space is required as 12 mats are used on the Friday of the tournament and, as the tournament progresses, the total mats dwindle to 10 on Saturday and there are just five mats lined up in a straight line on the arena floor on Sunday for the final competition. "The arena staff and a number of volunteers roll up the wrestling mats and move them back to a loading area to a tractor trailer provided by Resilite, who contribute the mats," said Gary Philips, Assistant Executive Director of GHSA. Resilite and the GHSA have a corporate partnership so that the mats can come from one organization and don't need to be acquired from the different schools competing.

ICY ISSUE ...

Of course, one of the main challenges that arises in preparation for the wrestling championships is how to cover the permanently installed ice rink in order to avoid any issues with the ice melting or mats freezing. The ice cannot be removed during hockey season to accommodate other events, but the ice can be thinned out so that there isn't a risk of it freezing the wrestling mats. "The staff lets the ice melt slightly and they use the zamboni to suck the ice up," Philips said. By thinning the ice, there is less of a risk of the mats freezing through the insulated board that serves as a buffer between the ice and the mats. When referring to the melting process, Philips said,

"It's done several days ahead of time and by taking the ice up, the transition from the competitive area to the tunnels is smooth and the floor is level." The board seals the ice and keeps it from leaking through and impacting competitions or any other event that takes place in the arena.

The overall space is large enough for the competition, but when taking into account the necessary equipment and the space needed to hold 12 mats for the Friday matches, the space ends up being a perfect fit. Along with the mats, specialized wrestling clocks from the Atlanta Takedown Association are provided and set up around the entire competition area.

Volunteers from across the state and especially in Gwinnett County, collaborate with the staff members of the Atlanta Takedown Association in order to ensure the event runs smoothly throughout the weekend. Since the tournament came to the Gwinnett Arena in 2004, the staff and volunteers have developed a routine that has made adjusting the competition area and rolling up the mats after each day of the event a smooth and quick process. "Everyone knows what has to be done and we can transition from 12 mats down to 10 and down to five without running all over ourselves," Philips said. "And overall, it's a pretty quick process."

The conversion from a hockey arena to a wrestling gym is an involved process that requires plenty of hands to ensure that there are no issues throughout the entire procedure. Without diligent workers carefully involved in every step, the risk of injury to the competitors increases, as does the risk of damage to the equipment. Staff members work meticulously in order to preserve the ice and seal it so that competition is not impacted and the mats are not affected.

Photo courtesy of Rob Saye. Caiafa can be reached at 404-256-1572.

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ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Darlington's Jones seeks elusive fourth title

By Fletcher Proctor



From 1961 until 2011, 23 Georgia high school wrestlers managed to capture individual wrestling championships all four years in which they participated at the GHSA level. McEachern's Brandon Westerman and Toombs County's Bryan Benton were the last two to accomplish the feat, both spanning from 2006-2009. Darlington's Spencer Jones hopes to add his name to that list this weekend in Gwinnett at the 2011-12 GHSA State Traditional Wrestling Championships.

FATHER KNOWS BEST ...

For Jones, it would be the culmination of a wrestling career that began at age five. Jones' father, Scott, got Spencer started in wrestling at an early age by constructing a ring in the backyard. "I won a state tourna-

ment at six-years old and then went to a few national tournaments just to see how I'd do," said Jones of his start in amateur wrestling.

Jones won a few of those national tournaments, and then, it was no looking back. With his father coaching him through middle school, Jones quickly made a name for himself with a strong work ethic and a desire to avoid failure. "I keep (my work ethic) up because I just don't like to lose." He also keeps his head down, he said, as he tries to stay level throughout the process. "I was taught to be humble growing up."

That work ethic helped him win the 2008-09 Class A 130-pound class title. "As a freshman, I had to work hard to get my name out there." After his freshman year, his body started growing so he moved up to the

140-pound class, where he won the 2009-10 title as a sophomore. His body continued to mature, and last year he claimed the 145-pound title as a junior. He finished his junior year with a 34-1 record after going 40-2 as a freshman and a 25-5 campaign as a sophomore. He has moved up in weight again to 152-pounds as a senior, but he is working harder than ever now to finish off his prep career sweep. "If I stop training, I know they won't, so I still work hard."

His routine is a bit different than the typical high school wrestler, though. Jones admitted that the coaches push him harder every day than everyone else in practice because of his decorated past, and he isn't allowed to face his teammates. "In practice, I wrestle the coaches, and they beat me up pretty good." He acknowledges that after facing 40-year-old men, perhaps facing high schoolers is a bit easier during the matches. He also stays in shape during the wrestling offseason by suiting up for the Darlington football team. Last season Jones excelled at defensive back and was named first-team Region 6-A by MaxPreps.

When he does step onto the mat though, he tries to block everything out. He said he will keep a warmup routine the same until he loses and then he switches it up to change his luck. During the match he doesn't think about his streak, he just tries to wrestle and win. "I'm sure there are folks out there that want to be the one who keeps (me) from winning No. 4, but I block all of that out and just focus."

