





Division III College-Bound Athletes

Pictured above are six Lancaster High School Seniors who will be participating in Division III College athletics next year. Pictured from left to right: Jacob Spearman - Washington and Jefferson (Wrestling), Ben Barnhart-Sullivan - Muskingum (Wrestling), Logan Strobe - Washington and Jefferson (Wrestling), Spencer Marshall - Muskingum (Wrestling), Nick Thompson - Marietta (Football), Caitlyn Poston - Muskingum (Soccer). Other Lancaster Seniors planning to participate in DIII athletics, not pictured are: Ethan Jones - Muskingum (Football), Xavier West - Muskingum (Football), David Hartranft - Muskingum (Football), Kellie Arter - Dennison (Basketball), Jordan Kempton - Shawnee State (Baseball), Caleb Hester - Marietta (Basketball), Jenna Jones- Indianapolis (Softball), Ashlee Brill - Bethany College (Softball), Abby Renko - Bethany College (Softball), Ethan Cordle - Wilmington (Football)

2011-2012 Wrestling Results



BOYS WRESTLING 2012 SECTIONAL CHAMPS

March 11, 2012

2012 Eagle-Gazette Wrestler of the Year: Lancaster's Jacob Spearman

Lancaster Eagle - Bryan DeArdo

LANCASTER -- It takes a special athlete to be a Lancaster wrestler.

To wrestle for coach Jon Spires and the Golden Gales, one must have peerless dedication, desire, discipline and competitive sprit.

Senior Jacob Spearman encompassed all of those qualities, and he capped off a decorated career with a fourth-place finish at 113 pounds at the Division I state meet March 3. For what he achieved this season, Spearman is the 2012 Eagle-Gazette Wrestler of the Year.

"This is a huge deal for me to win this award," Spearman said. "The last year has been a lot of fun. I pushed my body and mind to the limit, and I came into my own as a person and as a wrestler this year."

Spearman and his teammates helped the Gales come into their own as one the best teams in the state. Lancaster went undefeated in the Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division that included a dramatic win against rival Pickerington Central. It parlayed its conference success into a sectional title, and finished in the top-three at the district. Spearman was flanked at the state meet by classmate Logan Strope (132) and juniors Ethan Bond (160) and R.J. Funk (170) to make up the best showing by a Gales wrestling team at the state.

Spearman, who also won sectional and district titles, said Spires' training program made the team's success inevitable.

"We train harder than anyone in central Ohio," Spearman said. "Coach Spires teaches us to be really physical. To be a Lancaster wrestler, you're going to be tough because of our training methods. Our practices and schedules are grueling, and that makes you a tough individual."

Spearman's toughness was displayed in front of thousands of fans at the state meet. In the third-place match against Brecksville-Broadview Heights' Aaron Assad, Spearman forced an ultimate tiebreaker in what was one of the most dramatic and competitive matches of the weekend. Spires said that effort epitomized Spearman's unmatched competitive drive.

"Jacob is extremely competitive, fearless, hard-nosed, and intense. He brings it every day, and he has a lot of heart and competitive fire," Spires said. "Everything he does is with intensity and heart, and even if it was just us playing checkers, he'd give it his all to beat me."

Spires also thinks Spearman's qualities on and off the mat will ensure him success in all of his future endeavors.

"Wrestling trains these men for life, and I think Jacob really embraced the grind of this season and the sport," Spires said. "I think Jacob knows that if he brings that intensity to work every day, he's going to be successful. He's going to do well in every phase of his life, and he was a lot of fun to coach."

A week into the offseason, Spearman already misses the matches, if not the practices. Missing the sport already has helped Spearman in his decision to continue his wrestling career collegiately. While he's unsure of where he'll wrestle at the next level, Spearman knows his time with the Gales has prepared him for future success in sports and life.

"You learn so many life lessons here if you put yourself through the difficulties," Spearman said. "It was a lot of fun, and I made a lot of memories. This program taught me that it's not always about wins and losses; it just comes down to putting in the effort. If you put in the effort, you shouldn't be disappointed, regardless of the outcome.

