

# THE AAAAA WRESTLING REPORT: 2011 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 with an entertaining twist. Also I have a degree in Marketing not Literature so please excuse the mistakes because there will be many. This year we were blessed with The Sectionals and thank god for that. 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 (aka skinnyposts), 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 one of the most dedicated wrestling fans on the planet. I want everyone to know, for every record, score or placement in this report Chris should get all the credit, the report does not exist without your effort. This is a group effort and I say Thank You for all others who sent me pm's and emails like Travis Jarrard, Georgiagator1, wrestling coaches all over the state who sent Chris brackets and The Wrestling Expert for staying right on top of all the action and keeping us all informed, he's the WSB Action News Guy of Georgia Wrestling. Thanks to Bud Hennebaul and Cliff Fretwell it seems you guys out-do yourselves every year to improve Georgia Wrestling and you have done it again this year. Last but certainly not least The Godfather of Georgia Wrestling journalism Mr Bob Berg, your friendship, inspiration and knowledge will forever be a part of Georgia Wrestling, without you being the pioneer of this report, it would not exist and for that I say Thank You sir and as your former pupil I will continue writing this as long as possible. As you read this years report you will notice one common theme; this year appears to be dominated by the upper-classmen with the exception of a couple of weight classes as well as the fact that we only have one senior trying to place all 4 years in high school and 1 wrestler looking to become a 3X AAAAA State Champ and many others looking to repeat. The first 3 weight classes are overloaded with talent and will be an incredible battle. With that being said, turn off that 52" flat screen TV, grab the beverage of your choice, kick back in the lazy chair and we hope you enjoy the 17,466 words we have put together.

Here are the teams most likely to be in the hunt for the Top 12 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 12 Spots at The Traditional State Tournament

Archer	Etowah (2010-9 <sup>th</sup> )	North Gwinnett (2010 -16 <sup>th</sup> )
Camden County (2010 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Lowndes (2010 - 35 <sup>th</sup> )	Parkview (2010-10 <sup>th</sup> )
Collins Hill (2010 - 1 <sup>st</sup> )	Milton (2010 -11 <sup>th</sup> )	Peachtree Ridge (2010 -20 <sup>th</sup> )
Dacula (2010- 13 <sup>th</sup> )	North Forsyth (2010 -14 <sup>th</sup> )	Valdosta (2010-5 <sup>th</sup> )

[teams in alphabetical order]

**A Quick Comment:** If you're a college football fan you can appreciate our opener here. Since the inception of the BCS in 1998 the SEC has totally dominated the National Championship game and kept all other conferences at bay playing in 7 BCS Championship games and winning all 7. No SEC team has ever lost in the BCS Championship game. In 2001 class AAAAA was introduced to Georgia High Schools and for 5 of the first 10 years in existence the traditional team champion has come from Area 7 by way of Collins Hill and the Josh Stephen era will be no different as Collins Hill should ride off again hoisting the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy. With another schedule that included Toshiba, Powerade, Cleveland Duals, The Cougar and The Final Four, the Eagles have proven again they are a national team. They are once again loaded with a plethora of performers from 103 to 285 making them a very tough opponent. However, before we just hand them the trophy let's take a look at the teams ready to start a run of their own. Camden County is no longer just a football school, Jess Wilder has built something very special in southeast Georgia and they seem to be gaining ground every year. Following up the 2010 season was thought to be tough, but the Wildcats have done it with style and are poised to give Collins Hill a push at state this year. Making this a 3team race are the Area 1 Champs Valdosta and coach Scarbor has a very gifted group this year, probably one of his most talented ever and they have plenty of firepower set to make this a very interesting race. In order to take home some team hardware this year you will need that extra major, tech-fall or pin because every point is critical as Collins Hill and Camden will be very stingy with the points at state. So Parkview, Milton, Etowah, Lowndes and Peachtree Ridge will need to win or keep losses to a minor in those head to head match ups in order to keep pace. When the Gwinnett Arena is shut down Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Collins Hill will once again reign superior and take another state title back home to the trophy case. Now that we got that big surprise out of the way, let's start out with the lil guys and break it down by weight class.

## **2011 AAAAA 103 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Millhof (9) Archer (Kids State Champ)

Sharp (11) Valdosta (103-4<sup>th</sup> '10)

**The Storyline:** 1941 is known by most baseball historians as the greatest summer of all time. Two of the sports greatest players made history that still stands today. Joe Dimaggio was in the middle prime of his career and already considered one of the all around greatest players on both offense and defense, but in 41' DiMaggio went on a hitting streak that is still considered to be one of the greatest performances by any athlete in any sport. DiMaggio hit safely in 56 consecutive games until his streak was eventually snapped on a cold night in Cleveland by pitchers Al Smith and Jim Bagby. The next day he hit safely again and started a new streak that lasted for 17 more games. When it was all over he hit safely in 73 of 74 games. During DiMaggio's hitting streak a young cocky outfielder for the Boston Red sox named Ted Williams was doing some hitting of his own, today Williams is considered the greatest hitter of all time, yet in 1941 he was still very young in his career only having 2 prior seasons under his belt. Little did he know that in 1941 he would hit 37 homeruns, 3 triples, 33 doubles and 112 singles and finish the season with a .406 batting average and forever etch his name in Cooperstown. No player has come close to the 56 game hitting streak of DiMaggio and no player has batted .400 or higher since Williams in 1941. While both had incredible years in 41' only one player could be named the leagues MVP and DiMaggio took the honor that year. When it comes to wrestling, being a Fargo Champ like Sharp from Valdosta seems to be the pinnacle of ones career and topping that would be a rather difficult task. Sharp has been magical since his 2009 run in Fargo taking top honors at The Valdosta Wildcat, The Hornet at 112, The Tift Blue Devil and 6<sup>th</sup> at The Cougar at 112, he is the Region 1 Champion and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sectionals to Millhof losing 5-4. He holds wins over Moore, Jozwowski and AAAA 112 Frontrunner Rashaud Anthony of Lee County. Shutting this guy down is no easy task as he makes plans to complete his run by taking top honors at state. In order to do so he will need to find a way to slip a few curve balls past Millhof who has busted onto the High School scene and put together a streak of his own. He has been perfect this year going 49-0 and taking the gold at The Southern Slam, Alpharetta Raider Rumble, Gwinnett County, The George Thompson and North Metro as well as a Region 8 Title and Sectionals. Just like Sharp Millhof has wins over Franklin, Moore, Jozwowski and a dominating performance in the Sectional semi finals over the very talented Russell 8-1. He is ranked #10 by Open Mat and has all intentions of improving that ranking with a win over a former Fargo Champ. At 103 we believe the streak will stay alive and the quest to be a 4-timer will begin with Millhof knocking it out of the park. If you're going to beat this kid, it will have to be next year and Millhoff will go down in history as Archer's first state champ. Let's look at the other free swingers making a run at the title.

### **103 Placement Favorites**

Russell (9) Collins Hill (Kids State Champ)

Walker (9) Cherokee (Kids State Placer)

Pelletier (10) Lassiter (103-sq '10)

Murphy (9) Walton (Kids State Champ)

Moore (9) Peachtree Ridge

Westerman (10) Hillgrove

What would a 103 weight class be without a Collins Hill Wrestler ranked up in the top 3? It would be very rare because Collins Hill has dominated 103 over the long haul and that's where Russell comes in. Another phenom-frosh Russell comes into state with a 46-5 record. Russell's tournament places this year include 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Cougar, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Toshiba and 4<sup>th</sup> at The Powerade. He is the Region 7 champ and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sectionals, losing to Millhof in the semis. If I had to pick one wrestler in this weight class to upset one of the top two and make the finals, Russell would be the guy and he will get that chance in the quarter finals against Sharp and the winner will be set to face off with Walker. Speaking of Walker, he has had a solid year for Cherokee hoisting the gold at Canton Clash, Murray, The Burnt Mountain and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Creekview. Walker finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Area 5 behind Pelletier losing 7-4 but repaid the favor when it mattered most in the Sectional finals 5-2 and that win all but secured him a spot on the podium at the Gwinnett Arena. In 2010 we took Pelletier to make the finals at 103, that didn't happen and Pelletier did not even place, but that was a very strong motivator and the sophomore from Lassiter has bounced back quite nicely. He has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at MTXE at 112, The Canton Clash at 112, 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County at 103 and 6<sup>th</sup> at Fayette Christmas Tournament in a very deep bracket at 112. He is the Area 5 Champion with a finals win over Walker of Cherokee but the finals loss at Sectionals could be very costly in Pelletier's quest for the podium as he will have to beat Millhof just to make the finals at state. Murphy comes in making it three in a row from Area 5. Throughout the year he has taken hardware in the form of 1<sup>st</sup> at MTXE, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County losing to Pelletier and 5<sup>th</sup> at McCallie. His 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at Sectionals was a solid performance but the depth of this bracket will be felt early in the cons and Murphy needs to spend as much time in the championship bracket as possible if he is to make the podium. Area 7 comes through with a second entry with Moore from Peachtree Ridge who comes in with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at Sectionals, losing in the con finals to Russell by pin. He posted a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Gwinnett County losing to Millhof and 4<sup>th</sup> at North Metro. While his tournament finishes may not impress you keep in mind the area and sectional that he is coming out of and this could play to his advantage. Our last entry at 103 is a familiar name in Georgia wrestling Westerman or Lil Westy. Westerman is finally a true 103 lber this year and seems to be peaking at the right time with his recent Area 4 Championship, a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish at Duluth, prior to that he took 1<sup>st</sup> at Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup> at Mohawk, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Creekview and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County. His 2-0 loss to Walker in the semis at Creekview showed that Westerman is a dangerous opponent as well as his

semi-final pin over Jozwowski of Brookwood at Duluth will play to his favor as that will be his first round opponent at state. So as we leave the 103's, take a good long look at all of these guys because they will be ripping it up again next year, I just hope we can separate a few of them. Looking to crash the party at 103 is Crittenden of West Forsyth, Jozwowski from Brookwood and look for a state performance from Franklin that will negate his sectionals 7<sup>th</sup> place finish. Let's check out the old guys at 112.