THE FOURTH TITLE ...

Several others have come close in recent years as Cason Thurmond of Jefferson, Woodward Academy's Tommy Carney, Horace Young of Irwin County and Sprayberry's Alex Hudson have all collected multiple titles. Snagging two or three has become common, but it is the fourth that eludes many. Wrestlers such as Collins Hill's Bazell Partridge and Taylor Knapp

and Ethan Blackstock of Alexander were denied four straight because of misses during their freshmen seasons. Pulling off four straight is a chance very few wrestlers get. That would make Jones' feat, should he pull it off, even more impressive because he was able to sustain the success he found early in his prep career.

Colleges have come calling on Jones, including Nebraska and Arizona State, but Jones admitted that he isn't sure he wants to wrestle in college. "It's something I've done since I was five. I may want to rest a bit and see what else is out there." Regardless of his future plans, Jones is a force in high school wrestling, and Gwinnett Arena could be the site of some history this weekend if he etches his name into the record books with a fourth title.

Several wrestlers are attempting to capture a third state title during this weekend's championships. Jefferson's Forrest Przybysz is seeking a title in Class AA after taking the 160-pound title in 2010 and the 171-pound crown in 2011.

Ryne Eriquezzo of Bremen won the Class A 125-pound crown in 2010 and followed it up with the 135-pound Class A title in 2011. Should Eriquezzo win another title an Eriquezzo would have won four straight state titles after Alex Eriquezzo of Bremen won the 140-pound title in 2009. Brothers Braxton and Brandon Owens of Elbert County each won a state title one year ago and both are set to defend those Class AA titles in 2012. Braxton claimed the 119-pound crown while Brandon walked away with the 125-pound title one year ago.

A name you may have heard of recently in college football recruiting news is Dalvin Tomlinson of Henry County. Tomlinson captured the 2010 Class AA 285-pound title and followed it up with the 2011 Class AAA 285-pound crown.

Photo courtesy of Spencer Jones. Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



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Arty McGuire	Lithonia	1973-1976
Pete Fritts, Jr.	Woodward Academy	1980-1983
Kenny Johnson	Feldwood	1980-1983
Dale Hales	Red Bud/Rockmart	1982-1985
Joseph Alexander, Jr	Rockmart	1987-1990
Scott Hage	Parkview	1988-1991
John Adams	Brookstone	1992-1995
Sean Hage	Harrison	1992-1995
Todd Lambert	Meachern	1992-1995
Witt Durden	Dublin	1995-1998
Chris Rodrigues	Walker School	1997-2000
Hunter Garner	Jefferson	2000-2003
Paul Stansbury	Dacula	2000-2003
Forrest Garner	Jefferson	2002-2005
Tyler Parker	Collins Hill	2002-2005
Garrison Goins	Ringgold	2003-2006
Kyle Baird	Jefferson	2004-2007
Carrington Banks	Sequoyah/Union Grove	2004-2007
Bryan Benton	Toombs	2006-2009
Brandon Westerman	McEachern	2006-2009

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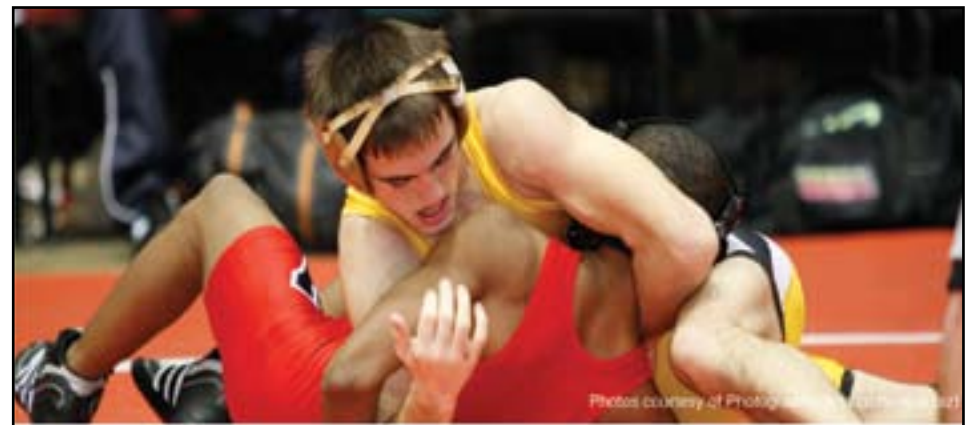
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TEAM GEORGIA



Organization strives to promote amateur wrestling

By Fletcher Proctor

Parents of high school athletes will probably all agree that it is so easy to find out information on sports such as football, basketball and even baseball. These are “mainstream” sports that children traditionally play at an early age in little leagues and peewee leagues across the country. Newspapers and television stations cover the glamour sports that could feature the next NFL, NBA or MLB player achieving greatness.

