

# THE AAAAA WRESTLING REPORT: 2010 STATE TOURNAMENT EDITION

By Scott McDonald (AKA Dr. Truth)

You should know the routine by now: There are no experts here, and this is not the gospel. We have tried to use the data available to us, but please keep in mind that this report is nothing more than an opinion. In the end, I stand by the predictions and will be held accountable for them. Nonetheless, the primary purpose of this AAAAA Wrestling Report is to serve as a resource for those attending the AAAAA Tournament from across the State, to help identify the many superb wrestlers who compete in Class AAAAA and to lend some perspective to the State Tournament. This year we are writing the report with NO SECTIONALS so it was a little more difficult. We used Head to Head match ups, common opponents and previous years experience as a baseline, every now and then we went with a gut-feel. We hope you enjoy it. Before we get too far along I need to recognize the guys who made this possible. Chris Stanley, there is no way I could have done this without your knowledge, your dedication, never-ending opinions and organization skills, you're the best stat-man I've ever met and Frank Bennett for pushing me forward to do it again. This is a group effort and I say Thank You for all others who sent me pm's and emails like cnsnuck and The Wrestling Expert for your dedication. Thank you to Al Blashaw, Bud Hennebaul and Cliff Fretwell it seems every year you guys find a different and better way to promote Georgia Wrestling, Ross Copeland for cutting nearly 8 hours off of the time to get this done. Of course I can not write this report without mention of The Master and greatest Wrestling Prognosticator as well as Wrestling Writer and Ambassador of the sport in Georgia Mr. Bob Berg. Your advice, friendship and style have given me the motivation and vision to keep this tradition that you started, alive. Now let's fire this baby up and get down to business.

This year has been absolutely crazy. We have had everything from Collins Hill making the Top 10, almost knocking off then #1 Blair. At least 5 new 200 Win Club Members, St.James goes undefeated as well as Martin of Roswell at 112, Pittman of South Forsyth and Schneider of Milton. We have watched the emergence of Aiken-Phillips as our next "Drake", with an undefeated season of his own. Then to top it all off, we get snowed out of Sectionals where you all but guarantee the 2 best wrestlers get separated at state and we end up with 32 Man Formula Brackets and some early match ups that will be tough. Through it all 2009-2010 has turned out to be the year of adversity and if you can overcome those road blocks, you will find yourself on the podium come February 20, 2010.

Here are the teams most likely to be in the hunt for the Top 8 spots at The Traditional State Tournament title, followed by a weight class by weight class assessment:

## The Teams Most Likely to be in the Hunt for The Top 8 Spots at The Traditional State Tournament

Camden County (2009 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Kennesaw Mountain (2009 – 8 <sup>th</sup> )
Centennial (2009 – 5 <sup>th</sup> )	Parkview (2009 – 11 <sup>th</sup> )
Collins Hill (2009 – 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Pope (2009 – 6 <sup>th</sup> )
Lassiter (2009 – 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Valdosta (2009-13 <sup>th</sup> )

[teams in alphabetical order]

**A Quick Comment:** A few months back I finished reading a book titled **FYI-For Your Improvement**. This book is a guide for Development and Coaching of employees and managers. In the book there is a section titled "Building Effective Teams". In this section of the book it talks about The Map for Building an Effective Team and I quote, "Everyone would enjoy being on a dream team. That's a group of performers, each skilled in his/her own specialties, pulling together accomplishing greater things. The key to successful team building lies in identifying roles, jobs, tasks, rewards and objectives with the team, not with individuals". As I read that section of the book, I can't help but think about this years All-Star cast of talented wrestlers at Collins Hill and the Coaching Staff that made this Dream Team/Dream Season come together. Pope has the firepower and depth to run with Collins Hill, but the brackets were not very friendly to the Hounds early on. Camden has spent most of the year in Florida considering they are only 5 miles away from the state line. The early rounds look very good for Camden and they should earn plenty of points the first 2 rounds, it's how they finish the quarter finals that will position them as a team. Kennesaw Mountain should have several placers and a couple of finalist, they will need solid performances from the "unknowns" and they will be taking a Top 4 Trophy back to the mountain. Nipping at their heels will be Centennial, Parkview, Valdosta and Lassiter for the final Top 5 spot. As we analyze the brackets, it appears the battle for team placements of 2 thru 5 could be won or lost in the quarter finals as these teams do have a few head to head match ups, with the winner getting the bonus points of a guarantee podium spot. While there are teams like Pope, Camden, Kennesaw Mountain, Parkview, Centennial, Valdosta and Lassiter putting up stiff competition it's the Team Depth from 103-285 that will prevail and give the AWN #9 Ranked Eagles another AAAAA State Title, there fifth Traditional Title in 9 years and third title in a row and there not done yet. Now that we have your blood pumping with some team talk, let's get down to the meat and potatoes of why we are really here.

## **2010 AAAAA 103 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Ferguson (10) Collins Hill (KOH 1<sup>st</sup> 2009)  
Pelletier (9) Lassiter

**The Storyline:** As we kick off this years report we have a very talented group at 103. Collins Hill and McEachern have dominated the 103 weight class since 2000. Between the two schools they have placed a wrestler at 103 every year since 2000 except for 2008. They have amassed 11 State Placers including 8 State Champions and two of the four time AAAAA State Champions that started their High School careers at 103, Tyler Parker in 2002 and Brandon Westerman in 2006 & 2007. With that being said it appears we are set for these two schools to do it again and a few new schools make their 103 state placement debut. Let's take a look at Ferguson the Area 7 Champion from Collins Hill. After spending his freshman season as the back up to State Champ Partridge he has been spectacular this year, he has 4 loses on the season all coming out of state, 5<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba in Kansas City. He pinned the #8 ranked wrestler in the country Hvolbeck from Blair Academy, has an impressive 4-0 win over AAAA Front Runner Hale from Loganville and a 5-4 win over Marionneaux of South Forsyth. Drew has amassed a 41-4 record from a brutal schedule as he rolls into The Gwinnett Arena with one thought in mind. His projected opponent may come as a surprise to some people and after a long debate we have chosen the Area 6 Champion Pelletier. He was 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mohawk, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fayette losing only to AAAA Stud Hale and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County losing to Sheppard 3-1. He will have very tough matches from the second round forward, getting the Wallace/Higginbotham winner, then the Armstrong/Mangin winner before having to deal with the incredible size of Marionneaux or Thomas. The road to the state title this year will run through Gwinnett County and in order to win you must beat Ferguson. When the road crew gathers up all their equipment and head back home Ferguson will be leading the way with his first AAAAA State Championship. Now let's take a look at the guys attempting to make a detour in Ferguson's route.