### **2011 AAAAA 112 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Ferguson-Mitchell (11) Collins Hill (103- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ '10)  
Sharp (11) Valdosta (112- 5th/Region Champ '10; 103-sq '09)

**The Storyline:** There are so many definitions to the word Sharp and it can be used so many different ways. You could be referred to as "looking sharp", causing intense distress like a "sharp pain" or even brisk and energetic are ways to describe a Sharp person. All of these definitions describe our 112 frontrunner this year; he has looked very "sharp" all year long, he has caused a lot of intense "sharp" pain to his competition and he has an energetic "sharpness" about his wrestling style as well. How ironic can it really be that his last name is Sharp? At the East Sectionals I witnessed a very athletic type of Sharp in Marshawn Sharp of Valdosta. In addition to Sharp we seem to be creating a common theme in the 112lb weight class of upper classmen domination over that past couple of years. In 2010 we had a group of seniors that controlled the podium and 2009 was another Senior/Junior show as well. In fact Alex Hudson was the last under classmen to win a AAAAA state title at 112 in 2007 and he went on to win two more after that. Following suite this year is a very talented group of juniors and seniors that will entertain you with incredible skills. The headliner of this group is a returning state placer Sharp from Valdosta. Sharp has put together an awesome year having compiled a record of 48-1. Sharp has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Valdosta Wildcat, The Hornet at 119 and the Tift Blue Devil. His 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at The Cougar to Hall of South Dade at 119 was his only loss of the season. He is the Area 1 Champion and Sectional Champ with a 3-0 win over Ferguson-Mitchell in the semi finals but the destruction of Bullock in the finals to the tune of 17-4 was a very bold statement heard across the state by all 112's. His projected state finals opponent will be his Sectional Semi Finals partner again Ferguson-Mitchell. Ferguson-Mitchell is a returning state champ that moved up a weight class and has continued his onslaught from last year. He is currently 40-7 with 6 losses coming out of state and the only in state loss in his career was the 3-0 to Sharp at Sectionals. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Cougar, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Toshiba and 6<sup>th</sup> at Powerade. The Area 7 Champion also has convincing wins over Thomas and McCall. So we are looking at 2 brothers going back to back in the state finals at 103 and 112 but unlike Little Sharp, we are picking Marshawn to get his first state title this year and lay the groundwork for next year as well. Now let's check out the rest of the guys that will be looking to take the Sharp edge off of Marshawn.

### **112 Placement Favorites**

Bullock (12) Dacula (112- 6<sup>th</sup> '10 ; 103-6<sup>th</sup>'09)  
Thomas (12) Brookwood (103- sq '10)  
Armstrong (11) Camden (103-sq '10)

Sheppard (12) McEachern (103- 6<sup>th</sup> '10)  
McCall (12) Tift (103- 5<sup>th</sup> '10)  
Payton (9) Etowah (Kids State Champion)

Bullock comes into the state tournament as the Area 8 Champion and has taken 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett losing to Thomas of Brookwood and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Lovejoy Wildcat Rumble. His loss to Thomas at Gwinnett County was avenged twice, once with a 4-2 victory in a dual meet and a 1-0 win in the Area Finals. He has placed at state the last 2 years but has yet to make it higher than 6<sup>th</sup> on the podium, this year he should find his way up a few steps and finish his high school career on a positive note. Thomas is another Area 8 podium hopeful and appears to be on his way to placing at state as well. His resume is very impressive with 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes at The Southern Slam, Brookwood, Gwinnett County, North Metro and Duluth as well as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place finish at The Fayette Christmas Classic losing to AAAAA front runner Anthony from Lee County in the finals. Armstrong was a state qualifier in 2010 but did not make the trip to the Gwinnett Arena, this year his presences will be felt early as he gets a first round match up with Zunan, a second round date with McCall and that should be followed up with a chance to take out front runner Ferguson-Mitchell. Camden really needs placement points from Armstrong to help secure a top 3 finish and by the looks of the bracket they should get it. Last year Sheppard busted on the scene and started drawing attention late in the year and eventually finished up the year with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish at state at 103. He has moved up a weight class and will not sneak up on anyone this year but he has been absent from some key tournaments including the Cobb County and his only tournament placements this year were 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Morgan Christmas Classic, his Area 4 Championship and Sectional Runner-Up to Armstrong. Don't be fooled by his lack of hardware, when it comes time for the state tournament he will be looking to better last years finish. The Area 1 Runner up McCall from Tift is a returning state placer from 2010 and has taken 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Eric Hill, The Valdosta Wildcat and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at The Tift Blue Devil. He has wrestled Sharp multiple times this year and has yet to go 6 minutes, the good news for McCall is Sharp will be on the other side of the bracket, the bad news is he will have to deal with Armstrong and Ferguson-Mitchell, making his path to the podium pretty tough. His wrestle back path will not be a cake walk either as it appears he will get a go to placement match with Bullock and

that could end his tournament. All the juniors and seniors have decided to allow a freshman to come to the party. Payton decided to wait all year before making an appearance on the radar but we all should have taken notice earlier when he finished 1<sup>st</sup> at The Santa Slam and he followed that with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at North Metro losing to Thomas by pin. He is the Area 5 Champion and had a very good showing at Sectionals. This may not be his year to go high on the podium but this freshman has 3 more years to look forward too when the upper classmen have all graduated. So in the end we have covered 6 Regions in this weight class and the ones that could make us look bad are Westray, Zunan and Walker. To put a wrap on this weight class; it's very deep with talent and there have been some epic battles already between Ferguson-Mitchell VS Sharp, Bullock VS Thomas and Sheppard VS Armstrong, so don't get the "deer in the headlights look" when this one is done, it's one of the deepest weights we have to offer you this year.

These 12's are ridiculous take me to the 19's I know they are a little more tamed. YEA RIGHT!!!!

### **2011 AAAAA 119 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Hamilton (12) Camden (125- 5<sup>th</sup> /Region Champ '10; 119- sq AAAAA; 09)

Brown (11) Mountain View (119- 3<sup>rd</sup> AAA' 10; 103-sq AAAAA; 09)

**The Storyline:** This years NFL Playoffs were loaded up with teams that played each other 2 or 3 times throughout the course of the year. It took the Jets three tries before they were the ultimate victors over New England. It took a third and deciding game for the Steelers to knock the Ravens out of the playoffs and then a second game with the Jets would secure them a spot in the Super Bowl. Chicago had to face Green Bay in the third deciding game to make an appearance in the big game but fell short to Aaron Rodgers and the Pack. Of course Green Bay lost to Atlanta in the regular season, but just destroyed The Falcons in the playoff rematch. With that being said, The Super Bowl was played between Green Bay and Pittsburgh and although they played many of the same teams, there was no regular season head to head match up. As we relate this to our state tournament this year we look at our two projected finalist at 119 and yes they have faced some of the same opponents but have yet to toe the line against one another this year and it all comes down to the big showdown on February 19 at The Gwinnett Arena. First up, straight out of Area 3 is Hamilton of Camden County. Last year he paraded into the state tournament at 125 and placed 5th. Now he has dropped a weight class and its Hamilton's time to shine. He has taken 2<sup>nd</sup> at the very tough Zac Jarzynka, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Graves and is the Area 3 Champion and the West Sectional Runner Up. Hamilton will be a big point scorer for Camden and his Sectionals performance has really muddied up the water on his side of the bracket. He is positioned to be this years first Area 3 State Champ and give Jess Wilder and the Camden boys a big boost in the standings. Hamilton is very athletic and can score multiple points at will, but his offense will be tested on every shot by this next guy. It was a tough decision on who would be Hamilton's drill partner in the state finals but we finally settled in on Brown looking past his Sectional performance. Brown has been stellar this year in terms of performance and he spent most of the year at 125 but 119 could be just the right recipe for a state title shot. He comes in with an 36-2 record this year placing 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett County at 125, Last Man Standing and Coal Mountain, he also had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at Brookwood losing only to 130lb stud Mosley by decision at the same weight class. He won Area 7 and like Hamilton finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at his East Sectional. He too is athletic but a very difficult wrestler to score on. He is much improved from last year and is set to better his AAA 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish from a year ago. Coach Gassman (I kept the G in there my friend) should have his first AAAAA State finalist with Brown and a chance to make Mountain View School history as the schools first state champ. This should be a very exciting finals match as these two wrestlers have contrasting styles. It may come as a surprise that we chose a Sectional runner up and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher from opposite Sectionals as our finalist but Brown and Anderson have a head to head and we believe Hamilton can get past Leyva and Kane. The ultimate prediction here is a low scoring affair somewhere in the 4-3 neighborhood. When the final whistle rings out we predict Hamilton will be crossing the goal line for that last second TD and taking home the top prize. While we are not expecting any "Hail Mary's" or "Immaculate Receptions" there are plenty of heavy hitters working toward the big prize.

### **119 Placement Favorites**

Anderson (10) Milton (112- sq '10)

Kane (12) Parkview (112- sq '09)

Leyva (12) Etowah (119- sq '10; 103- sq '08)

Martin (12) Roswell (112-4<sup>th</sup> '10; 119-sq '09; 103- sq '08))

Timmons (12) Dacula (119-sq '10)

Daniel (11) North Gwinnett (112- sq '10)