But what if your little athlete wants information on a sport that is quickly becoming one of the most popular sports in Georgia? What if you need to know about wrestling? That is where Georgia Amateur Wrestling and teamgeorgiawrestling.com have risen to the top to expand the sport of wrestling across the Peach State.

Team Georgia is prominent in promoting wrestling throughout the state. In fact, the organization is the presenting sponsor of WSB’s coverage of this weekend’s wrestling state championships.

SUPPORTING THE SPORT ...

Georgia Amateur Wrestling and Team Georgia do more though than just teach wrestling techniques and build the brand that is amateur wrestling in the state of Georgia. Team Georgia is a non-profit organization that supports wrestling in the entire community. According to its chairman, Anthony Flatt, the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association is the grassroots governing body for USA Wrestling

in the state, the national organization that helps to sponsor the U.S. National team and the Olympic team.

“Our purpose is to grow wrestling and impact wrestlers,” said Flatt. The organization hosts over 120 youth tournaments each year, mostly at the middle school and elementary school levels; however, high school-age tournaments are offered outside of the GHSA season. “There are plenty of options in the spring and summer,” said Flatt of events for the high school-aged wrestlers.

The organization’s website answers questions, serves as a hub for registration for various events and even organizes trips to national events to help showcase Georgia’s young wrestlers. If you wonder how to read brackets, check the organization’s site. Want to know how to fill out registration forms? Team Georgia Wrestling can help. Want to know all about weight classes, age groups and about times? [Teamgeorgiawrestling.com](http://teamgeorgiawrestling.com) can help with all of those inquiries. “We want to be a portal for everyone,” said Flatt of the site. Georgia Amateur Wrestling offers bronze-level coaching certification, as well as education for coaches, athletes and parents.

Flatt has served at the position for three years after serving as Kids Director for three years. Under his watch, the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association has experienced radical growth to the tune of 10 percent over the last seven years. “We have over 170 clubs (in Team Georgia) through high schools, churches

and youth programs. In fact, 75 percent of the wrestlers that compete in the GHSA championships have gone through programs in the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association.”

Flatt was recently named USA Wrestling State Chairperson of the year, an award that honors the recipient for service and leadership within the organization. As an administrator, he hopes to help grow Team Georgia and the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association even more and to impact wrestling at the next level.

“Last year, \$50,000 went into college programs in the state of Georgia,” said Flatt. He noted that Shorter University received \$10,000 to revitalize the wrestling program and five Georgia colleges (three NAIA, one junior college, one four-year university) currently offer wrestling. “We want to keep the college wrestlers in-state. Ten years ago, a wrestler would have to go out of state if he wanted to keep wrestling,” said Flatt. He noted that offering wrestling makes sense for some of the state’s NAIA schools as it will help with their enrollment and would bring money to the university.

STEPPING IT UP ...

Flatt is also trying to take the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association to places it has never been at a younger level. Team Georgia has started the Beat The Streets Georgia campaign, teaming up with local Boys & Girls clubs to start programs with at-risk middle schools to give students an after-school activity. “We wanted to offer students an alternative to going home and sitting by themselves for a few hours where they might get into trouble,” explained Flatt.

The first school to participate in the Beat The Streets Georgia campaign was Radloff Middle School, where after-school tutoring is offered along with a two-hour wrestling practice. The middle school would feed into Meadowcreek High School, a wrestling program that turned some heads this year.

Because the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association is non-profit, every single dollar made is put right back into various tournaments and other projects aimed at expanding the sport. One such project is the purchase and donation of wrestling clocks to various schools to use during events. Flatt said Team Georgia tries to help in any and every way it can.

The Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association and Team Georgia offer a full suite of services as the organization hopes to teach lessons such as determination, persistence and goal-setting instead of merely striving for national championships. Flatt focuses on wrestling, but for the parents that are after titles, Team Georgia does offer plenty of tournaments to satisfy the championship thirst. Young wrestlers can learn for up to two years in folkstyle wrestling tournaments. On a state level, the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association offers the Kid State Championships, with a “Little Kids” and a “Big Kids” bracket. Team Georgia participates in the Schoolboy Nationals (middle school level) in Indianapolis, the Cadet Nationals (high school freshman/sophomore) in Daytona Beach, as well as the Junior Nationals (high school juniors and seniors) in Fargo, N.D. The Junior Nationals is a 10-day event that has 50-60 of Georgia’s best wrestling in front of the largest collection of college recruiters in the country each summer.

