

BLAIR WRESTLING

February 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Blair Wrestling,

Happy New Year to everyone! Here are some updates from our recent competitions, which have kicked off the new year on a strong note.

Armbar Duals in Albany, NY

We traveled to Albany for four dual meets, where we wrestled a variety of competitors. January is dual season, and it was great to see so many of our kids get fired up for one another's matches and to get some new guys out on the mat and in the action as well.

Here are the results:

Blair vs. Monroe-Woodbury: Win 65-3

Blair vs. Iona Prep: Win 60-12

Blair vs. Plainedge: Win 65-0

Blair vs. St. Francis: Win 52-12

St. Francis is always the top team in New York, and the match was highlighted by our ninth-grade heavyweight, TJ Kellas '28, beating the top heavyweight in the state in dominating fashion.

Our girls wrestled alongside the guys in an individual freestyle tournament. Corynne McNulty '27, Victoria Carbonaro '27 and Marie Sharp '28 all took first place in their weight class. Sela Rozov '27 took second.

St. Edward's and Lake Highland Prep Duals in Orlando, FL

Next, we traveled to Orlando, Florida, to wrestle two of the top teams in the country. We had to approach both matches with a mix of technical and strategic preparation. Lake Highland brought a very experienced and senior group, and so our young guys in the middle of the lineup met some difficult challenges. I do think it was a good experience for them, as this will show them the level of fight that's needed to improve. Finishing attacks is incredibly important, and we got exposed in that match. We will definitely learn from it and come back stronger.

We had a strong match with St. Edward's, with impressive wins from Ryan Meier '26 and Barry Norman '26.

Lake Highland: Loss 25-38

St. Edward's: Win 38-18

Eastern States—Girls

The girls wrestled in the Eastern States the same weekend as the Orlando Duals, and three of our girls won individual titles. Corynne, Marie and Victoria all shined again, winning three individual titles.

Wyoming Seminary Dual

We came up short at home against Wyoming Seminary, losing 21 to 39. There were some critical, tight matches that did not go our way—at 106, 132, 165, 190 and 285—but we will learn from them and be ready when we hit them again at National Preps. "Grit" is a word we use and emphasize a lot, and given that these guys are young, we know that they will grow, develop and meet the challenge. Both the coaches and wrestlers are committed to working hard and improving with every match. A little more grit reverses these outcomes, and so I have to do a better job as a coach, and these guys need to keep working.

The girls wrestled in some individual matches. Marie Sharp pulled off an exciting victory at the buzzer to win 8-6 against a veteran opponent. It was nice to see her tough out the win at the end. Victoria Carbonaro had a tough loss in her match, but she will have an opportunity to bounce back and turn it around at National Preps.

Tri-Dual: North Hunterdon and Belmont Hill

We were able to head to North Hunterdon in New Jersey to compete against two programs that have a rich wrestling history.

Blair vs. North Hunterdon: Win 62-12

Blair vs. Belmont Hill: Win 63-7

Upcoming Matches

Delbarton (at Delbarton): Thursday, January 30, at 7 p.m.

MAPL: date, time and location to be determined

St. Peter's Prep (home): Saturday, February 8, at 2 p.m.

Our seniors will be honored at the St. Peter's match. Following the match, we hope you will join us for a social at Sharpe House on campus. Here is the announcement and invitation to the event:

I hope you are able to come to campus for Blair vs. St. Peter's Prep wrestling match on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. The senior wrestlers will be celebrated prior to the match so get there early!

Head of School, Peter G. Curran P'27 '27 would like to invite you for cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres after the match from 4 to 6 p.m. at Sharpe House. We look forward to celebrating together with current parents, past parents, alumni, and friends of the wrestling program. Registration is required (link below).

Event: Blair's Wrestling Reception – RSVP BY TUESDAY, 2/4

Location: Sharpe House

Time: 4-6 p.m. (match begins at 2 p.m. in the Performance Gym)

Dress code: Casual—wear your Blair Gear!

Register today: www.blair.edu/wrestling-reception

Special Note about the Wrestling Endowment

Blair Academy's storied wrestling program, with roots tracing back to 1919, is taking an exciting step forward with the creation of the Blair Academy Wrestling Endowment. This initiative aims to sustain the program's legacy of excellence while meeting the growing needs of today's student-athletes. If you haven't done so already, please join us in supporting Blair wrestling by visiting www.blair.edu/supportwrestling.

We look forward to cheering on the team together,

Coach Gitomer