Anderson is only a 10<sup>th</sup> grader and because he will have plenty of opportunities over the next two years to become a state champ, does not count him out of the top spot just yet though. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Canton Clash, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Coal Mountain and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Zac Jarzynka. He is the Area 6 Champ and West Sectionals Champion defeating Hamilton in the finals 5-3. The reward he gets for winning Sectionals will be a rematch with Brown and Brown currently holds a 3-1 overtime victory over Anderson. It's difficult going against an Area and Sectionals Champ but we are judging this one by the only head to head match up. Kane is the Sectionals Champ from the East and Area 8 Runner up. He only has a 19-2 record this year but has turned it on when it really matters and his Sectional wins over Durden, Timmons and Daniel should give him a semi finals chance at Hamilton and guarantee him a podium position. Leyva has been solid all

year and decided to wait till the Area tournament to make his drop to 119 and he has settled in just fine. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Santa Slam and 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro both at 125. At the Area 5 tournament he put on a show in the finals with a 21-7 performance over one of my favorite kids Ardon Smith of Marietta. He followed that up with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the West Sectionals with a surprise loss to Edwards of Johnson-Savannah in the quarters. If Leyva can find his way thru the maze of studs in front of him he will be a huge 119 on Saturday night. Let's keep the West Sectionals rolling with our next podium placer Martin of Roswell. In 2010 at 112 he finished 4<sup>th</sup> losing to Rickman and Lutz, they have both moved up three weight classes and Martin only stepped up one and he is the only wrestler in this weight class to be a 4 time AAAAA state qualifier. He took 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan Christmas, 2<sup>nd</sup> at North Metro, Burnt Mountain and 4<sup>th</sup> at The Eric Hill Memorial Tournament. This senior has big match experience and is very familiar with the Gwinnett Arena so don't be shocked if he puts Roswell in the finals two years in a row at 119. Timmons is our third entry from the East Sectionals in this weight class. Timmons took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Lovejoy Wildcat and is the Gwinnett County Champion as well pinning Durnell in the finals. His Sectional performance has earned him recognition as he beat Brown 3-2 in overtime but lost to Brown in the Con finals 4-2. Our last participant in this loaded bracket is Daniel of North Gwinnett who has the undeniable most difficult path to the podium as he will need to get past Brown and Anderson to make the finals. This Area 7 Runner Up has proven he can turn it up when he needs to as he has taken 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Panther, 4<sup>th</sup> at The Sham Slam, 5<sup>th</sup> at Gwinnett County and is the East Sectional Runner up to Kane in a very close 6-4 match. As we walk away from this very deep weight class, I am very excited that we have four of these guys coming back next year but till then let's sit back and enjoy the show as this one will be good. Keep in mind that Harmon from Grayson, Scott from North Forsyth and Durden from Lowndes are ready to step in and make this a short tournament for the guys listed above. One last prediction about this weight class, if Kane gets on a roll, it could get ugly early. If it's a three timer you're looking for then follow me to 125 I would like to introduce you to a friend of mine.

### **2011 AAAAA 125 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Partridge (12) Collins Hill (119- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ'09; 103-1st/Region Champ'08)  
 Murdock (11) Kennesaw Mountain (119- 3<sup>rd</sup> '10; 119- sq '09)

**The Storyline:** I have played in many Texas Hold Em poker tournaments and the key to winning is 1- Being Patient, 2- Anticipating what the opposition has and 3- Having the nerve to go All-In at the right time regardless of your hand. Well the 2 finalist we have chosen at 125 fit the bill as great poker players, patience, anticipation and nerve is no problem for these two. Choosing the right offense and when to push the pace will be the deciding factor in this match up of two fantastic defensive wrestlers and one with a straight ahead style of offense. Of the 14 weight classes that we break down for you in 5A this year, there is only one wrestler with a chance of becoming a 3x 5A state champ and he resides in the 125lb weight class. In 2009 I had my doubts that Partridge could win a state title; he proved me wrong. Then in 2010 he was once again sitting in a weight class that was loaded with talent and he once again pulled it out in two matches that were absolutely nail bitters, the never-ending battle with Lutz and the incredible final against his now teammate Rickman. Welcome to 2011 and the final curtain call for Partridge. He has compiled a record of 40-7 with 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes at The Cougar and Toshiba. In those 40 wins this year there sits a 7-3 decision over his projected finals opponent Murdock of Kennesaw Mountain. Partridge has only lost one varsity match to a Georgia wrestler in his high school career and that was to Gilkenson 13-6 on 12-28-2007 when he wrestled 103 and weighed about 90lbs. Murdoch is the Area 4 champ and the number 1 seed on the bottom side of the bracket. He is a returning state placer and the Cobb County Champion. Murdoch has earned the top spot on his side of the bracket but making the finals will have it's challenges and they start early with a second round match up with Lax of Walton and then a semi's match with Williams will be one of the more entertaining Friday night match ups. Murdock will need to find 5 extra points to fill the gap between him and Partridge to make this final a close one. As his high school career comes to an end Partridge will be holding a pair of ACES before the flop and catch Murdock on an All In hand to close out his high school wrestling career and cement his place in 5A with his third consecutive state title. Let's see who's looking to make the final table and spoil the party.

### **125 Placement Favorites**

Williams (10) Valdosta (119- sq '10)	Forrester (12) Centennial (125-sq '10)
Shiver (11) Peachtree Ridge	Lax (11) Walton (112-sq '10)
Torbit (12) Parkview (125- sq '10; 130-sq '09; 125-sq'08)	Byrd (12) Camden (112-sq '10; 112-sq '08)

Williams from Valdosta is looking to keep the big points going for the South Georgia Area 1 Champs but he will have his work cut out for him with some early match ups from Shiver and Murdock. The Region Champ took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Hornet at 130 and is sporting a 22-7 record coming into The Gwinnett Arena and is the East Sectional runner up to Partridge and he pinned Shiver in the semis in 4:46. We have him losing to Murdock and meeting Shiver in the con finals for a third and deciding match. Let me introduce you to Shiver of Peachtree Ridge, Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> round opponent. Shiver gave the wrestling community something to talk about at the region 7 tournament when he put Partridge on his back for majority of the first

period. Shiver has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Norcross Blue Devil at 130, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Duluth, 4<sup>th</sup> at North Metro and the Tiger Holiday as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett losing to Harmon in the second round and avenging that loss in the Con Finals. Shiver will have to get thru Munn, Williams and Murdock if he's to make the finals and another shot at Partridge. Don't get caught napping on this guy or you will find yourself in the cons early. Pay close attention to his 2<sup>nd</sup> round match up, it will be the key in how the podium shakes out. Torbit took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett losing a 3-1 decision to 119 front runner Brown of Mountain View in addition he took 1<sup>st</sup> at the always tough Zac Jarzynka, 1<sup>st</sup> at Area and 4<sup>th</sup> at Sectionals losing to Partridge 7-2 and Shiver 3-1. He has a record of 36-5 and looks to close the gap between himself and Partridge in the second round match up at state. Forrester was Area 6 runner up to Brown of North Forsyth and has only compiled a 7-2 record this year but his Sectional runner up performance has given him a very positive position in the bracket to make the semi finals against Partridge. He holds an 8-3 victory over Byrd and a 9-2 win over Lax as well. Lax is the Area 5 Champ from Walton, he has 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes at MTXE and McCallie both at 130 and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place showing at Cobb County losing to White of Harrison 3-2. Of the top 8 guys we have listed Lax has the toughest road to the podium having to face Murdock in the second round and then hitting Shiver in the cons. Our next entry makes it three weight classes in a row for Area 3. Byrd is another Camden entry and Area 3 Champion which was his best tournament finish of the year. He took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Graves and 6<sup>th</sup> at Zac Jarzynka. He has spent most of the year at 130 and will be a tough opponent for anyone on day two of the tournament. He will need to avenge the sectional loss to Forrester to secure a spot on the podium. This weight class appears to be fairly close after you get past the top two or three guys and placement order in this one can get rearranged in a hurry. Be on the lookout for Summerlin of Benedictine, Croft of Lowndes and Munn of McEachern as spoilers for this weight class. Now fire-up the engines at 130, it's time for a dog fight.

### **2011 AAAAA 130 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Rickman (10) Collins Hill (112-2<sup>nd</sup>/Region Champ '10)  
Lutz (11) Etowah (112-3<sup>rd</sup> '10 '103-3<sup>rd</sup> '09)

**The Storyline:** In 1978 General Dynamics introduced the F-16 into the US Air Force and it made an immediate impact in the defense world. While the F-16 was an immediate success, General Dynamics sold the F-16 to Lockheed Martin and that's when it really evolved into the multi-role fighter for the Air Force. The new and improved F-16 is known by many as the one of the most elusive and agile fighter jets in the world. With the ability to turn on a dime and strike with unmatched precision makes it a proven, thorough, enemy destroyer and if you have ever been to an air show to watch The Thunderbirds, you would understand. With that being said there was another aircraft that came along and made it's on legend, the F-18 by McDonnell Douglas became the most versatile air to ground fighter in the world but it was criticized because of its lack of range and undersized fuselage. So McDonnell Douglas created the F-18 Super Hornet, it's bigger, faster and can hold more fuel in it's tank, that allows it to go farther. It impressed the US Navy and in 1986 The Blue Angels took on the F-18 as their aircraft of choice. Just like the F-16, Spencer Rickman transferred from Harrison to Collins Hill and looks to be a new style of wrestler. His ability to strike with lightning speed and precision make him a very tough opponent for anyone. While he has had a few struggles outside of Georgia, taking 5<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba but back home he has been untouchable taking top honors at the Area 7 Championships and he needed overtime to take 1<sup>st</sup> at the East Sectionals over Mosley. This state runner up from 2010 will be set and ready for a barn burner with Lutz. His projected opponent in the state finals this year will not be a surprise to him, but it will be long overdue for this young man to finally make the finals, it's the F-18 Super Hornet himself Lutz, a bigger but faster version from last year, jumping up three weight classes has not slowed down this Blue Angel he has been a Georgia destroyer all year taking top honors at The Santa Slam, North Metro, The Area 5 Championships and The West Sectionals. He holds victories over Monroe, Smith and Tennessee stud Mullen from Notre Dame. When all the missiles have been fired in this one we believe The Blue Angel will out perform The Thunderbird and Lutz will get that elusive state championship he has worked so hard for. If I had to make a choice of only watching one finals match this year, it would be this one. Whatever you do people, don't miss this one it will be a dog-fight and a match that could be a GNWA conversation piece for years to come. Before we let these two hit the afterburners and leave everybody behind take a look at these high flyers and see if there's an upset in the making.