If you are a wrestler, parent or coach, the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association and teamgeorgiawrestling.com are both wanting to help. Team Georgia’s main mission is to help nurture the sport so that it might grow to be as popular and successful as baseball, football and basketball. Young or old, novice or expert, Team Georgia is there helping you become the best you can be. Take advantage of the full suite of services offered by the Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association. It is there for you.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

USA wrestling

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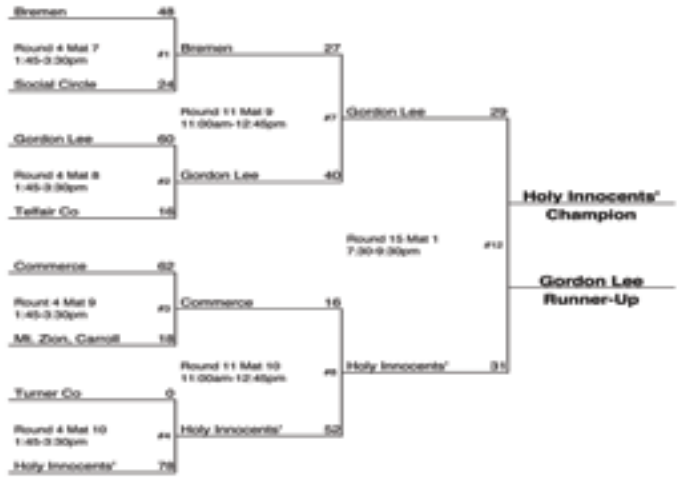
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2011 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PLACE WINNERS

CLASS AAAAA

103 LB. CLASS

1. Sean Russell, Collins Hill
2. Ryan Millhoff, Archer
3. Darshawn Sharp, Valdosta
4. Paul Pellitier, Lassiter

112 LB. CLASS

1. Marshawn Sharp, Valdosta
2. Drew Fergusson, Collins Hill
3. Brandon Bullock, Dacula
4. Nathan McCall, Tift County

119 LB. CLASS

1. Nigel Hamilton, Camden Co.
2. Dallas Brown, Mt. View
3. Phillip Anderson, Milton
4. Tevin Timmons, Dacula

125 LB. CLASS

1. Bazell Partridge, Collins Hill
2. Chris Murdock, Kennesaw Mt.
3. Zack Byrd, Camden County
4. Cole Forester, Centennial

130 LB. CLASS

1. Jeremiah Lutz, Etowah
2. Spencer Rickman, Collins Hill
3. Ryan Mosely, Shiloh
4. Brandon Smith, P'tree Ridge

135 LB. CLASS

1. Blake Roytek, Milton
2. Joseph Doyague, Collins Hill
3. Ryan Cross, North Forsyth
4. Aaron Drew, Coffee

140 LB. CLASS

1. Austin Trott, Camden Co.
2. Steven Bradtmueller, Collins Hill
3. Tre Horton, Peachtree Ridge
4. Romaz Jones, Tift County

145 LB. CLASS

1. Jovan Scott, Valdosta
2. Aaron Reynolds, Dacula
3. Steven Epps, North Gwinnett
4. Will Robinson, North Forsyth

152 LB. CLASS

1. Jonatan Rivera, Kennesaw Mt.
2. Scott Marmoll, Lassiter
3. Andrew Krawulski, Collins Hill
4. Tony Garren, North Gwinnett

160 LB. CLASS

1. Tyler Everton, West Forsyth
2. Joey Visockis, McEachern
3. Michael Spikes, Collins Hill
4. Darian Perry, Stephenson

171 LB. CLASS

1. Tsvetomir Petrushev, Peachtree Ridge
2. Jeffery Holmes, Benedictine
3. Matthew Connell, C. Hill
4. Jonathan Hill, McEachern

189 LB. CLASS

1. Gray Jones, Camden County
2. Carl Rider, North Gwinnett
3. Zimmie Mack, Tift County
4. Mac Bennett, Collins Hill

215 LB. CLASS

1. Michael Chapman, P'tree Rdg.
2. Nick Holbert, Collins Hill
3. Jarquez Brown, Valdosta
4. Desmond James, Camden Co.

285 LB. CLASS

1. Austin Hagen, Mill Creek
2. Jacob Aiken-Phillips, C. Gwin.
3. Bryce Giddens, Colquitt Co.
4. Brad Noble, Walton

TEAM SCORES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Collins Hill..... | 227 |
| 2. Camden County | 134 |
| 3. Valdosta | 117.5 |
| 4. Peachtree Ridge..... | 106 |

CLASS AAAA

103 LB. CLASS

1. Griffin Higginbotham, Union Grove
2. Alonzo Allen, Rockdale Co.
3. Tristen Yaptengco, Winder-B.
4. Chad Hawkins, Woodland-Car.