March 4, 2012

Banner Day for the Gales

Lancaster Eagle - Vince Nairn

COLUMBUS -- Logan Strobe and Jacob Spearman had a difficult time hiding their disappointment after falling short of individual goals Saturday. For Lancaster High School, however, the state wrestling meet represented more success for a budding program.

Spearman (113 pounds) and Strobe (132) finished fourth and sixth, respectively, in their weight classes Saturday at the Schottenstein Center at Ohio State. They became the first two Golden Gales in school history to place at the state meet in the same year, though they each had hopes of state championships.

"We left it all on the mat so I guess that's all that really matters," Spearman said. "We came up short of our goals, but it is what it is."

Spearman started the day by winning his 113-pound consolation semifinal 6-3 against Medina's Ryan Hornack to advance to the third-place match against Brecksville-Broadview Heights' Aaron Assad. Assad beat Spearman 8-7 in the championship quarterfinals Friday.

Saturday's match went into overtime, as the two wrestled just as physical and tight as they did Friday. Spearman led 3-2 in the second overtime as the clock ran down, but he was called for stalling, and Assad was awarded the tying point to force another overtime session. Assad then pinned Spearman in the ultimate tiebreaker at 7:25.

"Jacob made adjustments this afternoon, and he had the kid down," Lancaster coach Jon Spires said. "If he keeps (Assad) down for five seconds, he wins. But he got caught in a flurry. Both matches were winnable, but all you can do is wrestle with intensity and heart."

Strobe (132) also had a rematch Saturday, as he lost 4-0 to Wadsworth's Kagan Squire in the consolation semifinals. Squire, a three-time state runner-up, beat Strobe 3-2 in Thursday's first round. After Saturday's loss to Squire relegated him to the fifth-place match, Strobe lost to Oregon Clay's Jacob Conine 6-2.

Spires said Saturday was the best Strobe had wrestled, but it didn't show in the results. The

Gales sent four wrestlers to the state meet, and despite falling a bit short of individual goals, Spires said he was impressed.

"The best part about this weekend is just the intensity with which we've wrestled," Spires said. "They came up this weekend and we wrestled real physical. Nobody froze up. We just laid what we had on the line, and we ended up where we ended up."

Strope and Spearman led a senior class that helped the Gales win their first outright Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division title. They leave behind state qualifiers R.J. Funk and Ethan Bond and a host of underclassmen ready to fill their shoes, which Strope said will not be an easy task.

"We pretty much set the standard for everyone else," Strope said. "Those classes coming up, they have a lot to live up to. We showed them that we can have a good team in Lancaster and win."

Two finish seventh in D-III Bloom-Carroll freshman Chandler Minnard (113) received his first taste of the state meet this weekend, and he doesn't plan on stopping with one appearance.

Minnard finished his stellar freshman year by winning 12-4 against Defiance Ayersville's Frankie Alvarado in the Division III seventh-place match. Minnard (47-5) is the first freshman in school history to accomplish the feat, but he isn't satisfied.

"I know my family's proud of me, but it wasn't enough," Minnard said. "My goal was to make it to the state finals. I came up two short. Two matches short of the state finals is not enough. You gotta keep winning."

The two people to beat Minnard this weekend, Ashland Mapleton's Zack Durbin and Dayton Christian's Christian Clary, finished in the top three.

For Amanda-Clearcreek senior Spencer Chenetski (195), who finished his career with a seventh-place finish, the realization hasn't set in that his career is finished. But he was happy to end it on a win and take a spot on the podium.

Chenetski beat a familiar foe, Johnstown's Joey Dismuke, 3-1. The two had wrestled four previous times this year, each winning twice.

"We both went at it," Chenetski said. "I just really wanted to get that last win because I knew it was the last match of the year. I just wanted to finish strong."

Aces senior Jake Genders (225) finished eighth after losing his seventh-place match in overtime after suffering an apparent ankle injury. Although it was a tough way for Genders to go out, Aces coach Brian Brison said he was pleased to have two state placers.