### **130 Placement Favorites**

Mosley (11) Shiloh (119-sq '10; 112-sq '09)  
Monroe (12) Alpharetta (125-6<sup>th</sup> '10; 112-sq '09)  
Smith (11) Peachtree Ridge (119-sq Florida)

Figuora (12) McEachern (125-sq '10)  
Martin (11) Tift (125-sq '10)  
Cross (9) North Forsyth (Kids State Placer)

In 2010 we had the two guys mentioned above and Partridge making up The Perfect Storm, all we did this year was move it up 3 weight classes, remove Partridge and insert Mosley and you have another bracket with high power talent. Mosley pinned his way thru the Gwinnett County championships and won a decision over Brown of Mountain View in the finals at Brookwood, he also took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Tiger and is the Area 8 Champion. His Sectional Championship Overtime match with Rickman was a barn burner and he has proven all year that he is State Champ material even though he came up short 5-3. We are predicting a semi final match up with Lutz that could be similar to his Rickman match and a Mosley VS Rickman rematch would not be a shocker. Monroe is the Area 6 Champ who took gold at North Metro taking out Boulware of Buford

in the finals by major decision at 135. His Sectional 2<sup>nd</sup> place Sectional finish has positioned him well for a shot at knocking off Rickman and getting a rematch with Lutz in the finals. At this point Monroe appears to be a shoe in for the podium as the other side of the bracket is rather heavy but he will still need to proceed with caution because this is a very hungry group. Smith from Peachtree Ridge is a Florida transfer and Area 7 runner up behind Rickman and hoisted the gold at Duluth, he took 2<sup>nd</sup> when he lost a decision in the finals at North Metro to Lutz and finished a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> at the always tough Zac Jarzynka. His semi final match at Sectionals with Mosley, where he lost 10-6 could be repeated at state in round two and another shot at Lutz would be the reward of avenging the earlier loss. The road is rocky for Smith and he will need nothing short of his A game to get thru the bracket and make the podium. Figeuora is the second entry from McEachern in this years report and only has a 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County to show for tournament placements but the 12-2 victory over Hewatt at Sectionals won him 3<sup>rd</sup> place and will give him a 2<sup>nd</sup> round match up with Monroe and then the easier rout thru the cons where he meets up with Hewatt again. The placement match will be with Cross and we believe he pulls that one out and makes the podium. Martin from Tift won the Region 1 championship over Brown of Valdosta, he finished 1<sup>st</sup> at The Tift Blue Devil, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Alpharetta Raider Rumble, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Valdosta Wildcat and 5<sup>th</sup> in a very deep bracket at The Eric Hill. Martin had a great match with Smith at the East Sectionals but came up a little short losing 7-5, he will need to find a way to avenge that loss and find some last minute consistency if he is to place at state this year because we have them set to meet again in the cons at match 317. If your last name is Cross and you wrestle in Georgia, chances are you wrestle for North Forsyth, I think there's like 10 brothers named Cross at North Forsyth. This one is Little Cross and he has some medals to show off this year taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, 1<sup>st</sup> at Hook Em Horns, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Santa Slam and 4<sup>th</sup> at The Sham Slam. When this one is over we will crown a wrestler that has never graced the top step of the podium at the state tournament. Let's move to the Hot-Rods at 135.

### **2011 AAAAA 135 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Roytek (12) Milton (130-sq '10)

Cross (12) North Forsyth (130-sq '10; 130-sq '09)

**The Storyline:** In 1969 Chevrolet designed the two greatest muscle cars of all time. The Camaro had already been in production for two years but it was time to separate themselves from the competition so they built a handful of Camaros and labeled them 1969 Camaro ZL1. Now this Camaro was equipped with an aluminum 427 cid engine that boasted 500 tire frying horsepower and tripped the ¼ mile lights at 11.6 seconds, making it the fastest production car Chevrolet has ever built. That same year they offered the 69 427 COPO Chevelle that produced 435 horsepower and a Rockcrusher 4 speed transmission that would boil the tires off in all 4 gears and lay down a ¼ mile time of 12.9 seconds. Ford and Chrysler were not far behind with the Mustang and Hemi Barracuda but the ZL1 Camaro and 427 COPO Chevelle is still considered today as the two greatest muscle cars and extremely rare in terms of original quality. In the 135lb weight class we have found two rare muscle cars of our own in Roytek and Cross, neither has placed at state but that's all going to change on February 19 at the Gwinnett Arena. Roytek rolls into state with a record of 41-5 taking 1<sup>st</sup> prize at Canton Clash, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Coal Mountain as he defaulted in the finals, 5<sup>th</sup> at the very tough Zac Jarzynka, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Area 6 and he is the Sectional Champion knocking off McAllister, Fiacco and Cross along the way. His Sectional Championship has earned him a very difficult semi final match up with Moody of Lowndes but we believe he can avoid any engine issues along the way and look for a finals showdown with a very accomplished opponent in Cross. Roytek is a seasoned vet and looking to become Milton High School's first AAAAA State Champion. If there has been an underrated wrestler this entire year in any bracket it's Cross from North Forsyth, 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, Hook Em Horns and two 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes at Santa Slam and Sham Slam. The Area 6 Champ is a serious contender and provided he gets past Fiacco and McArAw he should get one more shot at Roytek in the state finals and even up the 2-1 win advantage Roytek holds over him currently. Both sides of the bracket will be difficult for our front runners but we believe they will pull it out and set up a very entertaining finals match. When the last race is ran in this one we believe Roytek will be celebrating in the winners circle with a gold medal and Milton's first AAAAA State Champion. Let's head to the pits and see what last minute adjustments are being made to knock off the favorites.

### **135 Placement Favorites**

Moody (9) Lowndes (Kids State Champ)

McArAw (12) Parkview (130-KOH Champ '10)

Drew (12) Coffee (130-5<sup>th</sup> '10; 130-sq '09 125-sq '08)

Fiacco (10) Harrison (135-sq '10)

McCallister (11) Camden (140-sq '10)

Wright (10) Archer

When it comes to freshman making the state finals, it's usually at a much lower weight than 135 unless your name is Petrushev and picking a freshman at this high of a weight is risky but Moody has proven to be a low risk option this year. His most difficult match to make the finals appears to be with our projected state champ Roytek. Moody has shown consistency resembling that of a senior with 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes at Lincoln, Tara Classic at 140, The Columbia Tiger, Valdosta Wildcat, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble losing to 2 time Alabama State Placer Lee of Oxford and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Tift Blue Devil losing to Drew in the Finals. There was redemption for the loss to Drew in the Area 1 finals, when Moody repaid the favor with a 4-2 victory. The last second loss at Sectionals to McArAw in the finals may cost Moody his state finals appearance but the semi

match could go either way here. Parkview showed up out of nowhere at Sectionals with McArw the Area 8 Champ and mowed down Drew and Moody to take 1<sup>st</sup> place and set up a great second round match up with McAllister at state. McArw took out Boulware of Buford to win The Gwinnett County Championship. He holds a 15-1 victory over Wright of Archer in the Area Finals and could add much needed points to Parkviews total and help secure a top 5 team finish at state. McArw is a very long and difficult opponent at 135 and we have him projected to see Moody again in the Con Finals but have predicted a different outcome if that happens. It's always difficult walking in the shadows of a sibling but Aaron is on the verge of achieving more than his brother Stuart a 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher at 130 in 2007 and oldest brother Randy who finished 6<sup>th</sup> at 140 in 2003. Drew is sporting a 40-4 record and has spent most of the year at 140, he captured 1<sup>st</sup> at The Hornet and Tift Blue Devil, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Valdosta Wildcat at 140 and he is the Area 1 Runner Up to Moody and Sectionals 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher as well and has a victory over Moody of Lowndes but Moody won when it counted most in the Region Championship. Don't call it an upset if Drew makes the finals and looks to become the first Coffee County finalist since Ellars Manning in 2006 at 189. Fiacco is another wrestler with brothers that were big time wrestlers in Georgia, being the little brother of a 3 time state champ has its ups and downs but this young man has started his own legacy taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Cobb County, The West Cobb Chiropractic and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Beef O' Brady's. He won the Region 4 title and had a fantastic sectionals tournament taking 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. His second round match up will be key in this bracket as the loser will be put on the heavy side of the cons. After skipping the 130lb weight class Camden is back at it with another threat at the state tournament at 135 with McCallister. The junior and Area 3 Champ took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Graves at 140 and 6<sup>th</sup> at Zac Jarzynka. As we have mentioned before Camden will need all the points they can get to keep pace with Collins Hill and McCallister can provide plenty with a performance similar to his Sectionals 5<sup>th</sup> place. His very first match will be against Doyague and a loss here will be tragic as the loser will get Moody or Drew in the cons. Our last entry at 135 may be a surprise to some but Wright of Archer has a very good draw. He comes in taking 1<sup>st</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble at 140, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The George Thompson, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett County and 4<sup>th</sup> at Coal Mountain and has posted a 47-13 record this year. Once he goes to the cons he will meet up with Lewis, a match that he won at sectionals 9-1 and then he has a go to placement match with Drew and that could end his podium hopes this year. Because of the equal talent in this bracket and the possibility of a freshman from South Georgia making the finals, I am labeling this as my favorite bracket at the state tournament. I believe we have the 8 best wrestlers listed but the order could move north and south on us at any given moment. I will only make one more comment on this weight class and that is how tough it was not picking Moody as my state champ, Skinnyposts got his way in this bracket. We haven't had a Camden VS Collins Hill finals match up yet but don't give up there's hope and then there's The Great White Hope and he resides in the 140lb weight class.

### **2011 AAAAA 140 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Trott (11) Camden (130-1<sup>st</sup>/ Region Champ'09; 103-2<sup>nd</sup>/Region Champ'08)  
Bradtmueller (11) Collins Hill (130-sq/Region Champ '10 112- Illinois sq)

**The Storyline:** For two years I've wanted to write this next story and the time has finally arrived. About 8 or 9 years ago I met this big, tall, flat-top haircut, submarine chief named Bill Trott when me and my son were wrestling in the Camden County youth program. We became friends immediately and he had this tiny little, snow white haired kid that he introduced to wrestling named Austin. I watched him the first couple of years and I thought he had more heart than any 10 kids I knew, but his ability was about as average as it gets. Then he started winning a few matches, the next year he won a few more and before you knew it he was a kid's state placer and a real threat to everyone in his weight class. As he rolled into High School, my thought was that he was too small to be competitive his freshman year at 103, he proved me wrong by making the state finals and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Then in 2010 he jumped 4 weight classes to 130 and again I thought he was not big enough to be competitive. Not only was he competitive, he did the unthinkable, he beat Bushart in the state finals and won his first high school state championship. As I look back, the one thing I kept forgetting about Trott was the heart he had and never quit attitude. Well you're not going to get me this year "White Thunder", I got you pegged. As mentioned he is the 2010 130lb State Champ and 3 time Region Champ that took top honors at The Graves and Zac Jarzynka where he was voted OW of the tournament and at the rate he's going he may never lose again to a Georgia wrestler in high school. When it became public that he would be at 140, this weight class became as vacant as a Super 8 Motel sitting in the middle of the Mohave Desert. Bradtmueller is the only wrestler that seems to want a room at this hotel regardless of the price. The Collins Hill junior took 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Cougar and has spent most of his time out of state on the Collins Hill World Tour. If there is a wrestler in the bracket that can make it interesting Bradtmueller is your guy. In the Area 7 Championships he dismantled Horton 12-0 and put on a clinic at The East Sectionals with a hammering victory over Atkinson and close finals win over Horton 6-4. While I believe Trott is the superior wrestler, Bradtmueller makes for a very dangerous opponent. When this one's complete, we believe the man with a million nicknames will reign superior again and take title number two back to Camden County and become there first 2 time state champ since the inception of AAAAA. Let's see who's been talking with the Price-Line Negotiator for a better room rate.

