

# BLAIR

## WRESTLING

### December 2025 Newsletter

#### *Dear Friends of Blair Wrestling,*

It was another busy weekend for the Bucs! The team is finishing up midterm exams and on top of that, they are wrestling week in and week out against high-level competition. One group attended the Robin Leff Tournament in South Jersey wrestling some of the best New Jersey competition, and another group was at the Ironman Tournament in Hudson, Ohio.

#### **Highlights from the Robin Leff**

Anthony Curlo '28: Anthony won the tournament at 113 lbs., beating a tough Logan Forgatch, who is one of the top New Jersey wrestlers from Parsippany Hills, 4-0. Anthony went 4-0 on the day.

Wyatt Stauffer '28: Wyatt dominated the field at 120 lbs., tech falling or pinning his way to the finals, and then beating another top Jersey wrestler, Cade Collins, 4-0. Wyatt is starting to make some serious gains in his wrestling, and he's been learning a lot each week.

Eddie George '28: Eddie also dominated the field at 126 lbs., tech falling, majoring or pinning his way to the finals. He beat a tough Reid Buzby from North Hunterdon in the finals 14-2.

#### Other results:

Luke Hosonitz '28: 1-2 on the weekend

Ronan Montes '27: 1-1 on the weekend

Vedwin Nivas '28: 4-1 on the weekend, third place

EW Franklin '28: 3-2 on the weekend

Blake Petersen '29: 0-2 on the weekend

Jack Powell '29: 2-2 on the weekend

Oliver Schwartz '28: 0-2 on the weekend

Dylan Emond '27: 1-2 on the weekend

Michael Lynch '26: 1-2 on the weekend

#### **Results from the Ironman**

We finished second at the tournament as a team, and I thought our effort was strong, particularly in how everyone supported and built one another up. This was especially evident on Day 2.

Jack Anello '29, competing at 106 lbs., came onto the national scene this weekend defeating the No. 1 seed in the quarterfinals. After a loss in the semifinals, Jack then came back on the backside before falling in the third-place match. Jack is straight up tough and loves the fight that is required to be a successful wrestler. There are specific areas, such as controlling elbow ties and improving his work from the bottom position, that he will work on this week to prepare for Beast of the East.

Eric Bocanegra '27 at 113 lbs. had a strong tournament, losing to the No. 3 seed, Turner Ross, in the prequarters 5-2. Eric rebounded with a slew of wins on the backside before falling just short in the round of 12. With 20 seconds left in the match, Eric appeared to secure the winning takedown, but it was not called by the official, which was understandably frustrating. Eric will learn from this and continue to improve, and his progress is evident.

Mikey Batista '27 took third place at the Ironman at 120 lbs., knocking off a bunch of top wrestlers in the country along the way, including Cameron Sontz from Delbarton in the third-place match. Mikey lost a close one in the semifinals in overtime to the eventual champion from Illinois. His scrambling abilities and mat wrestling were strong all weekend. Mikey knows that his offensive output and shot count needs to pick up, and that will be a focus this week for him.

Finnegan O'Brien '28, 126 lbs., won his first match and then was disqualified in the prequarters against the No. 2 seed, and eventual champion, from Ohio. Finn was leading the match with 10 seconds remaining when he was disqualified for an alleged "biting" infraction. This experience will be a learning opportunity for Finn. Rather than wrestling to hold on to a narrow lead, he



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can continue to find more ways to score, build the lead and take matches out of the hands of the referees. This was an extremely tough situation for Finn to deal with, but he handled it impressively. Within minutes after the match and being disqualified, he continued to support and help all his teammates through the rest of the tournament.

Vin Anello '27 took third place at 132 lbs. Vin has emerged as a leader on this team, and his reattacks and riding have been a dominant part of his wrestling. Vin had a large task in taking on one of the Raney brothers in the semifinals, but he was right there throughout the match. That bout exposed some areas on the bottom he will work on this week. It was good to see how well he bounced back after the loss.

Ryan Rios '26, 138 lbs., had a decent start to his senior year, going 3-2 at the tournament. He knocked off the No. 8 seed on the backside. Ryan has a lot of natural gifts, though he has been hurt for much of his high school career. You will continue to see Ryan improve each week. He is also learning about the power of being involved with the team.