112 LB. CLASS

1. Cameron Munsey, Pope
2. Payton Durflinger, Ola
3. Will Hale, Loganville
4. Grant Eddy, Creekview

119 LB. CLASS

1. Zach Thompson, Lee Co.
2. Kevin McConnell, Glynn Ac.
3. Sammy Rosario, Cass
4. Nick Lankford, Flowery Br.

125 LB. CLASS

1. Chad Stames, Alexander
2. Ulises Ponce, Rockdale Co.
3. Justin Kerce, Woodland-Sto.
4. Alex Kidd, Whitewater

130 LB. CLASS

1. Gabriel Miller, Tucker
2. Ryan Cecil, Woodland-Car.
3. Ryan Cole, Paulding Co.
4. Austin Penland, Whitewater

135 LB. CLASS

1. Alex Lazor, Union Grove
2. Zack Wolaver, Loganville
3. Jose Robledo, Rockdale Co.
4. Michael Boyette, Harris Co.

140 LB. CLASS

1. Giovante Ortiz, Lovejoy
2. Jake Hensen, Pope
3. Charlton Benjamin, M. Grove
4. Hunter Bailey, Marist

145 LB. CLASS

1. Patrick Anthony, Pope
2. Carey Cloud, Tucker
3. Cameron Collum, S.Effingham
4. Isaac Ruiz, Madison County

152 LB. CLASS

1. Tyler Askey, Northgate
2. Boimah Karmo, Alcovy
3. Josh Burns, Whitewater
4. James Thomas, Mundy's Mill

160 LB. CLASS

1. Brooks Climmons, Pope
2. Hunter Gamble, Union Grove
3. Garrett Henderson, NW Whit.
4. Blake Dorris, Creekview

171 LB. CLASS

1. Randy Roden, Rome
2. Brandon Macklunis, Effin. Co.
3. Jimmy Carmen, Ola
4. Joey Jabachino, Pope

189 LB. CLASS

1. Omar Waller, Woodland-Sto.
2. Demtre Liguori, East Paulding
3. Trevor Stevens, Pope
4. Peyton Glass, Thomas Co. Cen.

215 LB. CLASS

1. Albert Catron, Cass
2. Randy Bolinger, Forsyth Cen.
3. Bret Haley, Sprayberry
4. Ernest Moore, Redan

285 LB. CLASS

1. Grady Jarrett, Rockdale Co.
2. Gabriel Echols, SW DeKalb
3. Eric Badertscher, E. Paulding
4. Matt Mills, Chattahoochee

TEAM SCORES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Pope..... | 136.5 |
| 2. Union Grove..... | 90.5 |
| 3. Cass..... | 83.5 |
| 4. Rockdale County..... | 83 |

CLASS AAA

103 LB. CLASS

1. Tyler Bailey, Eastside
2. Cameron Perry, Gilmer
3. Alema Favors, Arabia Mt.
4. Jeremy White, SE Whitfield

112 LB. CLASS

1. Nick Christakis, Allatoona
2. Justin Karr, Gilmer
3. Chandler Pyke, Woodward
4. Peter Baus, Locust Grove

119 LB. CLASS

1. Brett Yarbrough, Henry Co.
2. Bryce Carr, West Laurens
3. Hayden Nichols, Ringgold
4. Josh Webb, Murray County

125 LB. CLASS

1. Landon Reed, Heritage-Cat.
2. Rhett Hembree, Carrollton
3. Chad Pyke, Woodward
4. Robbie Martin, St. Pius

130 LB. CLASS

1. Caleb Morris, White County
2. Jared Benefield, Locust Grove
3. Jake Hodges, Oconee Co.
4. Tyler Davenport, Gilmer

135 LB. CLASS

1. Preston McCalmon, LaFayette
2. Andy Khair, Woodward
3. Johnny Miller, Oconee Co.
4. Kevin Thompson, Eastside

140 LB. CLASS

1. Zack Brown, Locust Grove
2. Shakeno Jenkins, Stockbridge
3. Brady Hart, LaFayette
4. Reinaldo Torres, Dalton

2011 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PLACE WINNERS

145 LB. CLASS

1. Garrett Gainey, Woodward
2. Dalton Smith, LaFayette
3. Logan Herford, West Hall
4. Derrick Walker, Burke Co.

152 LB. CLASS

1. Dalton Lane, Murray Co.
2. Bryan Sorrows, Locust Grove
3. Vacarro Jones, West Laurens
4. Michael Hilliard, Lumpkin Co.

160 LB. CLASS

1. Jake Johnson, Cartersville
2. Lee Cagle, Lumpkin County
3. Cody Knight, Oconee Co.
4. Luke Rakes, Allatoona

171 LB. CLASS

1. Hunter Barnes, Gilmer
2. Travis Joyce, Carrollton
3. Andy Bratton, Heritage-Cat.
4. Shane Doster, North Hall

189 LB. CLASS

1. Tate Murray, Cartersville
2. Ian Smith, Gilmer
3. Chris Coney, West Laurens
4. Tyler Rapes, Locust Grove

215 LB. CLASS

1. Travis Burton, Lumpkin Co.
2. Bryson Brindle, Allatoona
3. Joseph Ray, Druid Hills
4. Telly Sloan, Henry County

285 LB. CLASS

1. Dalvin Tomlinson, Henry Co.
2. Jamie Starke, Columbus
3. Kenny Sartin, LaFayette
4. Jaleel Brown, Rutland

TEAM SCORES

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Gilmer..... | 151.5 |
| 2. Heritage-Catoosa | 108.5 |
| 3. Locust Grove..... | 103 |
| 4. Henry County..... | 99 |