## 140 Placement Favorites

Horton (11) Peachtree Ridge (135-sq AAA '10; 125-sq AAA '09)  
Jones (12) Tift (135-sq '10; 112-sq '08)  
Gilkensen (12) Milton (135-sq '10)

Gunning (11) Roswell (130-sq '09)  
Greer (12) Duluth (135-sq '09)  
Dawson (11) Centennial

If it's someone with tons of hardware that gets your blood pumping, look no farther than Horton of Peachtree Ridge. The Area 7 runner up has taken the gold at Norcross Blue Devil at 145, Gwinnett County where he beat Greer 9-2, North Metro beating Gunning and Greer, 5<sup>th</sup> at The Graves at 145 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Tiger Holiday. In order to see Trott he will have to deal with Jones of Tift first and if he completes that task, he's guaranteed a spot on the podium. He is the third straight junior we have mentioned in this bracket and may be a year away from making the finals. But Horton has closed the gap on Bradtmuller and is set to make a run at state. Our first senior in this weight class is Jones of Tift. The Area 1 champ sports a 40-6 record and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Valdosta Wildcat and 5<sup>th</sup> at The Eric Hil at 145. Jones did the unthinkable at Sectionals losing his first match to Spain of Grayson and that would be his only loss as he went the long way back to place 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gilkensen of Milton is the only Georgia wrestler to beat Partridge in varsity competition but that was in December 2007 and he has other competitors on his mind. He is the Area 6 Champ and took top honors at The Canton Clash giving up 4 points in the entire tournament and followed that up with a Pin-Pin-Pin performance at the Coal Mountain where he took another 1<sup>st</sup> place medal. He is the West Sectional Runner up to Trott. Gilkensen is our pick to make the semi's and get a shot at knocking off Bradtmueller Friday night. This is where things get a little tough to call because all of these guys are very close in talent. We will stay in Area 6 for our next competitor Gunning of Roswell who comes to the arena with a few medals of his own taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan Christmas at 145, 4<sup>th</sup> at Eric Hill at 145, 4<sup>th</sup> at North Metro and 5<sup>th</sup> at Burnt Mountain. He picks up Bradtmueller in the second round and we have him going to the cons where he fights his way back to a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. Duluth puts their first entry into this years report with Greer. Greer has a 1<sup>st</sup> at Duluth, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett, 2<sup>nd</sup> at North Metro and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fayette Christmas Classic on his resume for tournament accomplishments this year. Taking 5<sup>th</sup> at Sectionals did him no favors as he will get Trott in the second round and eventually have to face Jones in the cons, a wrestler he is currently 0-1 against. Coming in last but certainly not least is Dawson of Centennial who brings with him a 41-13 record and has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Mohawk, 4<sup>th</sup> at Heart of Dixie, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Area 6 and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sectionals but the 5-4 loss to Trott is a very impressive loss as he is one of the few that went 6 minutes with White Thunder. Beware of Atkinson of Parkview, Crowder of North Cobb and Arwood of Harrison as we mix it up in the cons. I am loaded up to head south again and see if Jamal Scott's little brother is ready to step up and run with the big dawgs.

## 2011 AAAAA 145 Pound Weight Class Front Runners

Scott (12) Valdosta (140-1st/region champ '10; 119-6<sup>th</sup>/region champ '09; 112- sq '08)  
Reynolds (12) Dacula (135-4<sup>th</sup> '10; 135-sq '09; 130-sq '08)

**The Storyline:** As we get to the halfway point in this years report, we say goodbye to the entire freshman class and shift our focus toward the juniors and seniors and sprinkle in a few sophomores here and there. Over the course of the last 5 years the 145lb weight class has shared the top step at state with Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors alike. This year the rules have changed and 145 is owned by the seniors and juniors and there is no room for the youngsters. As we begin with our frontrunners it appears that the Scott family can definitely get it done their junior and senior years. Jamal went back to back in 04 and 05 at 171 and 189 and Jovan is trying to follow in his brothers footsteps and become a two timer as well, going back to back in 140 and 145. Jovan Scott was one win away from placing at state his freshman year and that would have made him a 4 time state placer but he took a thrashing from TJ Mitchell to the tune of 16-0. Being a 4time state placer would have been great but being a 2 time State Champion has a little better ring to it and that's where Scott is headed. He is the Area 1 Champion, defending State Champion and won gold at The Valdosta Wildcat, Tift Blue Devil, The Hornet at 152 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Cougar at 152. In addition to that he won the East Sectionals with a pin over Reynolds early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period in the finals. Scott has blinding speed and a 53-3 record that has only been tamed by one Georgia wrestler Trott (twice) of Camden and Florida stud Clark Glass of Brandon this year but Trott is the 140 frontrunner and that has opened the door completely for Scott to repeat in 2011. If you remember last years report we talked about a Newton County wrestler named Reynolds, well this is the same guy but not the same wrestler. He switched schools with Coach Cooper and has really turned his senior year into his best performance taking 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett County, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Lovejoy Wildcat Rumble, 1<sup>st</sup> at Area 8 Championships pinning McFall in the first period and 2<sup>nd</sup> at East Sectionals to Scott. Reynolds second round match with McFall will be a rematch from the Area 8 Finals and if he can post the same results he will get a semi finals match with Harrison of Peachtree Ridge whom he beat 7-2 at Sectionals. We are predicting the 2011 state champ at 145 to be Scott and that makes two weight classes in a row for South Georgia. Let's drill down on the rest of these high powered combatants and find out if there's an upset looming close by.

## 145 Placement Favorites

Epps (12) North Gwinnett (135-sq '10)  
Harrison (12) Peachtree Ridge (145-sq '10)  
McFall (12) Parkview (145-sq '10)

Ellis (12) Collins Hill  
Robinson (11) North Forsyth (145-sq '10)  
Distasio (11) Grayson (145-sq '10)

You have to go back to 2007 to find the last North Gwinnett wrestler to make the finals and that was Travis Sheehy at 152, but you will not find a North Gwinnett wrestler listed as AAAAA State Champ. We believe Epps will have the opportunity to change that this year and become the first North Gwinnett AAAAA State Champ but he'd better hurry because there is a guy at 189 that has the same plan. Epps has gathered up his fair share of hardware this year already taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett County, Sham Slam and 4<sup>th</sup> at The Panther. He won the Area 7 Championship pinning Harrison in 54 second but injury defaulted out to 6<sup>th</sup> at Sectionals after getting pinned by Scott late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period and that has lined him up for a semi-final showdown with Scott again at match #295. Our projected 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher is Harrison of Peachtree Ridge the proud owner of the following medals; 1<sup>st</sup> at Norcross Blue Devil at 152, 1<sup>st</sup> at Duluth, 2<sup>nd</sup> at North Metro, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Graves at 152 and 5<sup>th</sup> at The Tiger Holiday. If he can get past his old buddy Robinson in the quarters he is guaranteed a podium spot but these two split last year 2-2 with Robinson taking the last victory by 8, this will be a very important match in this bracket. McFall has had about all he can handle of Reynolds losing by tech 15-0 at Gwinnett County and getting pinned in the first period at Area but he will get Reynolds again in round two and we have him headed to the cons after that match. If McFall can put together a few good wins he will add to his hardware collection that already includes 4<sup>th</sup> at Gwinnett County, 6<sup>th</sup> at The Zac Jarzynka, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Area and 3<sup>rd</sup> at East Sectionals. For the last 3 years Ellis has had to watch as Collins Hill blasted through the state tournament taking title after title but this year he made the line up and compiled a 31-17 record wrestling that brutal Collins Hill schedule that included Toshiba, The Cougar and Powerade. While his resume is not that of Scott or Reynolds he has drawn a favorable bracket for wrestle backs that should get him to the podium, provided he gets past Distasio, something he did at sectionals 3-1 in the con quarters. DANGER WILL ROBINSON! I wonder how many times he has heard that at North Forsyth High School. Well there is danger Will Robinson and it arrives when this young man toes the line. Robinson brought the danger to the following tournaments and took home some hardware; 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Santa Slam, 5<sup>th</sup> at Sham Slam, 1<sup>st</sup> at Area and he is the West Sectional Champion. I have not labeled any wrestler in this report yet as a "dark-horse" but I am now. This guy is capable of making the finals and then we will all have to hear Travis Jarrard tell us how he coached two wrestlers to the finals this year but in reality we all know Maher did it all from New York. Since Josh Stephen has littered up the report with all his Collins Hill wrestlers, it's only fitting that the self proclaimed "better looking brother" Mike, get at least one of his wrestlers in the report and that's where Distasio comes in from Grayson with a 26-8 record. He has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at Brookwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The West Cobb Chiropractic and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett County. His 1<sup>st</sup> round match up with Freshman Ward of Marietta will dictate his state tournament as the loser of that match will get the loser of Robinson VS Harrison in the cons and we could see a brother VS brother coach off at match 324 between Distasio and Ellis. Be watching for Ward of Marietta and Pace of Brookwood to let their presences be known early. Let's say farewell to one of the most humble champions we have seen in years and he's sitting at 152.