Weston Borgers '28, 144 lbs., went 1-2 on the weekend, nearly upsetting the No. 7 seed in the second round. He then lost to another Ohio wrestler immediately after. The weekend served as a valuable wake-up call for Weston, learning that the Ironman is always tough and being focused for every second of the match is critical. Weston always works hard, and he will continue to improve and get ready for Beast of the East.

Benji Koch '26, 150 lbs., had a tough weekend, losing to two really strong opponents. Benji always fights and competes, and he will continue to learn and grow from this experience.

Joe Schinder '27 earned his first Ironman win this weekend at 157 lbs., which is a big step for him. As many of you know, Joe was sidelined for much of the summer and fall due to surgery. Joe has lofty goals and he wants to wrestle in a way that he's proud of. While the results this weekend weren't what he hoped for, you will see him make some adjustments this week as he prepares for the Beast of the East.

Barry Norman '26, 165 lbs., finally got on the podium at Ironman, taking eighth place. Barry continues to learn and improve, and he will be looking to win his first Beast of the East title. Understanding the importance of mat wrestling is something we will work on this week with Barry.

Ryan Meier '26, 175 lbs., had a breakout performance, knocking out some of the top competition throughout the tournament. In the seventh-place match, Ryan wrestled a competitor from Lake Highland Prep. Ryan's top wrestling was awesome, setting up a beautiful attack that allowed him to stack his opponent on his head for the fall. Ryan is having success right now because he's learning to love wrestling.

Salah Tsarni '27, 190 lbs., took fourth place at the Ironman. He had a frustrating prequarters match, creating several leg attacks but struggling to finish, and the official was not calling stalling. Overall, Salah was more offensive throughout this tournament, which is something he is working on. In addition, he came away with a clear understanding of how critical bottom wrestling is to success. Salah had a great win against the opponent who had previously beat him at the World Team Trials.

TJ Kellas '28, 215 lbs., rattled off two wins at the tournament. TJ continues to focus on getting more physical in his matches. TJ has leaned out his body, and he's learning how to train at a higher level each day.

Cael Mielnik '27, 285 lbs., wrestled in his first tournament since last year's Ironman and is steadily getting his timing back. Wrestling in a tough weight class, he took eighth place and showed a ton of grit to earn a place on the podium. Cael is pure heart and is emerging as one of our leaders. You will see him improve each week.

Overall, I was pleased with our second-place team performance at Ironman. Technically, we have a ways to go, but our wrestlers competed with pride. They are starting to buy into the idea that if they work harder on helping prepare their teammates, they will do better individually and as a team. We obviously want to win every single time, and I think we would have had a real shot to win if the disqualification didn't happen, and the takedown call was

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awarded for Eric Bocanegra in the round of 12. But, that is the way it goes sometimes. With all of that, Blair had the most placewinners of any team in the tournament.

Next Event: Beast of the East

## **Below Again Is our January 10 Event:**

Important Info for the January 10 Quad from the Blair community:

Kick off the new year strong and mark your calendar for Saturday, January 10, 2026—Blair will be hosting a Quad. Before the matches begin, join us for some “Takedown Treats”—quick breakfast bites at Blair wrestling’s morning reception. Fuel up, cheer on the team and start the day right! We look forward to celebrating together with alumni, current parents, past parents and friends of the wrestling program. Registration is required for the reception.

### Details

Event: Blair Wrestling Morning Reception  
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026  
Location: Center for Health and Well-Being  
Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Dress code: Casual—wear your Blair gear!  
*Quad begins at 12:00 p.m. in the Performance Gym*

### Match Times:

12:00 p.m. Blair vs. St. Christopher’s School  
2:00 p.m. Blair vs. St. Edward High School  
4:00 p.m. Blair vs. Lake Highland Preparatory

Register today: [www.blair.edu/wrestling-reception](http://www.blair.edu/wrestling-reception)

## **Special Note About the Wrestling Endowment**

Blair Academy’s esteemed wrestling program, with a legacy dating back to 1919, has established the Blair Academy Wrestling Endowment. This initiative is designed to preserve the program’s tradition of excellence while addressing the evolving needs of today’s student-athletes. We invite you to support Blair wrestling by contributing to this important effort! Join us in sustaining this proud legacy: [www.blair.edu/supportwrestling](http://www.blair.edu/supportwrestling).

Best,  
Ross Gitomer