## **103 Placement Favorites**

Sheppard (11) McEachern  
Marionneaux(12) South Forsyth (103-sq '09)  
Thomas (12) Brookwood

Armstrong () Camden  
Webb (10) Redan (103-sq '09)  
Buchanan (12) East Coweta (103-sq '09)

Sheppard of McEachern, the Area 5 Champion spent most of the year at 112 where he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Morgan County Tournament and dropped to 103 where he took out Miles, Curry, Pelletier and Coltek on his way to the Cobb County Championship. While Sheppard may not have a huge highlight reel like Ferguson, don't underestimate what he's capable of pulling off, we feel his Semi-Final match with Ferguson will determine his finish of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> at this years tournament. Marionneaux like Sheppard has spent most of his time this year at 112 where he won the Santa Slam, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Hook Em Holiday Bash losing to Kelly of Jefferson and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Raider Rumble losing to Lutz. His 5-4 loss to Ferguson was very impressive and has earned him a solid podium position this year. Armstrong comes in as the Area 3 Champion and has wins over Mangin 9-4 and Colteck 6-4 and with a good run Armstrong could very easily work his way into a showdown with Marionneaux for the topside finals position. We head to Area 2 for our next 103, returning State Qualifier Webb from Redan. As the Area 2 Champion he was 1<sup>st</sup> at Raider Rumble, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Loganville losing to Hale, 1<sup>st</sup> at Dekalb County, 5<sup>th</sup> at a fairly deep Fayette Christmas Tournament, 1<sup>st</sup> at Lovejoy and has a pin over McCall of Tift and a win over Wallace of Northview. The Webb vs. Sheppard qtrs match will play a huge role in the podium this year as the loser will have the toughest route through the cons. Thomas is another big 103 in the bracket and will be really tough late in the tournament. The Area 8 Champion was 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett at 112 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brookwood at 112. The Thomas/Marionneaux match will be between two of the biggest 3 pounders in the tournament. We round out the "Little Guys" with Buchanan of East Coweta. The Senior Area 4 Champion took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The CRWA Tournament losing to Prescott of Alexander in the finals. His DNP at Fayette hurts, but the bracket was very deep at 103. When the dust settles on 103 don't be surprised to see Coltek, Higginbotham, Mangin, McCall or Wallace making a run to make us look bad. Let's take a look down the road at the 112lb guys.

## **2010 AAAAA 112 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Partridge (11) Collins Hill (103- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ)  
Rickman (9) Harrison (Kids State Champ)

**The Storyline:** In the movie and true story The Perfect Storm, 3 huge storms all came together to form one of the most powerful storms in history. There is a Perfect Storm coming to the Gwinnett Arena next weekend in the 112 lb weight class and it carries three

very powerful blasts. This weight class has the potential to really backfire and upsets are looming very close by. We get the winds in motion with the returning state champion Partridge of Collins Hill, he has been incredible again this year with an Area 7 Title and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at Toshiba in Kansas City. He is a returning State Champion and his losses coming from out of state opponents. He has a 20-5 Tech Fall over Sharp a 6-2 win over Sharp and a 8-1 win over Cross. It appears this part of the storm is gaining momentum as it approaches The Gwinnett Arena. As we look to the West for the second part of this trifecta it comes from the Area 5 Champion and McCallie runner-up Rickman from Harrison. He is a multi Kids State Champ and took 1<sup>st</sup> at Beef O' Brady, 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County at 119 with a decision over Murdock of Kennesaw Mountain, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Heart of Dixie losing to St.James and 1<sup>st</sup> at The Harrison Invitational. His 1-0 win over Lutz has put him in position for the finals where he could meet up with Partridge for a fantastic final. They both will need to be perfect as Partridge will have to deal with Lutz and Rickman should have Martin in the Semi's. As the storms blow over and the rains subside we will not break the cardinal rule and go against a returning State Champ in this bracket. Partridge calms the waters with his second title in a row and Collins Hill has gone back to back in the first two weight classes. The forecast is not clear yet, let's meet the rest of the thunder boomers.

### **112 Placement Favorites**

Lutz (10) Etowah (103- 3<sup>rd</sup> '09)  
Martin (12) Roswell (119- sq '09)  
Sharp (10) Valdosta (103-sq '09)

Bullock (11)Dacula (103-6<sup>th</sup>'09)  
Anderson (9) Milton (Kids State Champ)  
Cross (12) North Forsyth (103-sq '09)

The returning state placer Lutz has been very solid again this year with 1<sup>st</sup> at The Raider Rumble and 1<sup>st</sup> at The Mohawk. He has a 12-1 win over Marionneaux at Raider Rumble and his only losses coming at the hands of Rickman. Lutz will eventually meet up with Partridge in the bracket and the winner will get Rickman in the finals. Lutz definitely has the ability to make the finals and one more shot at Rickman but he will have to be on his game against Partridge to achieve that goal. Martin is the Area 6 Champion and has done nothing but win all year long. He is undefeated coming into the tournament. The Roswell senior took 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan County and The John Smith tournaments. His 32-0 record has been a rather quiet one this year, but his semi's match up with Rickman will be one of the highlights of the round, don't be shocked if this guy makes the finals, it will not be an upset. Sharp comes in as the Area 1 Champ, 1<sup>st</sup> at The Wildcat, The Hornet and The Blue Devil but his 2 losses to Partridge indicate that he may have a tough time reaching the finals unless he gets help along the way from Carter of Greenbrier over Rickman. Bullock was a state placer in 2009 6<sup>th</sup> at 103 where he lost his first match at state and went back through the con's before losing to Sloan and Sanders. He is the Area 8 Champion and took 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett County, 4<sup>th</sup> at George Thompson and 2<sup>nd</sup> at East Metro losing both times to AAAA Defending State Champ Abrahamsen of Heritage 3-2 and 16-5. We have Lutz sending Bullock to the con's where he actually makes a run back through to place before hitting the Rickman/Martin loser. The Milton Freshman Anderson comes in as a runner up to Martin in Area 6 and we have him knocking off the Area 3 Champ Byrd from Camden County. Anderson is a kid's state champ that finished 1<sup>st</sup> at John Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Harrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Santa Slam and 5<sup>th</sup> at Fayette. He has wins over Buchanan, Munsey and a 6-4 win over Thurmond of Jefferson. His match up in the cons with Bullock will be a good one and he could sneak into a top 6 with a win. Cross wraps up this weight class as a returning State Qualifier. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fayette County and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hook Em Holiday Bash and holds a pin win over Byrd from Camden County and a 10-1 decision over Buchanan which should be his second round opponent. Cross can guarantee a podium position but it will all depend on his Quarter Finals match up with the undefeated Martin from Roswell. As we depart this group keep in mind that weather is very hard to predict and anything could happen when The Perfect Storm comes together, so don't be surprised if Harmon, Duncan or Byrd make a few rain clouds of their own. "ONWARD JAMES TO 119", or should I say "St.James".

### **2010 AAAA 119 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

St. James (12) Centennial (112- 1<sup>st</sup> /Region Champ; 09, 112-2<sup>nd</sup>/Region Champ; 08, '07 103-sq)  
Wilson (12) Roswell (112-2<sup>nd</sup> '09)

**The Storyline:** Monopoly is a fun game to play if you get the right group to participate. But when the same 2 players keep winning all the time, it could get to be boring for the other players. While the entire state was looking forward to a St. James vs Spradlin showdown at state this year, unfortunately that won't happen. BSJ will have his swan song with a third trip to the finals and two state titles when his high school career closes out. To say he has been a top performer for the past two years is an understatement, he has been TOTALLY DOMINANT in all areas of the sport. Going undefeated this year, he has won in state and out of state and has made it look easy. The Area 6 Champion and returning State Champion took top honors at The Mohawk, The Tiger Holiday in North Carolina, North Metro and The Heart of Dixie where he beat Rickman twice and Alabama State Champ Simpson twice. He is one of the most recent 200 Win Club members and is poised to defend his state title again. His projected opponent in the finals, well it's someone he knows pretty well. Wilson from Roswell was BSJ's opponent at Area Finals this year as well as last years State Finals opponent at 112, where St.James beat him 12-2 and in all probability his State Finalist opponent again this year. Wilson spent most of

the year at 125 where he took 1<sup>st</sup> at The John Smith Invitational and has pins over Mosley, Stringer, Krantz, Shaw and Anderson. He has suffered 2 losses this year, one to Nickles 2-0 and to St.James 8-2 at area. As we close out this continuous game of Monopoly these two guys seem to have on Finals Matches it will be St.James going wire to wire, landing on Free Parking, Passing Go and collecting the Gold as his reward. Let's see if anyone has a Get Out of Jail Free Card tucked away in their singlet.