BOYS WRESTLING 2012 SECTIONAL CHAMPS

February 19, 2012

Gales breeze to D-I sectional wrestling title

Lancaster Eagle - Bryan DeArdo

PATASTAKA -- When Lancaster's qualifying wrestlers lined up for the national anthem before the finals at the Division I sectional meet Saturday, it almost looked like a team photo shoot.

That's how dominant the Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio Division champions were in dispatching the competition in winning its second consecutive sectional championship at Watkins Memorial. Nine Lancaster wrestlers made the finals, with three Golden Gales winning their weight classes. Lancaster won the meet by recording 220.5 points, beating out Hilliard Bradley (216.5 points) and Pickerington North.

"A lot of people contribute to the success of this program," Lancaster coach Jon Spires said. "We had three freshmen, a sophomore, two juniors, and five seniors in the lineup today. That's because the kids from our youth program come in ready to wrestle at a high level, and they know that if they want to wrestle, they have to be competitors."

Spires credited his team for staying in the moment this week a week after winning the OCC-Ohio with an emotional victory against rival Pickerington Central.

"We enjoyed beating Pickerington Central, but we overcame that quickly and focused on the next task at hand. Wrestling is a sport where you can't a week off in training and a second off in a match," Spires said. "That's great once you accomplish something, but you need to use it as motivation for our next match."

Showcasing their immense depth, the Gales had a wrestler in each grade level reach the finals. Jacob Spearman started Lancaster's run with a pin at 113 pounds. Classmate Ben Barnhart-Sullivan followed suit by winning his 126-pound final against Reynoldsburg's Will Boykin.

"I had to wrestle hard. The kid was strong, so I used my technique and caught him on his back," Barnhart-Sullivan said. "We've been serious and focused all season from top to bottom. That's what has helped us a lot. Coach Spires has kept our heads in it, and has kept us in line all season."

Logan Strope became the third senior to win his weight class by posting an 11-2 win in the 132-pound final. Freshman Tanner Miller did the seniors proud by finishing second at 138. Freshman Shawn Norris defeated Pickerington North's P.J. Cleary to place third at 182. Junior Ethan Bond (160) and classmate R.J. Funk (170) took second. Senior Spencer Marshall (220) displayed a gamely effort en route to placing second.

"We'll talk about learning from our mistakes today, taking care of our bodies and our minds, and getting ready to get after it hard on Monday," Spires said. "We have to carry what we

did today into next week."

In their first foray in Division I, Canal Winchester proved it was ready for the big stage by advancing three wrestlers to the finals. Senior Max Lacey (220) won his third-place match, and freshman Nick Hammond (126) qualified for the fifth-place match. Less than a month after undergoing surgery on his right meniscus, senior Dalton Tullius (145) qualified for the final.

"This is a great accomplishment, and I couldn't have done this without my coaches and teammates," Lacey said. "I wanted to keep the pressure on and to block off his moves in the finals and make him work for everything. It's fun to wrestle in Division I, and I feel like our schedule prepared us for this. It was important for us to reach the finals and to show what our program can do."

December 13, 2011

Gales undaunted with task of facing off with best in state

Lancaster Eagle - Bryan DeArdo

LANCASTER -- When asked how they feel about taking on some of Ohio's best teams in their preseason schedule, members of Lancaster's wrestling team don't bat an eye.

In their minds, the Gales are right there with the state's elite programs.

Lancaster coach Jon Spires has put together a beefy non-conference schedule that includes a trip to Amherst this weekend to face some of Cleveland's top teams.

The team rose to the challenge this past weekend, finishing third at the Marysville Invitational while defeating Ohio Capital Conference foes Hilliard Darby and Dublin Scioto. Lancaster also defeated Canal Winchester, the reigning Mid-State League-Buckeye Division champions, and bested Indian Lake, a highly ranked Division II program.

Lancaster put forth a good effort in falling to Applecreek Waynedale, who is ranked third in the state in Division III.

