

2011 State Wrestling Tournament Final Recap

History Is Made.

Never before has any school had Four 4-time State Champions. Never before has a school crowned Three 4Xers in the same year. Today, History has been made. Monroeville's powerful trio fulfilled their mission and won their 4th state titles.

First up was Hunter Stieber at 135 - and he wasn't up for very long. Hunter pinned his opponent in one minute flat, wrapping up his 4th state title and joining his brother, Logan, in this elite category, who accomplished the feat 2 years ago.

Immediately following Hunter was Cam Tessari at 140, who won, 11-4. Finally Chris Phillips won the 171 lb title with a decisive 16-7 major decision, and the celebration began. The State of Ohio brought the three champions out to Center Mat to recognize them, and then brought Logan out to once again unite the Monroeville Four. It was indeed a special moment. 4 kids, who wrestled together for about 10 years, from youth on up, finishing together as State Champions.

The division 3 team race suddenly became a lot closer. Yesterday, I prematurely announced this race to be over, when Bedford Chanel opened up what appeared to be an insurmountable 25 1/2 point lead. However, CVCA came charging back, only to fall short by less than 10 points. CVCA's future is bright - they only lose 1 point scorer from this year's team, and should challenge for the title next year.

Overall, some greatly exciting finals matches and a few upsets as well. Tyler Heminger, 119 lber from Northmor, has a strange and unfortunate link to the Monroeville phenomenon. Heminger has made the finals all 4 years, only to fall short the first three years to Tessari, and Hunter Stieber (twice). Heminger, who won tonight's finals match with a fall, has the distinction of only having lost to 4 time state champs in the state tournament. That's probably a record of some sort. Heminger also accomplished another feat - pinning his way through the state tournament. His finals opponent, Nick Goebel of Elmwood, was pinned in the 2nd period. Earlier in the year, Heminger won a 1 point match over Goebel at the prestigious Medina Invitational.

Heminger's teammate, Alex Carroll, shocked the wrestling world by charging into the finals after a 4th place district performance, where he had to defeat an opponent who had majored him at sectionals, just to make it to the state. Carroll's upset bid fell short, however, against Johnny Maticic. Still, a great run.