### **119 Placement Favorites**

Mosley (10) Shiloh (112-sq '09)  
Epps (12) North Gwinnett  
Hewatt (11) Milton

Doyague (11) Collins Hill (KOH Champ '09 103-sq '08)  
Levy (11) Etowah  
Murdock (10) Kennesaw Mountain (119-sq '09)

While our top two are sprinting around the Monopoly board these 6 guys have been steadily collecting up property in the form of medals and Area Championships. Mosley is the Area 8 Champion and a returning State Qualifier from 2009 at 112. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Lovejoy and Brookwood and was 4<sup>th</sup> at Gwinnett County. He has split wins with Epps this year, taking the latest of their two meetings. His quarter finals match up with Wilson will send him down to the cons for a match up with Murdock in the con qrts, the winner there makes the podium. Epps is the Area 8 Champion as well as the 2008 Area Champ and as previously mentioned has split with Mosley. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett but he catches BSJ in the quarter finals and his trip to the cons will match him up with Levy from Etowah. But don't underestimate Epps as Coach Daniel and Potter know how to prepare the lightweights for the state tournament. Hewatt comes in as a surprise too many but with a first round win over Nelson of East Coweta and he makes the semis and another match with St.James. Hewatt took 1<sup>st</sup> at Fayette County, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Harrison and has wins over Shaw, Maresca and Summey. Doyague seems to have been around forever but he's only a junior. He took 4<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba, has beaten Cross 12-2 and Cleary 8-0. He went 4-2 at Powerade and suffered a 22-6 tech fall to St.James and 6-3 loss to AAAA State Champ Starnes of Alexander. Levy is the Area 5 Champ and for that he is rewarded with a second round match with Wilson of Roswell. Levy spent most of the year at 125 where he took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Raider Rumble and 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Mohawk and has a win over Murdock in the area finals. If he loses to Wilson his road to the podium will be long, but we believe he can get through and take home a medal. Murdock was a State Qualifier at 119 in 2009 and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County losing 1-0 to Rickman in the finals and 5<sup>th</sup> at The Jarzynka. Murdock's second round match up with BSJ sends him to the cons where he will eventually have to face Mosley to place. As we wrap up this bracket don't fall asleep on Krantz, Anderson or Summey as these competitors will make it fun to watch. We are clear for take off on runway 125, so let's roll on.

### **2010 AAAAA 125 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Mitchell (11) Collins Hill (119- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ'09; 112-3<sup>rd</sup>/Region Champ'08; '07 1<sup>st</sup> 103 AA)  
Nickles (12) Pope (112-5<sup>th</sup> '09)

**The Storyline:** As the Director of Sales for Gulfstream Aerospace I know a little bit about airplanes and the key to being the best in corporate aviation is having the ability to say "Our airplane fly's Higher, Faster, Farther and is more Luxurious than any other corporate aircraft, period". When it comes to Flying High, Being Fast, Going Farther and doing it all In Style and you relate that to wrestling, well you've just described TJ Mitchell. Mitchell took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Toshiba losing to nationally ranked Alan Waters, 7<sup>th</sup> at Powerade losing to Choate of Blue Mountain and he went 4-0 at The Final Four. He is the Area 7 Champion and his last in state loss was to St.James in 2008. Nickles will make a great finals opponent in regard to the Pope vs Collins Hill chase for the Team Trophy. Nickles was 1<sup>st</sup> at McCallie and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brecksville, Ohio losing to McCombs of Maryville in the finals. He has a pin loss to Mitchell and 4-1 loss to Bradtmueller. But he holds a 1-0 win over Herrera and is the Cobb County Champion as well as Area 6 Champion. In the end Mitchell will fly First Class over the competition and land in Blacksburg with 3 State Titles around his neck. Air Traffic Control has many more high flyers whizzing by at Mach Speed, so let's take a look.

### **125 Placement Favorites**

Herrera (12) Kennesaw Mountain(112-sq '09 103-6<sup>th</sup> '08)  
Isburgh (12) Grayson(112-3<sup>rd</sup> '09)  
Hamilton (11) Camden(sq-09)

Monroe (11) Alpharetta (112-sq '09)  
White (9) Harrison (Kids State Placer)  
Galloway (12) Pebblebrook(119-5<sup>th</sup> '09)

The talent at 125 for 3 thru 6 seems to be pretty close. Herrera is the Area 5 Champ and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County behind Nickles, 6<sup>th</sup> at Jarzynka and 6<sup>th</sup> at McCallie at 130. He suffered a 10-5 loss to Trott at State Duals but has rebounded quiet well. Isburgh took 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett County, Brookwood at 130 and Harrison where he beat AA Front Runner Slaughter of Henry County. He was 3<sup>rd</sup> at Alexander and is the Area 8 Champion beating Torbit in the finals. As a returning State Placer he meets up with Mitchell in the quarter finals and should run back thru the cons to set up a con showdown with Herrera. Hamilton is a AAAA State Qualifier in 2009 and the Area 3 Champion, He holds a 17-1 Tech Fall over Brown of North

Forsyth. At 27-6 Hamilton will get at match up with Kelly from the Hooch and that winner will get Nickles in the Semis for a shot at the title. The Alpharetta entry Monroe is a 2009 State Qualifier and the Area 6 runner up to Nickles. He has 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes at Raider Rumble, Santa Slam and North Metro as well as a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at The George Thompson. His 4-2 win over Forrester and 9-5 loss to Nickles proves that he is ready to take the next step and his side of the bracket proves to be less rocky than others. White or "The Deuce" comes in with a 4<sup>th</sup> at Beef O' Brady, 1<sup>st</sup> at Harrison at 130 and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb with a 3-2 loss to Herrera. White will have a very tough maze back through the cons and could see his ol friend Herrera again in the go to placement round of the cons. Galloway is a returning State Placer at 119- 5<sup>th</sup> in 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> at Lovejoy as well as the Area 4 Champ. If Galloway can pull off the quarter finals match on Monroe or Martin he could toe the line with Mitchell in the semis if not it will be tough for Galloway to make the podium two years in a row, as he will have Isburgh to deal with. Not to be shot out of sky Torbit, Kelly, Forrester and Martin will be setting flight plans of their own. I hear the bell ringing for my next class; let's see what we can learn at 130.

### **2010 AAAAA 130 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Pifer (12) Lassiter (125-1<sup>st</sup> '09 '07 103 sq)  
Bushart (12) Pope (130-3<sup>rd</sup> '09 '112 – sq;'07 103-4<sup>th</sup>)

**The Storyline:** Two years ago, I went through a Franklin Covey Time Management class. They basically teach you how to plan out your day, weeks and months in advance, this programs you to not miss appointments and be prepared for upcoming events. I'm pretty sure Pifer was in my class and I did not recognize him. He planned a trip to the State Finals and a State Championship in 2009 and he showed up on time and accomplished his goal. The Area 6 Champion has spent majority of his time at 135 this year where he took 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County, The Mohawk and Fayette County where he won a thriller over AAAA stud Rinehart of Sprayberry. He took an early loss to Winiarczyk, but has a win over Bushart 2-1 and a 3-1 decision over Fiacco in the Cobb County Finals at 135. Bushart too understands the importance of making a meeting and blocked out Saturday night as well. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County to Rinehart, 1<sup>st</sup> at McCallie, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Area to Pifer, 4<sup>th</sup> at Brecksville, Ohio and has a 9-1 win over Brown from Collins Hill. This final will be exciting and methodical as both of these guys are hard to score on; the first takedown could be the winning points. In the end we believe Pifer has penciled in February 20, 2010 as a meeting he must attend at the Gwinnett Arena and when the meeting is over he leaves as a star student in the form of another State Title. Class has not been dismissed just yet as we will learn a little more about the remaining honor roll listed below.

