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## **JFK Senior Solaris Paul Makes History as Paterson's First State Wrestling Champion**

*Paterson Public Schools athlete wins 2025 NJSIAA state title.*

**Paterson, NJ** (March 14, 2025) - History was made at Boardwalk Hall as Kennedy High School senior Solaris Paul became the first student from a Paterson city school to win a New Jersey State Wrestling Championship. Competing in the 165-pound division, Paul dominated the finals with a 7-1 victory over Newton/Kittatinny's Paige DeCaro to claim the 2025 NJSIAA state title.

Paul's relentless drive and unwavering commitment carried her through a season of hard-fought battles, concluding in a performance that displayed both her technical skill and mental toughness.

"Solaris' hard work, perseverance, and commitment to the sport is what enabled her to win a state title. Early in her wrestling career, Solaris was always able to shake off a loss and improve from her mistakes. She stuck with the sport for four years and just kept getting better every year. She did not let any distractions get in the way of her progress," said Kennedy Coach Jason Brandt.

Reflecting on her historic win, Paul said, "It's not about me, it's about the legacy I leave behind. The support I have received from my coaches, teachers, classmates, and the entire Paterson community is something that can't be measured. I just want to thank everyone who has supported me on this journey."

Paul's landmark achievement represents a major milestone for women's wrestling in Paterson and will serve as an inspiration for future athletes. She hopes to see more young girls from the city take up the sport, encouraging them to "never believe that you cannot achieve your dreams. If there is something you want, you have to work hard for it and never give up."

Kennedy High School Principal Joanne Riviello and Athletic Director Scott Durham celebrated Paul's success at a school-wide congratulatory ceremony. In recognition of her groundbreaking accomplishment, Paul will also be honored by Superintendent Dr. Laurie W. Newell and the Paterson Board of Education at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Newell praised Paul's victory, stating, "Solaris Paul has made history not just for herself, but for the entire Paterson community. Her dedication, perseverance, and excellence on the mat embody the spirit of our student-athletes. She is an inspiration to young women across our district, proving that with hard work and determination, anything is possible."



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As the first state wrestling champion in the history of Paterson Public Schools, Solaris Paul has paved the way for the next generation of female athletes, and her legacy will continue to shape the future of wrestling in the city for years to come.

### **About Paterson Public Schools**

Paterson Public Schools serves over 26,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 70.6% of the student population is Hispanic, 16.3% are Black, 6.5% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit [www.paterson.k12.nj.us](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us)

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