## 2011 AAAAA 152 Pound Weight Class Front Runners

Rivera (12) Kennesaw Mountain (152-3<sup>rd</sup>/Region Champ '10; 145-1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ '09 145-sq '08)  
Garren (12) North Gwinnett (140-sq '10)

**The Storyline:** Sometimes when you decide to write about something or someone, instead of trying to come up with some analogies or themes, you just need to write what you feel. I recall a conversation I had once with Bob Berg and we were talking about favorites and I asked if he had any wrestler that was his favorite and of course his son Chris came up and Ben Fiacco. He spoke of Ben and not just his wrestling skills but the quality of the young man. So I decided to write something a little different about this next champion because he truly represents what a champion is. While I enjoy watching all Georgia wrestlers past and present, I too have my favorites and that list consist of My Son, Witt Durden, Brandon Westerman, Gary Tiller, David Gay, Drake McCoy, David Brunson, Carrington Banks, Jack Roberts and my all-time favorite Andrew Lanham who never won a High School State Championship but what a solid wrestler and a fantastic young man. With that being said, I have watched this next guy really evolve into an exceptional wrestler and an even finer young man that any father would be proud of. Jonatan Rivera is not a flashy wrestler that let's the entire gym know he just won, he doesn't throw his head gear or storm out of a gym when he takes a loss, you actually have to watch the ref raise his hand to know if he won or lost because that's how humble this young man is. Since he's been in high school his hand has been raised many times and he's got 4 more to go. Rivera has been added to my All Time Georgia Favorite List for many reasons and it has been a pleasure watching him over the past 4 years, he will be sorely missed and I just wanted to take the time and say, "Thank You for being a Champion on and off the mat, you're going to be a hard one to replace". He is the Area 4 Champion, McCallie Champion, Cobb County Champion and took 5<sup>th</sup> at The Cheesehead. After taking 3<sup>rd</sup> at State last year he has rebounded like the champion he was in 2009. There's really not a whole lot more to say except he's a winner, plain and simple. No offense to the other competitors but after Rivera there is a gap in the talent at 152 this year, unlike 2010. With that being said we have elected to go with Garren as Rivera's opponent in the finals. His Sectional 1<sup>st</sup> place performance secured him the spot and an opportunity to take down the highly regarded Rivera. Garren has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at Sham Slam, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Panther, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett and 1<sup>st</sup> at Area 7 Championships. His 3 losses were to

the AA Front-Runners Ness and Sherman and 160lb AAA Front-Runner Knight of Oconee. Garren is very impressive on his feet and has phenomenal speed and should cruise through the bracket till he meets up with Marmoll in the semi finals and that will be his first real challenge at state. So it's no surprise as we present to you our choice at 152 Jonatan Rivera of Kennesaw Mountain.

### 152 Placement Favorites

Marmoll (11) Lassiter (140-sq '10)  
Krawulski (11) Collins Hill (KOH Champ)  
Loving (12) Mill Creek

Wilson (10) Roswell (145-sq '10)  
Sesay (12) Archer (145-sq AAA '10)  
Dickman (12) West Forsyth (145-sq AAA '10)

Marmoll of Lassiter is returning state qualifier from 2010 at 140 and is this years Area 5 Champion and took 1<sup>st</sup> at MTXE, The Canton Clash, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County and 2<sup>nd</sup> at West Sectionals. He will get a second round match with Wilson of Roswell and that's a rematch of the Sectional semi final, a match that he won 6-4, if he's successful he will get a chance to knock off Garren and make the state finals, something Lassiter has not accomplished since Pifer won state in 2009. Krawulski is another Collins Hill entry with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at The Cougar and has lost twice to Garren once at Area and again in the Sectional finals 5-2. He holds two wins over Loving and will get a 3 chance in the second round at state which will set up a rematch with Rivera to make the finals. Loving was 1<sup>st</sup> at Brookwood at 160, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gwinnett at 160, 3<sup>rd</sup> at George Thompson at 152 and posted a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> at The East Sectionals. The first round match up with Dickman will be a good match right out of the gate and the loser will get a decent run thru the cons. Loving will need to get over the 4-2 loss to Krawulski at Sectionals in order to reach the semis and be guaranteed a podium spot this year. Our only sophomore in this weight class is Wilson of Roswell the Area 6 champ. He posts 1<sup>st</sup> at North Metro, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Eric Hill, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Burnt Mountain and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the West Sectionals. A Marmoll/Garren win would put him in the finals but Marmoll holds the edge on him and if the same results occur he will be lined up with Abreau and Dickman and become a state placer as a sophomore. The future is bright for this young star but it may not happen till next year. When you look at the Peachtree Ridge 52 pounder Sesay he is about as intimidating as they get and his medal placements this year prove it's more than just a look taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett, 5<sup>th</sup> at George Thompson and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Area. The key to Sesay making the podium will be his cons performance as he should get Hinton and Loving. The final entry at 152 is Thomas of Etowah who comes in with a favorable draw in the brackets getting Taylor of MLK first round and Garren in the second. He does hold a 10-8 victory over Dickman which will help him when he gets to the cons. The Area 5 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher also took 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Santa Slam at 160 and he has a shot at the podium if he can make a good run in the cons. There is only one 4time state placer in this years AAAAA Brackets and he's coming up next at 160.

### 2011 AAAAA 160 Pound Weight Class Front Runners

Everton (12) West Forsyth (152-1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ AAA '10; 145- 6<sup>th</sup> AAA '09; 135- 5<sup>TH</sup> AAA '08)  
Winslow (12) Westlake (160-sq '10)

**The Storyline:** Gladiator is one of my top 10 all time favorite movies and the one-liners from this movie were fantastic. At there first fight in Rome at The Coliseum Maximus says to the other Gladiators, "**Whatever comes out of these gates, we've got a better chance of survival if we work together. Do you understand? If we stay together, we survive**". Unfortunately in this situation there are no chances of working together, you've got to win it own your own and The Gladiator in this weight class is Everton and just like Maximus he appears set to dismantle all competitors, look to the crowd and ask ~ **Are you not entertained? Are you not entertained?! Is it not why you are here?** This Gladiator just keeps working year after year and the results of his hard work are state titles. He has had a spectacular year compiling a 54-0 record and filling up the trophy case with all 1<sup>st</sup> place medals from Alpharetta Raider Rumble at 171, The Canton Clash at 171, Hook Em Horns, North Metro, Area 6 Championships and The West Sectionals. He took top honors last year in AAA at the 160lb weight class and he is looking to become West Forsyth's first AAAAA State Champ and their first 2x State Champ and he will be the only wrestler in all of AAAAA this year that has placed all four years of high school, 3x in AAA and this year in AAAAA. We are predicting he will toe the line with a surprise entry from Westlake "**Big-Throw Winslow**". Winslow may be a heavy underdog in many peoples eye but make no mistake about it he has all the tools to make for a very dangerous finals opponent for Everton. I am predicting this will be a full 6 minute match for Everton. Winslow has completed the year thus far with a 36-6 record taking 2<sup>nd</sup> at South Metro at 189, 2<sup>nd</sup> at King of The Jungle at 189, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lovejoy Wildcat Rumble, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fayette Christmas Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Area 2 Championships and he finally got a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish when it mattered most The East Sectionals pinning Heugh in the 1<sup>st</sup> period. An important note here is the loss at South Metro to Waller of Woodland-Stockbridge at 189 was a quality loss as Waller has the most wins in Georgia this year at 66-1. Winslow

can wrestle with bigger opponents but he will be tested by a fine-tuned Everton in the finals. In the end we believe it will be the “Best Head of Hair” in Georgia coaching Everton to his first AAAAA state championship and departing high school with 2 state titles to his name. Let’s see who has been sharpening their sword and ready for battle.

### **160 Placement Favorites**

Visockis (12) McEachern (152-sq ‘10)  
Spikes (12) Collins Hill  
Heugh (11) Peachtree Ridge

Chandler (11) Milton  
Wynn (12) Lowndes  
Walthour (10) Camden

Two years ago my son was wrestling his senior season and we attended a dual very early in the season and McEachern was there amongst many other teams. It was a down year for McEachern except for Westerman and they were not getting much notice, then I saw this kid named Visockis wrestle and I turned to Day-Day Roberts and said “that kid will be a state placer next year”. Well I missed it by a year but here he is and at 39-4 he is a serious threat to Winslow and his finals bid but first he will have to get past Squires of Parkview in the quarters. Visockis went 6 full minutes with Everton and came up short losing 6-2 which is very respectable against a defending State Champ. He finished 1<sup>st</sup> at Morgan Christmas Classic beating AAA Frontrunner Knight, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County, 1<sup>st</sup> at Area 4 Championships and 2<sup>nd</sup> at The West Sectionals. Spikes of Collins Hill was an early victim of Winslow at Sectionals and for that he will get a second round match up with Area foe Heugh whom he has already beaten 10-0 to take 1<sup>st</sup> at the Area 7 Championship and then he gets a shot at Everton. Spikes should get thru the cons and meet up with Visockis and wrestle for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Spikes finished 6<sup>th</sup> at The Cougar and competed against some of the country’s top wrestlers at The Powerade and Final Four. Our second straight Area 7 entry is Heugh of Peachtree Ridge with a 35-13 record and took 1<sup>st</sup> at Norcross Blue Devil, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Duluth, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett County, 3<sup>rd</sup> at North Metro and 6<sup>th</sup> at The Graves. Heugh made the finals at the East Sectionals defeating Perry and Wynn along the way but was pinned by Winslow in the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the finals. Heugh will need to find a way past Spikes in round two but if he’s unsuccessful in this his 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt then he meets up with Perry again a match he should win and secure a placement spot. Our fourth Milton wrestler in this years report is Chandler who brings with him a 35-14 record that includes 1<sup>st</sup> at The Canton Clash, Coal Mountain and is the Area 6 Runner Up to Everton. The first round match up with Wynn is the most important match of this bracket because the loser will be lined up with the Visockis/Squires loser and that means somebody is going home early. Wynn losing 4-3 to Spikes in the con semis at Sectionals actually helped his podium chances because if he takes a first round loss to Chandler he drops to the cons and we have him facing off with Squires who he beat 7-1 at Sectionals and he will get another shot at Heugh or Perry. Wynn is the Area 1 Champ and he finished 1<sup>st</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Columbia Tiger, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Valdosta Wildcat and is looking to improve his 36-10 record. To close out 160 we bring in another Camden wrestler Walthour the Area 3 Champion who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Graves, 6<sup>th</sup> at Zac Jarzynka at 152 and 5<sup>th</sup> at The West Sectionals losing to Everton and Chandler. He is the youngest in the group and will be a serious force next year for Camden. Squires of Parkview had a bad Sectional tournament but he can put together a run and do some serious damage to this bracket. Also keep Sandercock on your radar as he too is capable of pulling the upsets. As you review over this bracket you will notice that we only have 3 State Qualifiers from previous years in this report so it’s anybody’s bracket after you get past the top 3. Lock the doors and secure the windows we have 2 returning State Champs in this next one, let’s check out the 71’s.