### **130 Placement Favorites**

Bradtmueller (10) Collins Hill (Illinois sq)	Durr (12) Valdosta (125-sq '09)
Ulmer (12) Parkview (125-4A State Champ '09 125-3 <sup>rd</sup> '08 ;07)	Rogers (12) Etowah
Trott (10) Camden (103-2 <sup>nd</sup> /region champ)	Cross (11) North Forsyth (130-sq '09)

The Area 7 Champion Bradtmueller is an Illinois State Qualifier and has busted into Georgia taking 1<sup>st</sup> at George Thompson and having some pretty sound wins over Durr 8-2, Nickles 4-1 and Cross 7-0 as well as a 8-5 over AAAA Former State Champ Sheppard. He suffered an 8-7 loss to Epps and his bracket draw is the tough having to deal with Ulmer and Bushart to make the finals. Speaking of tough bracket draws, Ulmer got the toughest of all in this bracket. The Area 8 Champion must go thru Roytek, Bradtmueller and Bushart to make the finals. The Gwinnett County Champion also took top honors at The Raider Rumble with a 5-2 win over Rogers and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Southern Slam. He is looking to add to the AAAA State Title he won last year at Effingham under the same coaching of Hardin. If Ulmer falls to the cons he will most likely meet up with Trott from Camden. The Area 3 Champion and State Runner-Up at 103 last year has done a lot of growing over the summer moving up 4 weight classes. Trott has 2 wins over Durr, a win over Cross and a 10-5 win over Herrera. The reward Durr gets for winning the Area 1 Championship is a second round match up with Bushart. Durr took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Wildcat, The Blue Devil and The Hornet and the wrestle backs will be another tough feat to tackle. Rogers is the Area 5 Champion and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Raider Rumble and 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Mohawk at 135. The bracket was not kind to Mr. Rogers but his neighborhood gets a little friendlier in the wrestle backs and with a win over Durr he's on the podium. Cross of North Forsyth took 1<sup>st</sup> at Hook Em Horns Bash with a win over Barber of Jefferson and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fayette County. If Cross loses his second round match up with Lazor he will probably match up with Boyd of Northside Warner Robins and this match should not be taken lightly as Boyd took his first loss of the year after the State Duals to Rozier of West Laurens 3-2. Cross can go far in the cons but eventually meets up with Ulmer and that may be a little too much for cross.

### **2010 AAAAA 135 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Maus (12) Kennesaw Mountain (130- 2<sup>nd</sup> '09 112- 4<sup>th</sup> '07)  
Winiarczyk (12) Pope (125- 5<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**The Storyline:** Over the years I have had the luxury of playing some of the most incredible Golf Courses in America; Bethpage, Oakmont, East Lake, Firestone, Pinehurst #2 and even Torrey Pines two weeks before The Buick Open. But I would trade every round of Golf I have ever played for One Round at Augusta, truly the top echelon of Golf Courses. In wrestling winning Area, Sectionals and even placing at state are rewarding but nothing takes the place of standing in the center of the mat and having your hand raised after the state finals match, you can then say, "I've been to the top". Maus and Winiarczyk have accomplished many wrestling goals over the past 4 years but neither has felt the Gold at state, this year that changes for one of them. Maus has been nothing short of phenomenal this year taking 1<sup>st</sup> at McCallie and Cobb County at 140 and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Jarzynka losing only to FILA Champ/Fargo All American Nereim 3-1. He is the Area 5 Champ and has a 6-3 win over Enriquez of Centennial at 140. He has gone about his business and just picked off his opponents with grace and ease. This year in the finals he gets Winiarczyk the Area 6 Champ who took 2<sup>nd</sup> at McCallie and 6<sup>th</sup> at Brecksville. He placed 5<sup>th</sup> at 125 in 2009 and has given Pifer his only loss of the season a 2-1 decision. When the scorecard hits the clubhouse after this round we have Maus turning in the low score of 1 and reaching the pinnacle of his high school career. With that, let me introduce you to a group of guys I consider, way above Hacker status.

### 135 Placement Favorites

Brown (12) Collins Hill (112- 5<sup>th</sup> '07)  
 Webster (12) Camden (125-sq '09)  
 O'Connor (12) North Forsyth (135-sq '09)

Stringer (10) Kell (119-sq '09)  
 Reynolds (11) Newton Co (135-sq '09)  
 Fiacco (9) Harrison (Kids State Champ)

Brown from Collins Hill, the Central Gwinnett transfer spent time at 130 and 135 this year and has performed like the true vet he is taking 5<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba. He is the Area 7 Champ and has a 5-4 win over Enriquez, 9-1 over Winiarczyk and 12-6 over O'Connor of North Forsyth. He placed 5<sup>th</sup> at 112 in 2007 and is looking to improve on his only state placement to date. Webster has a 40-3 record and had some moments in the sun with a surprising pin over Winiarczyk at State Duals and an 8-6 win over O'Connor. He is the Area 3 Champion and will get the chance to show the state that the Winiarczyk pin was not a fluke, if he pulls that one off; he gets a shot at Maus. O'Connor came out pretty good with his 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at Area and he will get a semi final match up with Winiarczyk. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hook Em Horns and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fayette losing to Pifer. Stringer took 4<sup>th</sup> at Cobb County, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Mohawk to Pifer and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Valdosta. While he holds a 4-2 win over Marmoll, he suffered a 3-1 loss to Condon. Stringer should limp into the podium by way of his wrestle back route and 6<sup>th</sup> seems to be the best finish for this sophomore. The Area 2 Champ Reynolds was 2<sup>nd</sup> at South Metro to Ortiz of Lovejoy and he will have the toughest route thru the cons meeting Rowland, Bone and Webster. The strong group of seniors and a couple of underclassmen allow one freshman in the top 8 this year and if they are not careful, he will make the podium. Fiacco took 3<sup>rd</sup> at Heart of Dixie, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Beef O' Brady and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb with a 3-1 loss to Pifer, a very respectable 3-1 I might add.