CLASS AA

103 LB. CLASS

1. Kadin Scoggins, Armuchee
2. Tyler Hadden, Toombs Co.
3. Kyle Kashuba, Jefferson
4. Carter Edwards, Calhoun

112 LB. CLASS

1. Quintri Noel, Spencer
2. James Evans, Dawson Co.
3. Josh Harris, Jefferson
4. James Bearden, Morgan Co.

119 LB. CLASS

1. Braxton Owens, Elbert Co.
2. Isaas Kelly, Jefferson
3. Joey Tamburello, Dade Co.
4. Ryan Kiss, Callaway

125 LB. CLASS

1. Brandon Owens, Elbert Co.
2. Derick Crosby, Spencer
3. Jordan Worthey, Pepperell
4. Austin Williams, Sonoraville

130 LB. CLASS

1. Jacob Akins, Morgan County
2. Malcolm Allen, Dublin
3. Jay Teague, Sonoraville
4. Ryan Shekey, Jackson Co.

135 LB. CLASS

1. Dyllan Green, North Oconee
2. DeKlane Hill, Spencer
3. Jack Dollar, Jefferson
4. Justin Fincannon, Banks Co.

140 LB. CLASS

1. Brandon Siffles, Chattooga
2. Chris Solar, Blessed Trinity
3. Layson West, Sonoraville
4. Hakeem Mobley, Toombs Co.

145 LB. CLASS

1. Cain Finch, Jefferson
2. Jeremy DeBerry, Cook
3. Robert Spradley, Brantley Co.
4. Tim Abbott, North Oconee

152 LB. CLASS

1. Chip Ness, Buford
2. Jake Sherman, Jefferson
3. Jamie Phillips, Sonoraville
4. Nick Simmons, Morgan Co.

160 LB. CLASS

1. Kalin Wilhite, Toombs Co.
2. Zach Feuerbach, GACS
3. Dakota Green, North Oconee
4. Jared Rector, Morgan Co.

171 LB. CLASS

1. Forrest Przybysz, Jefferson
2. Jared Hemmings, GACS
3. Corey Erdoes, Lovett
4. Hunter Ferguson, SE Bulloch

189 LB. CLASS

1. Patrick Emerson, Lovett
2. Zane Holder, Sonoraville
3. Julian Houk, Westminster
4. Eric Palmore, Clarkston

215 LB. CLASS

1. Austin McDonald, Jackson Co.
2. Tyler Smith, Sonoraville
3. Zach Allen, Jefferson
4. Amaldo Herrera, Berrien

285 LB. CLASS

1. Hunter Rich, Lovett
2. Will Patterson, Sonoraville
3. Ben Lanier, Dublin
4. Jack Howard, Blessed Trinity

TEAM SCORES

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jefferson..... | 196.5 |
| 2. Sonoraville | 177 |
| 3. Toombs County | 84.5 |
| 4. Lovett..... | 82 |