Spires is pleased with how his team has held up against formidable competition.

"We want them to have fun in the meets while also having them see where they stand around the state; They're doing just that," Spires said. "It's very important for the team to see the best talent the state has to offer."

Younger Gales continue to step up

Depth is one of the key ingredients for any championship team, and Lancaster is not short of young talent that has supported their upperclassmen while taking advantage of their opportunities.

Among the younger Gales that stepped up this past weekend include sophomore Scottie

Deluse, junior Ethan Bond, and junior RJ Funk. Deluse went 4-1 this past weekend in the 145 pound weight class, while Bond tallied a 5-0 record in the 160 pound weight class that included a win over last year's Division II runner-up. Funk posted a 4-1 mark for a Gales team that also started five seniors this past weekend.

The younger wrestlers attribute their early season success to their experience wrestling on the varsity squad last year.

"After wrestling on the varsity level last year, we're one step ahead of the game this year," Funk said.

Bond added: "Being more experienced, we can control the tempo of the match and slow things down if that's what we want to do. You can tell what wrestlers don't have much varsity because they are still trying junior high stuff that doesn't work here."

Senior to return this weekend

Spires is anxious for the return of senior heavyweight wrestler Kevin Miller, who will wrestle for the first time this season this weekend after recovering from an injured shoulder.

"We're expecting great things from (Kevin). He was one match away from qualifying to the state meet last year," Spires said. "He's gotten better in his recovery from the standpoint that he is seeing the other side of the mat now."

"Kevin is seeing some technical things and everything that a coach sees and will use that to his advantage. He's also been there for the younger guys in the upper weights and has been coaching kids from the sidelines."

Miller has taken note of how his younger teammates have improved over the past year.

"They are smarter in terms of how they wrestle," Miller said. "They are quicker and stronger, and they know what techniques to use at the right time."

Gales careful to not overindulge

While the holiday season is normally a time to hibernate inside warm living rooms while enjoying foods of all kinds, Lancaster's wrestlers are staying focused on the mat and staying away from the second helpings at the dinner table.

"You have to stay mentally focused and think about different things other than food," Deluse said.

While some of the Gales like Miller enjoy healthy holiday food like fruit salad and ham, others like Bond are more inclined to indulge their sweet tooth.

"I love pumpkin pie," a beaming Bond said. "I'll definitely have some pumpkin pie, but not enough to get me over where I need to be. So maybe two pies, or three, or four ..."

December 10, 2011

MARYSVILLE WRESTLING INVITATIONAL

1. 3rd place team finish (4-1) overall.
2. Lancaster vs. Dublin Scioto 60-14 (Win)
3. Lancaster vs. Canal Winchester 54-20 (Win)
4. Lancaster vs. Indian Lake (56-21 (Win)
5. Lancaster vs. Apple Creek Wayndale (3rd ranked team in the State0 36-22 (Loss)
6. Lancaster vs. Hilliard Darby 56-22 (Win)

December 6, 2011

Lancaster Wrestlers off to Strong Start

Lancaster Eagle - Bryan DeArdo

LANCASTER -- Lancaster, last year's Ohio Capital Conference-Ohio division champion, is back and better than ever.

After finishing second at the Wazie Classic at Mount Vernon last year, the Gales won the meet this past Saturday. Senior Jacob Spearman, who was named the meet's most outstanding wrestler, was one of five Gales to win their weight class.

Spearman, who won the 113-pound weight class, was flanked on the winner's podium with classmate Logan Stope (132 pounds), juniors Ethan Bond (160) and RJ Funk (170), and freshman Tanner Miller (138).

December 3, 2011

LHS Varsity Wrestling team won the team title this weekend at the Mt. Vernon "Wazie" Invitational with 500 points. Jacob Spearman, Logan Strobe, Tanner Miller, Ethan Bond, R.J. Funk all took 1st. Spencer Marshall was 2nd, and Scott Deluse and Kyle Beatty were 3rd.