### 2010 AAAAA 140 Pound Weight Class Front Runners

Anthony (11) Pope (KOH Champ '09 103-5<sup>th</sup> '08)  
 Jones (12) Parkview (119-sq '09 103-4<sup>th</sup> '08 103-sq '07)

**The Storyline:** When this weight class is complete we will be half way home and we will also have a State Champion that has never worn the Gold at High School State before. We have 3 different brothers of former State Champs in this bracket and they all three were top level wrestlers Scott, Anthony and Condon. Five short years ago in February 2005 there were a couple of guys named Anthony and Scott standing on the podium at The State Championship Tournament and both wore Gold that day, Caleb Anthony at 145 and Jamal Scott was collecting his 2<sup>nd</sup> State Championship in a row 171 in '04 and 189 in '05, that same year a freshman named Josh Condon took 5<sup>th</sup> at State and went on to get 3 state titles himself. Little did these guys know that five years later their younger brothers could be battling it out for a chance at a state title of their own. It has to be tough growing up and you were always called Lil Anthony or Jamal's little brother or baby Condon, but it sure has paid off in the end. Well these guys have created their own identity and will make a run this year. Anthony was our choice for State Champion in the battle of The Brothers. He is the Area 6 Champ and took 3<sup>rd</sup> at McCallie, 7<sup>th</sup> at Brecksville and has split with Willard both scores 3-0. He topped Enriquez 9-6 at Area to secure his spot in the bracket, but his route is riddled with studs. His finalist opponent is former State Placer Clint Jones of Parkview. Jones took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Raider Rumble, 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett and 4<sup>th</sup> The Southern Slam. He is the Area 8 Champion and has 1 loss to a Georgia wrestler this year Gainey of Woodward Academy. Although both have placed at state, neither has won a State Title but that will change this year and in the end we feel Lil Anthony will make his brother and Daddy Bob proud and add to the family legacy. Let's take a peek at the other relatives lurking in the bracket.

### 140 Placement Favorites

Scott (11) Valdosta (112-sq/Region Champ)  
 Willard (12) Collins Hill (130-sq '09 119-4<sup>th</sup> '08 112-sq '07)  
 Ortiz (11) Lovejoy (130-4<sup>th</sup> AAAA '09)

Harris (12) Chattahoochee (130-sq '09)  
 Condon (12) Harrison (135-sq '08)  
 Enriquez (12) Centennial (135-4<sup>th</sup> '09)

This is no family reunion as these boys are out to win and not mingle. We kick it off with our down south entry the Area 1 Champ Scott from Valdosta who took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Blue Devil, The Hornet and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Valdosta. He has keys wins over Willard and multiple wins over Jones from Tift. He is a returning state placer from 119 where he placed 6<sup>th</sup>. His quarter finals match with Anthony will be critical in the outcome of this bracket as the loser will just rip through the cons taking out the entire bottom half. Willard has been on a roller coaster ride this year, he has split with both Anthony and Scott, but finished the year strong at Area taking the Championship and winning his last 7 matches of the year. He will get the Scott vs Anthony winner and that will be the decider for his podium placement. Welcome to AAAAA Mr. Ortiz and you have decided to join one of the most stacked brackets in the tournament for your debut. Ortiz is a AAAAA State Placer at 130 finishing 4<sup>th</sup> as a sophomore. He has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at South Metro with a 5-4 win over Reynolds of Newton, he is the Area 4 Champ and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fayette losing to AAAA Freshman Phenom Askey of Northgate, 6<sup>th</sup> at Lovejoy as a default due to illness and he has wins over Bloodworth and Marmoll. With his bracket draw don't be shocked if Lovejoy has a State Finalist with Ortiz, he's good enough to make it. Harris took a 7-5 loss in the Area 7 finals to Willard but has had a good run this year finishing 1<sup>st</sup> at The George Thompson and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hook Em Horns Bash. His quarter finals match with Ortiz will be a good one and a loss in that match puts him on the right side of wrestle backs for a placement chance. Enriquez of Centennial took 1<sup>st</sup> at Mohawk, 1<sup>st</sup> at The Rebel, 1<sup>st</sup> The Crossbone, 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Heart of Dixie in Alabama. He has a close loss of 6-3 to Maus and 5-4 to Brown of Collins Hill; however he does have wins over Marmoll and Horgan of Hillcrest, SC. The tournament draw is a rather bad one as he should see Jones in round 2 and either Scott or Anthony in the wrestle backs. The last of the Little Brothers is Condon of Harrison. He is the Cobb County runner up to Maus and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Harrison to Askey of Northgate. The bracket is actually in his favor as a loss to Willard in the second round will set him up for a go to placement match with Harris and a state medal as his High School career comes to an end. Just remember the other relatives that could spoil the show are Olson, Yamurity and McAllister. It's time to get dirty with the fellas at 145, let's gallop on over.

### **2010 AAAAA 145 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Smith (12) Collins Hill (135-2<sup>nd</sup>/region champ; '07 130-4<sup>th</sup>/region champ)  
 Climmons (9) Pope (Kids State Champ)

**The Storyline:** The old Clint Eastwood western "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" sets the storyline in this weight class. I've decided we will change the name of this one to, "The Young Gun, The Consistent and The Down Right Nasty". As Clint or shall I say Blondie, rode all over the wild west, he kept having encounters with Tuco and Angel Eyes. While Tuco wanted to be his friend, and even agreed to a 50-50 split, it was only for one reason, get close to Blondie and steal all the Gold that was buried in the unknown grave. Angel Eyes on the other hand was not a friend of Blondie or Tuco and wanted the Gold for himself. In the end, Blondie controlled the situation and dictated who would get what. Angel Eyes never left the cemetery and Tuco got his part but he too would never get a chance to spend it. In this case The Down Right Nasty is Joel Smith and he will not let anyone take his Gold that includes The Young Gun (Brooks Climmons) or The Consistent (Matt Schneider). This bracket is not stacked 7 or 8 deep with off the chart talent, but the top three in this weight class are arguably the three best 145's in the entire state. If last years performance wasn't enough, Smith has been Down Right Nasty this year, not even allowing a single takedown this year from any Georgia wrestler. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Toshiba, 4<sup>th</sup> at Powerade and lost a close match the County's top 145 Villalonga of Blair 5-3. Smith is headed to Arizona St to wrestle for Shawn Charles and The Sun Devils and he plans on taking his second State Title with him. With Smith's placement he will be this years, only AAAAA Tournament wrestler to have placed in all 4 years of his high school career at AAAAA. Chasing Smith around all year has been The Young Gun and Future of Georgia Wrestling Climmons of Pope. He has burst onto the scene as a superstar immediately taking top honors at McCallie, 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brecksville, Ohio as an unseeded freshman. His 5 in state losses are 3 to Schneider and 2 to Smith, all by decision. Get a good look at him folks because he will be around for a while and I guarantee you there are some pretty happy people knowing he will be AAAA next year, can't wait to see him an Askey hook it up. For Smith there are no 50-50 deals to be made or promises that will be broken, it's nothing more than time to collect HIS GOLD and leave under his conditions, taking a little bit of Georgia to Arizona. There are many Bounty Hunters out there looking to collect, so let's get to know em a little better.

### **145 Placement Favorites**

Schneider (12) Milton (140- 2 <sup>nd</sup> /region champ; '135-4th '08)	Carpenter (12) McEachern
Lentz (12) Camden (140-4th/Region Champ '09)	Bremner (12) Kennesaw Mountain
Fishback (12) East Paulding (140-6 <sup>th</sup> '09)	Hasco (12) Chattahoochee

The first gunslinger is very well known by many including ol Down Right Nasty and The Young Gun themselves. Schneider has been perfect this year going 30-0 and taking 1<sup>st</sup> at the following tournaments Harrison, John Smith, Santa Slam and

Fayette. He is the Area 5 Champion with a win in the finals over Climmons and the state runner up at 140. His only loss over the last 2 seasons was in the finals at State to Smith 11-5 last year. He gets a rematch this year in the semi finals this year and Match 520 will determine how his High School medal placement will end. Look for a closer match this year and very entertaining to say the least. Lentz is the Area 3 Champion and is coming off of a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at state last year. He took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Jarzynka and is on a winning streak of his own. His semi final match with Climmons will put him in the cons and if he can get past Fishback he will get Schneider in the Con Finals. Fishback placed 6<sup>th</sup> at 140 last year and has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at Crossbone at 152, Santa Slam at 152, Last man Standing, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Creekview at 152 and 3<sup>rd</sup> at The War Eagle. The Area 5 Champion will see Smith in the Quarter Finals and the cons prove to be a little easier as he works his way thru to meet up with Lentz. Carpenter looks to put McEachern back on the map with a podium spot, the Area 5 Runner up has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan at 152 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb behind Climmons. Bremner is the Kennesaw Mountain entry and the third participant from Area 5; he's taken 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb at 152 and 6<sup>th</sup> at McCallie. Bremner and Carpenter should meet in the cons and the winner will secure a spot on the podium. Hasco rounds out the bounty hunters as he took 1<sup>st</sup> at the Raider Rumble, 1<sup>st</sup> at Hook Em Horns and 1<sup>st</sup> at George Thompson. McFall, Vaughn and Domizio could land a stray bullet and pick off any of these guys. Time to break the language barrier in 152.