CLASS A

103 LB. CLASS

1. Caleb Greer, Landmark Chr.
2. Cody Legg, Commerce
3. Will Jacks, Gordon Lee
4. Cole Kendall, George Walton

112 LB. CLASS

1. Mike Clark, Gordon Lee
2. Jule Peek, Darlington
3. Jesse Eriquezzo, Bremen
4. Conner Fitzpatrick, Wesleyan

119 LB. CLASS

1. Alex Spires, Gordon Lee
2. Zach Young, Bremen
3. Tyler Heath, Treutlen
4. Court Fanning, Holy Inno.

125 LB. CLASS

1. Zach Rindik, Wesleyan
2. Marcus Burden, Social Circle
3. Corey Morgan, Bremen
4. Matt Owens, Whitefield Ac.

130 LB. CLASS

1. Cody Whiddon, Turner Co.
2. William Fanning, Holy Inno.
3. Jacob Bryson, Gordon Lee
4. Lucas Jennings, Darlington

135 LB. CLASS

1. Ryne Eriquezzo, Bremen
2. Cole Wheeler, First Presyb.
3. Ethan West, Gordon Lee
4. Michael Harrison, Irwin Co.

140 LB. CLASS

1. Alex Diamond, Walker
2. Kannon Madden, Bremen
3. Alex Bullard, George Walton
4. Trevor Jones, Gordon Lee

145 LB. CLASS

1. Spencer Jones, Darlington
2. Justin Sperin, George Walton
3. Brody Lively, Bremen
4. Joe Rollins, St. Francis

152 LB. CLASS

1. Elijah Ballard, Athens Christ.
2. Jason Grimes, Holy Inno.
3. Rhett Delk, Wesleyan
4. Voltaire Driver, Bremen

160 LB. CLASS

1. Dustin Branom, Bremen
2. Addison Davis, Commerce
3. Stacey Davis, Holy Innocents'
4. Jimmy Brawner, Sav. Cty. Day

171 LB. CLASS

1. Sam Murphy, Bremen
2. Neil Homer, Athens Christ.
3. David Martin, Wash.-Wilkes
4. Charles Rousseau, Holy Inno.

189 LB. CLASS

1. Chance McClure, Commerce
2. Donald McGraw, Trion
3. Travis King, Bremen
4. Norman Saunders, Social Cir.

215 LB. CLASS

1. Mark Mongell, St. Francis
2. Luke Smith, Walker
3. Jeff Campodonico, Athens Ch.
4. Kevin Black, Turner County

285 LB. CLASS

1. Joe Bexley, Bremen
2. Kevin Brou, Wesleyan
3. Noland Bullard, George Walton
4. Sergio Rojas, Commerce

TEAM SCORES

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Bremen..... | 205 |
| 2. Gordon Lee | 116 |
| 3. Commerce | 96 |
| 4. Wesleyan..... | 92 |



GEORGIA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY



TRADITIONAL

Year	AAAA	AAA	AA	A	
1996	Sequoyah	Westminster	Fitzgerald	Adairsville	
1997	McIntosh	Lakeside, DeKalb	Westminster	Irwin County	
1998	McEachern	Eagle's Landing	Westminster	Walker	
1999	Sequoyah	Troup	Morgan County	Lovett	
2000	Harrison	Starr's Mill	Morgan County	Lovett	
Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A
2001	Starr's Mill	Troup	Lovett	Morgan County	Jefferson
2002	Collins Hill	Ringgold	Dublin	Rockmart	Jefferson
2003	McEachern	Woodland	Lovett	Rockmart	Jefferson
2004	Parkview	Ringgold	Dublin	Dawson County	Jefferson
2005	Collins Hill	Ringgold	Gilmer	West Laurens	Jefferson
2006	Parkview	Ringgold	Cass	West Laurens	Jefferson
2007	McEachern	Stockbridge	West Laurens	LaFayette	Jefferson
2008	Collins Hill	Eastside	Gilmer	LaFayette	Jefferson
2009	Collins Hill	Effingham County	Eastside	Jefferson	Bremen
2010	Collins Hill	Alexander	Gilmer	Jefferson	Bremen
2011	Collins Hill	Pope	Gilmer	Jefferson	Bremen

DUAL

Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	A
2002	McEachern	Ringgold	Lovett	Northgate	Jefferson
2003	McEachern	Woodland	Lovett	Dawson Co	Jefferson
2004	Parkview	LaFayette	Dublin	Dawson Co.	Jefferson
2005	Collins Hill	Ringgold	Gilmer	West Laurens	Jefferson
2006	Parkview	Henry County	Columbus	West Laurens	Jefferson
2007	McEachern	Stockbridge	Gilmer	Wesleyan	Jefferson
2008	Collins Hill	Ringgold	Cass/Henry County (Co-Champions)	LaFayette	Jefferson
2009	Collins Hill	Whitewater	LaFayette	Jefferson	Bremen
2010	Collins Hill	Loganville	Gilmer	Jefferson	Bremen
2011	Collins Hill	Woodland, Cartersville	Gilmer	Jefferson	Bremen

GEORGIA TRADITIONAL WRESTLING TITLES

Jefferson..... 15	Armuchee 4	Hapeville..... 2	Alexander..... 1	Irwin County..... 1
Lovett..... 11	Ringgold..... 4	LaFayette 2	Atkinson County 1	Jonesboro 1
McEachern..... 10	West Laurens..... 4	Macon County 2	Avondale..... 1	Lakeside, DeKalb 1
Rockmart 9	LaGrange 3	Marist 2	Campbell, Smyrna 1	Lithonia..... 1
Troup County..... 9	Morgan County..... 3	McIntosh 2	Cass 1	Lumpkin County 1
Westminster..... 8	North Springs..... 3	Murray County 2	Commerce 1	Milton..... 1
Collins Hill..... 6	Woodward Academy 3	Palmetto..... 2	Cook County..... 1	Pepperell..... 1
Briarcliff..... 6	Chamblee..... 2	Parkview 2	Cross Keys 1	Towers 1
Walker 6	M.D. Collins 2	Redan 2	Dacula..... 1	Pope..... 1
Bremen 5	Dawson County 2	Rockdale County 2	Dykes 1	Wheeler 1
Columbia..... 5	Dublin 2	Sequoyah 2	Eagle's Landing 1	
Fitzgerald..... 5	Eastside 2	Starr's Mill..... 2	Effingham County..... 1	
Gilmer County 4	Feldwood 2	Adairsville..... 1	Harrison..... 1	

RINGGOLD RECOVERS



Wrestling program not pinned by tornado

By Chris Lionetti

On April 27, 2011, an EF-4 tornado struck the town of Ringgold, Ga. The tornado tore through the town, leaving leveled buildings and piles of debris in its wake.