### **2011 AAAAA 171 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Holmes (12) Benedictine (171-1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ AA ’10; 160-2<sup>nd</sup>/Region Champ AA ’09)  
Petrushev (10) Peachtree Ridge (152-1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ ’10)

**The Storyline:** If there has ever been a “David vs. Goliath” between 2 schools this is it. Benedictine Military Academy was established in 1902, it is a private Catholic Military School with approximately 700 students enrolled, located in South Georgia, Savannah to be exact. It is very rich with tradition and prides itself on preparing young men for college and the military. Benedictine spent some time in AAAAA from 2000 to 2004, they moved to AAA and then down to AA. Now they have made the jump back up to AAAAA and are proving they belong here. The polar opposite in this finals match up is an entry from Peachtree Ridge, a Gwinnett County school with 3,226 students enrolled and it just opened it doors August 2003. The one common that both of these competitors share are State Championships. Holmes comes in as the Area 3 Champion and West Sectional Champ and he is a returning State Champion at 171 in AA. He is a two time state finalist as he made the finals in 2009 at 160 where he lost a 13-7 finals match to the National Record Holder for pins in a year Fretwell. Holmes is currently 52-2 with those two losses coming to out of state wrestlers at the same tournament where he finished 5<sup>th</sup> at The Clinch Gear Prep Slam and also taking 1<sup>st</sup> at The Rebel. Holmes is returning to the same weight class and Petrushev has moved up 2 weight classes and this could play to Holmes advantage. Coach Trvdy has a true student of wrestling in Holmes and we hope to see him on the college scene next year. Last year I wanted so bad to take Petrushev over Rivera but I stayed with the reigning state champ and it proved costly as Petrushev pulled the upset and won the title. This year

Petrushev has taken a little time off but has gotten back to his winning ways late in the season taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Gwinnett County, North Metro, Duluth, Area 7 Championships and he ripped thru the East Sectionals without a problem. His 26-0 record proves that this sophomore is no one-season wonder, he's here to stay and we get to see him for 2 more years. The one thing that I learned from Bob Berg is the old saying, "never go against a state champ". Well as hard as this decision has been it's time to make the decision of which state champ will we go against and we are taking Holmes to repeat as state champ and follow Everton as our second member in the AAA to AAAAA State Champ Club. This could very well be one of the most methodical state finals that we have this year and to be very candid with you, it could go either way. There is an unknown superstar that can really ruin this for both of these guys, let's go meet him and the others.

### **171 Placement Favorites**

Johnson (11) Camden

Hill (12) McEachern (160-sq '10)

Connell (12) Collins Hill (KOH Champ)

Alexander (12) Valdosta (171-sq '10)

Edmonds (12) Centennial

Cloud (12) West Forsyth (171-5<sup>th</sup> AAA '10)

If you are an upset guy then let me introduce you to Mr. Johnson from Camden County. He only has a 17-3 record but don't judge him by that, he's the real deal. All three of his losses have been to Holmes with the most recent being a 3-1 decision at the Sectional Finals. He is a big 71 pounder and will be an even bigger opponent on Saturday, so if you have plans to beat him it needs to be accomplished on Friday and Petrushev should be his semi's partner on Friday night. Last year McEachern sent Wester to the state tournament at 171 and he fell one win short of making the podium, well this year McEachern puts Hill in the same weight class and we have him on the medal stand. He has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Morgan Christmas, Cobb County, 3<sup>rd</sup> at McCallie, 1<sup>st</sup> at Area 4 Championships and he lost a 2-1 match to Johnson at Sectionals to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Hill VS Johnson match will probably happen 2 more times at the state tournament and these should be great matches, just like the Sectionals. Here we are on our 11<sup>th</sup> weight class and Collins Hill has not slowed down yet, putting 10 in the state tournament prior to this one so it's only fitting that Connell be added to the list. He is the Area 7 Runner Up to Petrushev, a performance that he repeated at The East Sectionals and took 7<sup>th</sup> a Toshiba. He will get Holmes in the semi's and pick up the very important placement points for The Collins Hill Eagles but we have him going to the cons where he eventually loses to Hill but fights back to take 5<sup>th</sup>. Valdosta is keeping pace with many of the metro schools and Alexander keeps them going with his 28-6 record. He is the Area 1 Champ, 1<sup>st</sup> at Valdosta Wildcat, The Tift Blue Devil and had a decent showing at Sectionals taking 3<sup>rd</sup> losing to Connell 6-1. Edmonds has compiled a 40-8 record for his senior season and took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Rebel at 189, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Mohawk at 189, North Metro and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Heart of Dixie at 189. This Area 6 Champion will have his hands full in the second round as he gets to square off with our projected state champ Holmes and an eventual date with Alexander will determine his placement. Cloud of West Forsyth will get a very rude wake up call in the second round from Petrushev and that will send the 41-12 senior to the cons where he has no problem until he meets up with Hill in the go to placement match. Cloud has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble at 215, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hook Em Horns, North Metro, 4<sup>th</sup> at The Canton Clash at 215 and he was the Area 6 Runner Up to Edmonds. As we tuck this one away in the cupboard keep in mind that Bowman of Dacula and Olivares of Meadowcreek will be bringing all they have to bust up this bracket. You talk about drama and dilemma, we have a truck load of it waiting at 189.

### **2011 AAAAA 189 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Bennett (12) Collins Hill (189- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ '10; 189-4<sup>th</sup> '09)

Jones (11) Camden (189-sq '09)

**The Storyline:** Back in the late 80's and into the mid 90's I was a big time Boxing fan and I followed Mike Tyson thru his career and was mesmerized by his speed and ability to knock out his opponents with both his left and right hands. Tyson had blazing speed and unmatched power. Then on February 11, 1990 in Tokyo, Japan he met up with 46 to 1 underdog James "Buster" Douglas. Now Douglas seemed to be just another stat in the win column for Tyson as he was not really thought of as Champion material. But in the 10<sup>th</sup> round Douglas hit Tyson with an uppercut and followed that with a barrage of head snapping straight rights that dropped Tyson to the canvas. Tyson struggled to gather his mouth piece and proceeded to put it in his mouth backwards as he pulled himself up but it was too late, the match was over. Douglas pulled the upset of the century and took the title away from the unbeatable Tyson. This year we have our underdog of the year at 189 and his name is Gray Jones from Camden County. Jones qualified for state in 2010 but did not place and Bennett won the weight class, so you can go ahead and label Jones as the underdog that's fine, he doesn't mind. But the Camden superstar has a 39-2 record and is the Area 3 Champ, The Zac Jarzynka Champ, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Graves behind Stevens of Pope and had no problems at the West Sectionals making Moore of Kennesaw Mountain a memory to the tune of 8-1. I have heard comments that range from "hard to score on", "freaky strong" and "the most impressive wrestler I've seen all year". The good news for us is the fact that we get to see him for another year also. Don't lose sight that Bennett still holds the title and is a very determined champion when it comes to keeping that title. He is very physical and can match Jones in strength which makes for an incredible final. In order to get there though he will have to deal with the Moore VS Rider winner and he has seen them both losing by pin to Rider and defeating Moore 4-2. Now in his senior year Bennett is looking to become a two timer and leave on a positive note. Bennett is the Area 7 Champ and East Sectionals Champ disposing of Mack in the finals and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Cougar and 6<sup>th</sup> at Powerade and had a

solid performance at The Final Four. The closing music in this epic battle of two talented 189's will be The Counting Crows singing "Mr. Jones and Me" as he takes the title back to Camden for at least 364 days. Now if you thought that decision was hard, read on and you will see why it took so long on this weight class.

### **189 Placement Favorites**

Rider (11) North Gwinnett (160- 6<sup>th</sup> '10; 152- 6<sup>th</sup> '09)  
Mack (12) Tift (189-sq '09)  
Moore (12) Kennesaw Mountain

Beane (12) Grayson (171-sq '10)  
Rechsteiner (10) Etowah (171-sq '10)  
Alexander (10) Archer (171-sq AAA '10)

A 100% healthy Rider would not be listed down here, he would be in the frontrunner section taking someone's spot but the injury default at Sectionals has left some questions. The healthy Rider took 1<sup>st</sup> at The Panther, Gwinnett County and The Sham Slam. He also pinned Bennett to take the Area 7 title and add onto his 38-2 record which was perfect till the two defaults at sectionals. Rider gets the toughest draw in the tournament having to deal with Rechsteiner, Moore and Bennett prior to the finals. If he can pull that off he just may become the first AAAAA State Champ for North Gwinnett. The Area 1 Champ Mack is no push-over either and his 53-4 record proves it. He has gathered up 1<sup>st</sup> at Valdosta Wildcat, Tift Blue Devil, The Eric Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble, Area 1 Champion and gave Bennett a great match in the East Sectional Final losing 3-1. This is another dangerous wrestler and he is set to meet up with Jones in the semi finals and avenge an early season loss to the Camden Wildcat. We are not done yet, the hits just keep on coming from all directions and this time it is Area 4 landing the blows with Moore from Kennesaw Mountain. This Area Champ took 1<sup>st</sup> at Area, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cobb County, 4<sup>th</sup> at McCallie and is the West Sectionals Runner Up. He had a very solid performance against Bennett losing 4-2 but took an 8-1 drill from Jones in the West Sectional Finals. Moore will play a huge role in the bracket as some of the talent will fall if this guy hits the cons early. It is not out of the question can this #5 become #1 in the blink of an eye? The answer is yes. Beane from Grayson rounds out our guys making the podium at 189 this year. The senior has taken 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brookwood at 215, 4<sup>th</sup> at Gwinnett County at 215, 4<sup>th</sup> at The Sham Slam and is the Area 8 Champ. His only loss at Sectionals was a 10-5 decision to Bennett in the quarter finals. Rechsteiner will be the first of our two sophomores in this years 189 report and is probably a year away from stardom but has already picked up some big wins taking the top spot at The Area 5 Championships, 1<sup>st</sup> at The Santa Slam, 3<sup>rd</sup> at North Metro and 3<sup>rd</sup> at The West Sectionals. He will be moving up on the report next year and could be a 3 time state placer with an exceptional performance on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The last sophomore is Alexander from the future school of champions Archer and his name is Alexander and he too is already a competitive thorn in the side of many upper classmen taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, 2<sup>nd</sup> at George Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> at North Metro, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Area 8 Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett County. He is the future of Archers big men along with team mate McCleskey for the next two years and I have a feeling he's a front runner before his high school career is over. Take a look at this next gym rat and tell me if he's been lifting any weights to get all the way up to 215?