### **2010 AAAAA 152 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Rivera (11) Kennesaw Mountain (145-1<sup>st</sup>/ Region Champ '09 145-sq '08)  
George (12) Grayson (140-5th/Region Champ 135-sq '08)

**The Storyline: DEAR SANTA:** I would like to start my Christmas List for 2010 a little early this year if that's OK? Forget those new tires for my truck and that rifle I was going to ask for, it seems that Danny Sinnott has made it a requirement that I request a set of Rosetta Stone language CD's to learn Russian if I want to know the secrets of The Peachtree Ridge Wrestling Team. With that being said it appears George has had this set of CD's all year long and Rivera only needs to know one word "Winner". Rivera is the defending AAAAA 145 State Champ in a bracket full of close talent. The Cobb County Champ also took top honors at The Jarzynka and was 2<sup>nd</sup> to TJ Duncan at McCallie. The Area 5 Champ will get a match with Petrushev in the Semi's and we believe his experience from last year will pay dividends of another finals appearance. George has been on a different level this year taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Harrison, Brookwood, Gwinnett County and Alexander. The Area 8 Champ has a head to head win over Petrushev in the Gwinnett County Final and is poised for a State Finals showdown with Rivera. To go against a returning State Champ is usually a very easy decision, you just don't do it. This one was a little harder but in the end we feel Rivera opens the big present under the tree and it will be a Gold Medal. The Grinch that stole Christmas could be listed below, let's find out if he will pull it off this year.

### **152 Placement Favorites**

Petrushev (9) Peachtree Ridge	Montgomery (11) Pope (KOH Champ 145 '09)
Hertica (12) Collins Hill (3x KOH Champ)	Carroll (12) North Forsyth
Gamble (10) Union Grove (140-sq/Region Champ)	McCrorry (11) Kell

From Russia with Love we give you Petrushev the Area 7 Champion and Gwinnett County Runner up, who also took 2nd at Fayette to Tanner of Fayette and avenged that loss with a victory over Tanner in the North Metro finals. The semi finals match with Rivera could set the stage for this young man to lay the ground work for a possible 4 time state championship run. Collins Hill puts Hertica in as another Area 7 entry, he took 1<sup>st</sup> at Toshiba and has a 10-9 win over TJ Duncan at Cleveland Duals. We have Hertica ripping thru the cons and making it to the con finals for another match with Petrushev, a match he lost 10-3 at Area. The first Area 2 placer we have for this year is Gamble of Union Grove the Area 2 champ has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at Whitewater, Henry County, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Eric Hill losing 10-6 to Borja the 2 time South Carolina state champ, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fayette and 4<sup>th</sup> at South Metro. Gamble's nemesis last year was George, if he can get past Montgomery he will get a chance to avenge the losses from last year and make the finals. Speaking of Montgomery, the Area 6 Champ took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb is looking to make a late season run and carry home some hardware of his own. The Cons appear to be in his favor as he should work back to a battle with McCrorry and then face Petrushev for a shot at the con finals. Carroll was 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hook Em Horns Bash and the Area 7 runner up will have to get thru Hertica to eventually place. While not out of the question he will need to beat Bell and Askins in order to earn that match. McCrorry of Kell puts a wrap on Santa's List for this year; he took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Mohawk, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Wildcat and 4<sup>th</sup> at Cobb County. He takes a very tough draw and tries to make the best of it, eventually running into Montgomery in the go to placement match. This cold weather is killing me, let's drive down south and see if we can find our next state champ.

## **2010 AAAAA 160 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Gilbert (11) Camden (160- 4<sup>th</sup>/Region Champ '09 160-sq/Region Champ '08)  
Power (12) Pope (152-sq '09 140-sq '08)

**The Storyline:** Area 3 was often referred to as “The Land of No Champs” and then in 2008 Steven Spradlin broke that when he won the 103 title. While Area 3 has had many state placers and finalist since the inception of AAAAA in 2001, they have come up short quiet a few times in finals matches. That’s not the case this year, at least not in the 160lb weight class, it’s all Gilbert or as I call him Lil Rico. With Knapp gone on to Va Tech this is Gilbert’s year to dictate the podium. The Area 3 Champ took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Jarzynka and suffered his only loss of the year. He has wins over Dejesus, Carroll and an 8-3 win over Power his projected finalist opponent. Power is the Area 6 Champ and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at McCallie and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb losing 3-1 to Rivera in the finals and an impressive 5<sup>th</sup> at Brecksville. He also owns 2 wins over Collins Hill’s Riley and a 10-5 decision over Moot. Gilbert stakes his claim and captures Area 3 their second State Title in three years and he’s only a junior. When his High School career is over he could have 2 of the 3 titles belonging to Area 3. Break out with winter gear and let’s head back up north for the group looking to keep the gold in the metro area.

### **160 Placement Favorites**

Hunt (12) Dacula (152-5<sup>th</sup> '09 152-sq '08)  
Moot (12) Wheeler (152-sq '09)  
VerSteeg (12) Centennial

Rider (10) North Gwinnett (152-6<sup>th</sup> '09)  
Mack (11) Tift (145-sq '09)  
Dejesus (12) East Paulding

The Area 8 Champ is Hunt of Dacula; he is winner of The East Metro, George Thompson and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett losing to Squires, his only loss of the season. Hunt will meet up with Power in the semis and could very well land in the finals for a face off with Gilbert. Moot comes in as the Area 6 runner up and will have to get past Rider and Mack in order to make the semis. He won the Panther and took 4<sup>th</sup> at Cobb losing to Power 10-5. VerSteeg has the toughest road thru the Championship and Con brackets having to face Dejesus, Gilbert and then Riley, Mack and Hunt to make his way to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. He does hold a pin win over Riley, but a 12-3 loss to Hunt looks to be tough for VerSteeg to make the con finals. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Crossbone, 1<sup>st</sup> at The Rebel and 3<sup>rd</sup> at North Metro. Rider is a returning State Placer from 2009 and the Area 7 Champ, he placed 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett. He looks to be in line for another state placement this year in a pretty tough bracket. Tift sends up the Area 1 Champ Mack, The Blue Devil, Wildcat Champ, Fitzgerald Champ, 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher at Eric Hill and The Raider Rumble is trying to put Area 1 back on the map. Dejesus took 3<sup>rd</sup> at Last Man Standing and 5<sup>th</sup> at The War Eagle and will get VerSteeg early in the bracket and the con match up with Rider will decided his fate in the tournament. The clock is about to strike 12:00 and I just found a size 11 wrestling shoe, I think I know who it belongs to, follow me to 171.