One of the hardest areas hit by the twister was Ringgold High School. While the school suffered damage and was closed for several months, the athletic facilities were even more heavily damaged according to Ringgold High School athletics director Robert Akins. He called the event something that “traumatized all of us and affected everything.”

THE DAMAGE ...

Among the damaged athletic facilities was the fieldhouse used by both the wrestling and cheerleading teams. When the administration visited the campus the day after the storm, they found the roof missing and the sides of the building blown in. Without the roof, the heavy rain was able to penetrate the building and destroy everything inside the fieldhouse. Due to the building being unstable, no one was allowed to enter the fieldhouse. Days later when the building was determined to be stable, insurance adjusters told the Ringgold faculty that everything in the building was contaminated. Everything from mats to wrestling shoes to old trophies were too damaged to be recovered.

Without an adequate place to train in

the offseason, the Tigers’ wrestling team was forced to explore different avenues to complete its workouts this past summer. The team’s options were limited, but the team ended up holding their practices at neighboring Tiger Creek Elementary. While they were able to practice at the school, the Tigers weren’t able to conduct their normal routine. They practiced on the mats for 30 minutes and spent the remainder of the time running the track or doing other auxiliary workouts.

One of the mats the wrestling team practiced on during the summer was donated by Heritage High School. This was one of many gracious acts nearby Heritage High School showed its neighbors. Heritage also allowed the Tigers to use its campus to conduct classes during May of 2011.

While head wrestling coach David Moss and his team were practicing elsewhere, Ringgold principal Sharon Vaughn and assistant superintendent Damon Raines went to work on repairing the school’s facilities. The school had to cover some of the costs but received monetary relief from FEMA, their insurance company and the community. The Ringgold community came together to help the school and produced \$300,000 of donated aid.

“The community is a big reason we are in the position to be rebuilding our facilities”

said Akins. “Ringgold played a huge role in rebuilding our school.”

Some of the money donated from the community came from Georgia wrestling clubs. Bud Hennebaul and the Atlanta Takedown Association was one of the many wrestling associations to come to the aid of the Ringgold wrestling program. “It’s like a huge brotherhood, the wrestling community is,” said Moss when asked about the donations received by the community. Other programs that donated funds to the Ringgold program were the Creekview Takedown Club and the Metro Atlanta Wrestling Officials.

“Things will not be back to normal until the summer,” said the Ringgold athletics director. However, the wrestling fieldhouse has been reconstructed and is being used by the team. The facility has been refurbished with new mats, lockers, desks, weightlifting equipment and other equipment required by the Tigers.

NEW DIGS ...

The previous fieldhouse was only 10-years-old, but the new structure is a vast improvement on its predecessor. Akins called the new facility, “better than it has ever been before, I could not ask for anything better on the high school level.” Moss was also very impressed with the new wrestling fieldhouse. “I want to thank everyone who contributed and prayed for us, it really means a lot.” A member of one of the wrestling clubs that donated to the school, Gary Schaefer believes that the new facility is “better than anything the school has ever had, equipment wise.”

Even the new wrestling facility can’t replace the Ringgold wrestling program’s biggest loss from last year, Adam “Tex” Carroll. Adam would have been a senior on this year’s

team, but was found dead with other family members in his grandmother’s home nearby in Tennessee after the tornado.

“I remember Adam as a young man who always had a smile on his face, who loved Ringgold High School with all his heart, and was loved by the students of Ringgold High School,” said Moss. “The younger wrestlers did not know Adam well, but the upperclassmen knew him well and they miss him.”

Gary Schaefer of the Atlanta Takedown Association believes that Ringgold “has always been one of the better teams in the state when it comes to wrestling,” and the school’s seven state titles are an example of that. Even though this is obviously a difficult year for the program, Moss’ goal is still to bring a state championship to Ringgold High School. The Tigers were 7-3 in the month of January and 20-8 overall this year. Though the team is not at the top of its region, Moss knows his team is not far from being superb again.

“(Ringgold’s team) is young and resilient, and they expect to do well,” said Moss. “The guys have fought real hard this season.”

“This brought us closer as a team; going through this really has brought us all together,” said Akins about the Ringgold tragedy. Moss echoed the athletic director’s statement and believes that it has helped his team push through the season.

This weekend, three Tigers wrestlers will compete for the state championship. Sam Shepard (120), Jake Quarles (195) and Chase Orr (285) carry the banner for Ringgold, and the people of Georgia recognize that these wrestlers represent more than just themselves and their team.

Lionetti can be reached at 404-256-1572.

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