### **2011 AAAAA 215 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Chapman (12) Peachtree Ridge (171-sq '10; 145-sq '09)  
Holbert (12) Collins Hill (171-5<sup>th</sup> '10; 171-5<sup>th</sup> '09)

**The Storyline:** I grew up in a house where College Football was king and every Saturday was spent watching college football. Now the only two teams anyone was ever allowed to pull for at my house were Georgia and Notre Dame and my dad policed this like a Red Tail Hawk would survey a wheat field looking for his next meal. If you came over talking about Ga Tech, Clemson, Florida, Michigan or USC, you were quickly shown the door and sent along your way. We loved our Georgia Bulldogs and our Irish heritage was always displayed when Notre Dame played. Well it all came to a head back in 1981 when Georgia and Notre Dame were playing in the Sugar Bowl and Georgia had a National Championship riding on a victory. There was a choice that had to be made The Dawgs or The Irish, who would you, pull for and it had to be said out loud before the game started. While I love my Irish heritage, Herschel Walker was my hero and I wanted Georgia to win a National Title so I went with the Dawgs and when Scott Woerner intercepted Kiel's pass I knew then Georgia was going to win it all. Sometimes we are put in a situation where we like both teams or opponents and we have to make a choice and that's where I am in this weight class. There can only be one winner and a choice has to be made and I like both of these wrestlers style and demeanor. The first of our two finalists is another Peachtree Ridge entry Chapman. Two years ago Chapman was wrestling at 145 and was a state qualifier, then last year he stepped up to 171 and qualified for state again but did not place either year. This year Chapman has showed up at 215 and if you have not seen him yet be prepared, he's a monster and very difficult to score on. He is the Area 7 Champ, he's undefeated at 47-0 and has won every tournament he has entered including The Norcross Blue Devil, Gwinnett County, The Graves, The Tiger Holiday, North Metro, Duluth and The East Sectionals. He has beaten Holbert twice

this year already and will see him again in the State Finals. For a young man that has never placed at state, Chapman waited to put his best performance together his senior year. From a distance you may not recognize Holbert this year as he went from 171 to 215 like his finals opponent Chapman and that's what makes this an incredible final. Holbert has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Cougar, 4<sup>th</sup> at Powerade, 5<sup>th</sup> at Toshiba and 2<sup>nd</sup> at both Area and Sectionals where he lost to Chapman at both events. Holbert will be a 3time state placer when his High School career is over. As we get near the end of this years report we are taking Chapman to get his only state placement in high school with a 1<sup>st</sup> place medal. There's a list of guys shooting for the podium and here they are.

### **215 Placement Favorites**

Mannino (12) Milton (215-sq '10)  
Brown (12) Valdosta (189-sq '10)  
McCleskey (10) Archer

Nyang (11) Lassiter  
Fallows (12) West Forsyth  
James (12) Camden (215-sq '10)

Our last Milton entry of the report is Mannino at 44-8 he is the Area 6 Runner Up that won 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Canton Clash, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Coal Mountain, 5<sup>th</sup> at Zac Jarzynka and The West Sectionals Champ. He will get James in round two and Holbert in the semis and the road back thru the cons will not be an easy one either having to deal with McCleskey. Brown finished 1<sup>st</sup> at The Hornet, Valdosta Widcat, 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Tift Blue Devil, he is the Area 1 Champ and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sectionals losing to Holbert 4-3. Brown will have his second shot at Holbert and if he's unsuccessful his tournament hopes will rest on the third match up with James of Camden. McCleskey of Archer is 42-12 and has taken 1<sup>st</sup> at The Alpharetta Raider Rumble at 285, 1<sup>st</sup> at Coal Mountain, 3<sup>rd</sup> at George Thompson at 285, 4<sup>th</sup> at Gwinnett County at 285 and 4<sup>th</sup> at North Metro at 215. The second round match with Holbert will send him to the cons early and he battles all the way back to place but will run into Mannino in the con semis. Nyang gets a favorable draw and makes the semis only to lose to Chapman but guarantees himself a podium spot to go with the hardware he collected earlier in the year at MTXE where he took 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County and 5<sup>th</sup> at The Fayette Christmas Classic. We have Fallows of West Forsyth falling one win short of the podium losing to McCleskey but this Area 6 Champ can get it done when he needs to as he did throughout the year taking 1<sup>st</sup> at Canton Clash at 285, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hook Em Horns at 285 and 2<sup>nd</sup> at West Sectionals. This bracket is very wide open after the top two and anything can happen so stay close to Fallows and watch for him to make an early run. It's no surprise that Camden puts a 215 in the report because they are very deep and Wilder has everybody wanting to be a part of the Wrestling team in Camden. James is only a junior and took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Graves, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Zac Jarzynka and is the Area 3 Champ. The only problem we see here is that he will face Brown of Valdosta in his go to placement match in the cons and he has already lost to Brown this year. James may have to wait till next year to grace the stage but he won't go down without a fight. So that seals the deal on 215 and I can see a road sign straight ahead and it reads 285 East to I-85 North straight ahead and I think I know who lives in that area.

### **2011 AAAAA 285 Pound Weight Class Front Runners**

Aiken-Phillips (12) Central Gwinnett (285- 1<sup>st</sup>/Region Champ '10; 285-4<sup>th</sup> '09; 285-sq '08)  
Hagen (12) Mill Creek (285-sq '09)

**The Storyline:** If you take I-85 North to GA-316 and get off on Sugarloaf Parkway and head southeast to Central Gwinnett High School you will find the best "Big-Guy" in the state. It's only fitting that we close out this years report with a farewell to one the best big guys we have had in a while. It's rare that we have a big guy place more than 2 years, but to win state back to back as a 285 in AAAAA and place as a sophomore has only been done by Drake McCoy since the inception of AAAAA. Now I am not comparing Aiken-Phillips to Drake, trust me, I am one of the biggest Drake fans in the world. But the last two years that Aiken-Phillips has put together has been incredible. He has once again completed the year with an undefeated season going 63-0 and will add 4 more wins to his 2011 total. The Area 8 Champ and future Cornell University wrestler walked into every tournament as the target and walked away with gold every time and this years Aiken-Phillips Destruction Tour 2010-11 consisted of Gwinnett County, George Thompson, Dublin, Duluth, Area 8 and The East Sectionals. He has entertained Georgia for the past 4 years and we hope some of the big guys coming up try and emulate his style of wrestling. If all goes by the plan, he will get the winner of Butler VS Hagen and if it is Hagen that would be a rematch from the Sectional Final a match Aiken-Phillips won 6-3. Hagen has proven that he can give Aiken-Phillips a full match and try to get in a situation that would allow him to pull off the upset. The Mill Creek senior is the Area 7 Champion, Brookwood Champion and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to Aiken-Phillips at Sectionals. The Semi-Final match up with Butler will be the determining factor of who finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> between these two. We have Hagen pulling off the win and making the finals at which point his record for the year will improve to 34-2 before meeting up with Aiken-Phillips again. Hagen should participate in the last match of the night at state against Aiken-Phillips and this will be a very positive way to end your high school career. When it's all said and done Aiken-Phillips will once again be too much for the rest of the bracket and head to Cornell with 2 state titles. We wish him the best and look forward to watching him compete in D-1 for the next 4 years. We have 6 more to go and the names are starting to run together so if I have Millhof lined up with Noble just look past that, here are your final 6 wrestlers in this years report.

## 285 Placement Favorites

Butler (12) Camden (285-sq '10)  
Noble (12) Walton (285-4<sup>th</sup> '10)  
Shumpert (11) Harrison

Fountain (12) Valdosta (285-sq '10)  
Zerblis (11) Grayson  
Giddeons (11) Colquitt (285-sq '09)

Year after year we complain about how we can never get the big guys right. Well last year we did pretty well and we have some confidence in the group we chose this year so let's get to know them a little better. Camden rolls in with our projected 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Butler. The Area 3 champ also took 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Graves, 5<sup>th</sup> at Zac Jarzynka and won the West Sectional. At 36-7 this senior wants his shot at Aiken-Phillips but he will have to get past Hagen in the Semi-Finals to get that opportunity. Butler can finish 2<sup>nd</sup> just as easy as he can finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Semi-Final match is that important. Welcome back Mr. Noble from Walton the Area 5 Champ who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cobb County and took two losses to Butler this year; one at Zac Jarzynka where Noble took 6<sup>th</sup> and The West Sectional Finals. The good news for Noble is that Butler is on the other side of the bracket, the bad news is Aiken-Phillips will be waiting for him in the semis. The first of our three juniors at 285 is Shumpert from Harrison, this Cobb County Champion has a 47-9 record and took 1<sup>st</sup> at The West Cobb Chiropractic, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Beef O'Brady's and 4<sup>th</sup> at McCallie. Shumpert, Giddeons and Noble all make up a quad in the bracket that will be a battle for that semi shot at Aiken-Phillips. If Shumpert can pull it off he will be our second projected state placer from Harrison. Year after year Valdosta puts a 285 on the mat and he is a consistent winner so why change things now. Fountain is 34-8, the Area 1 Champ, 1<sup>st</sup> at The Hornet, The Valdosta Wildcat, 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Cougar and he finished off Sectionals in 4<sup>th</sup>. Fountain should win his first match but then he's headed to the cons after Aiken-Phillips is through with him. In the cons we have him working back thru until he meets up with Butler and he ends up hitting the podium at the 6<sup>th</sup> position. Our final Grayson wrestler is Zerblis and at 28-6 he has another year to make a hard push up the podium. Zerblis took 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gwinnett, 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sham Slam and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Area. He should win his first match but he gets Hagen in round 2 and that will send him to the cons and the road back thru will be rocky but don't be shocked if he puts a run together and adds to his hardware collection. We finish this years report with the Area 1 Runner Up Giddeons of Colquitt County, this 26-3 junior has a promising future and laid the foundation this year taking 1<sup>st</sup> at The Tift Blue Devil and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Area. As we mentioned earlier he has the toughest quadrant in the bracket and getting back thru the cons will be just as tough but we are talking about heavyweights and anything can happen at any given moment just ask Chumley from 2 years ago. Well that wraps up this years report and I want to make sure everyone understands that I mean no harm in some of my candid comments. I just type what I see and for those of you I left off the report please go out and show me I made a mistake, trust me I am a humble guy and like it when the unknowns show up.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** As mentioned every 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.