## **2010 AAAAA 171 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Pittman (12) South Forsyth  
Holbert (11) Collins Hill (171-5<sup>th</sup> '09)

**The Storyline:** In many sports we hear the story of a Cinderella team or Cinderella season like the 69 Miracle Mets, the 1980 USA Olympic Hockey Team or the 1985 Villanova Wildcats in their shocking win over #1 powerhouse Georgetown in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. This year Cinderella wears a Blue and White singlet and his name is Pittman. He is the undefeated Area 7 Champion and he will have no part of the ugly step-sisters this year. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at all tournaments he entered this year, The Raider Rumble, Hook em Horns, Santa Slam and Alexander at 160. The competition appears to be in reverse this year as they face off with Pittman his 7-4 win over Holbert was one of his closer matches of the year along with a 6-3 win over Tift County’s Hicks and a very impressive 12-5 domination of Chapman. His toughest match could come in the quarters against McEachern’s Wester. Holbert knows Pittman very well as he has faced him at Area already; he took 6<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba and has split with Savransky. He must get thru Steele, Hicks and Savransky to make the finals and that is the most difficult route thru this bracket, but we feel he will dodge those land mines and toe the line again with Pittman in the finals. As we watch the carriage pull away from The Gwinnett Arena this year, Pittman will be top prize. The group listed below will try and knock the wheels off and turn this one into a pumpkin.

### **171 Placement Favorites**

Savransky (12) Pope (160-sq '09 152-sq; '08 140-sq '07)  
Hicks (12) Tift (160-sq '09)  
Steele (12) Camden County (171-2<sup>nd</sup>/Region Champ)

Dupree (12) Lassiter (171-6<sup>th</sup> '09)  
Allen (12) Greenbrier  
Wester (12) McEachern

The Area 6 Champ and Cobb County Champ holds a 3-1 win over Dupree and his 2<sup>nd</sup> at McCallie will boost him to the top of the class here. Although he does hold a victory over Holbert we chose to go against him in the semi final rematch, a move that could backfire easily. Hicks is another Tift County entry, he is 48-3, the Area 1 Champ has lost to Gilbert, Savransky and Pittman all by decision. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Eric Hill, Fitzgerald, The Wildcat, The Blue Devil and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Raider Rumble losing only to Pittman. Steele is the returning State Runner Up to Union Groves Jack Robert's who is now wrestling at Brown University. He won the Area 3 Championship and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Jarzynka and holds a win over Alexander of Valdosta and took a 4-1 loss to Savransky at State Duals. Dupree is a returning State Placer as well; he was 1<sup>st</sup> at Fayette, The Mohawk and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County losing to Savransky 13-8. He holds a win over Chapman and 2 wins over Amend of Kell. Greenbrier gets back to back entries at 171 and 189 with Allen and Harris. Allen took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Swainsboro and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dublin. His match up with Savransky may be too much to get past and he finds the cons where has to beat Hicks in order to place. We close out this weight class with my personal dark horse that could ruin the Ball for everyone, Wester of McEachern. He, like all McEachern wrestlers has to think back to Marty Richards, the man with the Million Dollar Mullet; First State Champ and 2x State Champ for McEachern and remember what it means to be a State Champ or Placer at McEachern High School. He has spent most of the year at 189 where he took 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan County, 5<sup>th</sup> at McCallie and 5<sup>th</sup> at Cobb County. Now he is at 171 and is the Area 5 Champ and is ready to put his name along side the long list of State Placers at McEachern. Serve me up some peanuts and Cracker Jacks, I'm ready for 189.

### **2010 AAAAA 189 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Bennett (11) Collins Hill (189-4<sup>th</sup> '09)

Kennedy (12) North Forsyth (189-sq '09 171-sq '08)

**The Storyline:** Bob Gibson was a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals back in the 60's and 70's and he was a dominating figure, both in size, demeanor and performance. If a batter dug in too close to the plate, Gibson would run a fast ball under their chin, if they smiled at him he would dazzle them with his curve ball, if they hit a homerun off of him he would respect their ability. But Gibson didn't give up too many homeruns in his career, 257 total in 17 seasons an average of 15 per year. He was an 8 time All Star, 2x Cy Young winner, had 3117 strikeouts, won 9 Gold Glove Awards and a career ERA of 2.91. The early years for Gibson were above average but the middle and latter years of his career is where he really shined. Just like Gibson, Bennett has taken a little time to find his groove but now that he has, it's rolling like a freight train. He took 5<sup>th</sup> at Powerade and is the Area 7 Champ with a 6-4 win over Kennedy and 2 wins over Griffin and a 9-4 loss to Blackstock. Bennett is a returning State Placer and just recently won his first High School tournament by taking home the Area Title. He will get a chance to throw those fastballs at Kennedy again in the State Finals. Kennedy took 1<sup>st</sup> at Fayette, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Hook Em Horns Bash. He holds wins over Sotres, a 1-0 win over Jones of Camden and a 11-4 decision over Brown of Valdosta. As the last pitch is thrown in this one we see a No-Hitter/Perfect Game coming from Bennett and his second High School Tournament victory will be a State Championship. I bet there are some Home Run hitters listed below.

### **189 Placement Favorites**

Harris (12) Greenbrier (189-sq '09)

Abraham (12) Kell (171-sq '08/09)

Griffin (12) Pope (189-sq '09)

Jones (12) Camden

Sotres (12) North Cobb (152-sq '09)

Liguori (12) East Paulding

The surprise entry at 189 is the second part of the Greenbrier Two-Headed Monster Harris. He is 48-1, the Area 2 Champ and has spent most of the year at 215 where he took 1<sup>st</sup> at Dublin, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Swainsboro and has wins over Coney of West Laurens, Feltman of Ola and AAAAA #2 Ranked Liggins of Hephzibah. Groove this guy one down the middle and he will hit a long way. Abraham is the Area 6 Champ and was 1<sup>st</sup> at Valdosta, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Mohawk, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dalton and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb where he beat Wester 3-0. We feel he will get a shot at Bennett in the Semis and work his way back for a con final match with Harris. Griffin took 3<sup>rd</sup> at McCallie beating Wester 6-5, 6<sup>th</sup> at Cobb losing to Wester 3-2 and holds a 1-0 win over Jones of Camden at State Duals. The Area 3 Champ is Jones and he finished 4<sup>th</sup> at Jarzynka and has taken some very close losses to Kennedy and Griffin; he's currently 36-8 and will get a rematch with Griffin in the Quarter Finals. Sotres is the Area 5 Champ but the second round match up with Kennedy will be a very early test. He won the Mohawk defeating Abraham, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fayette losing in the final to Kennedy and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb where he pinned Griffin and lost to Brooks from Marietta. The Sotres vs Harris cons match will be a good one and unfortunately the loser will be out with no hardware to show for their hard work. Liguori took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Crossbone, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The War Eagle, The Santa Slam, Creekview, Last man Standing and 4<sup>th</sup> at Alexander. As we approach extra innings at 189 don't throw a 3-1 fast ball to Forte, Brown or Hudson it could be your last pitch. Let's catch the train to 215 and see what's up.

