

Friday night ended with #1 Wadsworth opening up a 7 ½ point lead over defending champion St. Edward. Wadsworth has 6 in the finals to 5 for St. Ed's, with a head to head matchup occurring at 135 and 145. The Grizzlies benefitted from a large swing at heavyweight, where their nationally ranked man, Buzzelli, won a tight 3-1 victory, while Eds' heavyweight, Greg Kuhar, lost in OT.

In Division 3, Monroeville has opened up 30 point lead on the strength of their 4 finalists (often known as the Monroeville 4), and 1 more state placer. Chanel has fallen out of the #2 slot, which now belongs to CVCA. Division 2 is still a runaway.

In an epic battle of nationally ranked lightweights, Dean Heil (St. Eds), downed George DiCamillo, 4-2.

At 130 in D2, Bo Jordan defeated nationally ranked Nate Skonieczny, 3-1. A big key to the match was Jordan's ability to grind it out on top, riding Skonieczny for much of the match, relying heavily on legs and spiral series.

The 119 lb D2 final features two nationally ranked competitors: Nick Brascetta (Graham) and Ty Mitch (Aurora). Both looked strong in the semis, with Brascetta earning a 10-4 win and Mitch pinning his opponent.

At 140 in D2, former teammates wrestle for the title. This is a match we've been waiting for and have talked about previously: Felipe Martinez (Graham), vs Tucker Armstrong, who lost his position to Martinez last year (then moved). These guys have met 5 times this year, but I hear the matches have been close.

At 152 in D3, Jake Howe gave up a critical takedown with about 30 seconds to go, to fall behind, 5-4. Then, with about 15 seconds to go, he reversed Prather and rode him out for the exciting 6-5 victory. Howe will try to win his 2nd straight title for Blanchester, when he faces a tough Kurtis Jefferis, from Barnesville. Jefferis physically dominated his opponent in a low-scoring, 3-0 bout. Jefferis rode his opponent, Fullenkamp, for much of the match.

Mantua Crestwood senior Paige Nemec was defeated in consolations, ending her bid to become the first female to place in state in wrestling here in Ohio. She lost, 3-1, to Fee from Mentor Lake Catholic, but should be commended for her strong showing in a tough field.

We have Semifinals pictures in the section below. Remember to click on the pic to get a larger version.

-Randy Simpson