## **2010 AAAAA 215 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Farr (12) Pope (215-sq '09)  
Johnson (12) Parkview (215-5<sup>th</sup>)

**The Storyline:** On September 12, 2008 a Union Pacific Freight Train and a Metrolink Commuter Train collided head on in the Chatsworth District of Los Angeles, CA. In a curved section of the single track the Metrolink Train ran thru a red signal and hit the freighter head on. The tracks are designed to allow one train to hold short while the opposing train passes by safely. This did not happen and the collision could be heard for miles away. On February 20, 2010 there will be a collision of two freight trains at the Gwinnett Arena, forget about any Commuter Train these two are ready to make some noise and put on a show. We get the engines rolling with Farr of Pope the Area 6 Champion, Cobb County Champion, Runner up at McCallie and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brecksville, Ohio. He has a win over Collins of Collins Hill and dominated the field at Cobb County with a 9 second pin in the finals. He has been an absolute machine this year and he will need everything he's got as his bracket draw is ridiculously tough. Johnson gets a little easier route to the finals but Malone will be waiting for him in the quarter finals. The Parkview Area 8 Champion has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro where he beat Malone in the semis 7-4 and 5<sup>th</sup> at Southern Slam. He is a returning state placer in the same weight class and should better last years 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at state. As the NTSB works to sort this one out we believe they will come to the conclusion that Farr ran thru the Red Signal and just kept on rolling with a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Medal hanging around the throttle. There are no cabooses on the list below, just 10 wheel fire breathing locomotives.

### **215 Placement Favorites**

Collins (12) Collins Hill (215- 2<sup>nd</sup> '09 189-6<sup>th</sup> '08)  
Malone (12) Centennial (215-sq '09)  
Freeman (12) Mundy's Mill (215-3rd/Region Champ '09)

King (12) Valdosta  
Cassady (12) Grayson (215-sq '09)  
Hendrix (12) South Forsyth

The Area 7 Champ is Collins and he is a returning 2x State Placer, took 4<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Powerade. He has 3-0 win over Malone and 2 decisions over Hendrix 15-4 and 3-0 and a 3-2 win over Baldwin from Brandon, FL. The match for Collins will come at 444 in the quarter finals where he will get a chance to avenge a loss at the most important time of the year. If Collins pulls the upset he could finally chase down that elusive state title. Centennial gets their last shot at much needed team points with the Area 6 Runner up Malone the winner of The Rebel, The Mohawk, 3<sup>rd</sup> at North Metro and 6<sup>th</sup> place finisher at the Tiger Holiday Classic in North Carolina. Like Collins his quarter finals match with Johnson will be his first true test of the tournament. Freeman comes in as the third returning state placer in this bracket, something a little out of the norm for the big guys. The Area 4 Champ took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lovejoy and South Metro where he lost both finals matches to AAAA #1 ranked Carlisle of Jonesboro. His only loss at the state tournament last year was to State Champ Scruggs of Valdosta. Now that we are on the subject of Valdosta let's talk about our next Area Champion from Area 1 King, winner at The Wildcat, The Hornet and took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Blue Devil. King should make the Semi's before running into Johnson and getting derailed. Cassady of Grayson was the Area 8 Runner up and took 1<sup>st</sup> at Harrison at 285, 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett, 1<sup>st</sup> at Alexander and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brookwood. Without hesitation I can say that Cassady has the toughest route thru both the championship and the cons for a podium position, but it can be done. The final entry at 215 comes from South Forsyth; Hendrix was 1<sup>st</sup> at Santa Slam, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hook Em Horns and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Raider Rumble. Hendrix will get a second round match up with Johnson and eventually meet up with the loser of the Collins vs Farr match in the go to placement round.

## **2010 AAAAA 285 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Aiken-Phillips (11) Central Gwinnett (285-4<sup>th</sup> '09 285-sq '08)  
Noble (11) Walton

**The Storyline:** Bob Berg always said, "The heavyweights are my Achilles heel, I can never get them right". Well Bob would be very happy to get a hold of this one, because it is about as close to a lock as I have seen in 285 since the days of Drake McCoy. Don't get me wrong I am not saying things can't go wrong here and I am certainly not comparing Aiken-Phillips to the Great Drake. But if you remember Drake had a solid sophomore season and then he went on a feeding frenzy his junior and senior seasons. Well Aiken-Phillips is following that same pattern. He has a new coach in Bartolotta (sorry Tom, I probably just trashed your name my friend) but has done nothing but get better, He is 56-0 with 56 pins and has made everyone look like middle school, taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Santa Slam, Gwinnett and North Metro. He has pins on Ogonnia and Badertscher and is the Area 8 Champion. Noble gets Walton their second straight finalist at 285. The Area 6 Champion took 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County beating O'Reilly 4-2 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at McCallie where he pinned O'Reilly. Noble is very capable of going the distance with Aiken-Phillips and his bracket route seems cleaner of debris and that could play a huge factor in the long run. There are no poison arrows to be fired at Aiken-Phillips this year he is set to take his first State

Championship and he has one more year to go. So there you go Berg, I said it Aiken-Phillips, and I hope I don't eat those words. As we put a cap on this 285 class, let's get to know the remaining cast.

### **285 Placement Favorites**

Delain (12) Collins Hill (285-6<sup>th</sup> '09)  
Crenshaw (12) Lowndes (285-sq '08/09)  
Badertscher (12) East Paulding

Thomas (12) Etowah  
O'Reilley (11) Pope (285-sq '09)  
Mills (11) Chattahoochee

Just so you understand how excited we are about this years Big Boy Class, four of these guys will be back again next year. Delain is a returning State Placer and the Area 7 Champion, he brought home a 4<sup>th</sup> place medal from Toshiba and has wins over Badertscher, Noble, 2 over O'Reilley and 1 over Mills. The unfortunate for Delain is that he meets up with Aiken-Phillips in the Semi's and that sends him to the cons. Crenshaw took the Area 1 Title as well as a 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Blue Devil, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Wildcat and 5<sup>th</sup> at Jarzynka. We have Crenshaw making the Semi's where he runs into Noble and then a great match between him and Badertscher to get to the Con Finals. Badertscher has a 1<sup>st</sup> at Alexander, The Crossbone, Last Man Standing and Creekview as well as a 2<sup>nd</sup> at The War Eagle and The Santa Slam losing by pin to Aiken-Phillips. The Bracket Gods were not very nice to Badertscher, but his wrestle back route seems a little more forgiving. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Crossbone, Alexander, Last Man Standing, Creekview, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The War Eagle and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Santa Slam where he fell victim to Aiken-Phillips by pin. The Area 5 Champion Thomas from Etowah could pull off the Crenshaw upset and be guaranteed a podium spot, the senior won 1<sup>st</sup> at The Mohawk and The Raider Rumble. If he falls short on Crenshaw it's not the end of the world because he should see Mills in the go to placement round and he does hold a 4-2 head to head victory over Mills. O'Reilley took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County behind Noble and 3<sup>rd</sup> at McCallie, he is a returning State Qualifier and should get a third shot to try and beat Delain, something he's fell short on twice already this year. Mills from The Hooch is our final attempt at 285, he's only a junior and we look forward to seeing him again next year. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Hook Em Horns Bash and The Raider Rumble. It will be tough for Mills to get thru to the go to placement round but stranger things have happened and we are talking heavy weights and 2009 will forever be etched in my mind. Well the Meat and Potatoes are gone; my plate is clean and headed to the dishwasher. That seals the deal on this years report now let's lace em up and toe the line.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** As mentioned last year, thank you to all the fantastic friends I have in the wrestling community, my wife for putting up with my love for the sport and to my son for all the wrestling memories over the years. Get a kid involved in the most discipline based sport ever, buy him/her a headgear and some wrestling shoes and go make some memories together. Thank You and God Bless.