

## UPDATED: High Country Matmen Produce 4 Place Finishers At State

Written by Mike Kelly

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The High Country had four place finishers at the state tournament Saturday in Greensboro.

Ashe County, which began state competition with five wrestlers in the field in Class 2A, produced three place finishers. Micheal Elliott at 119 pounds and Joshua Wineberg at 215 both finished fifth; Dakota Elliott finished sixth at 130 pounds. Brock Yackey of Avery finished third at 135 pounds in Class 1A.

Elliott, who dropped a 2-1 decision to Andrew Molina of Randleman in the semifinals, then lost his first consolation match to Phoenix Kamp of Jacksonville Northside, 4-2. Elliott, who finishes the year at 30-9, defeated Joseph Graves of West Stanley 12-3 in the fifth-place match. Wineberg, who dropped a 5-3 decision to Joseph Graves of Topsail in the semifinal round in the 215 pound division, then lost to Tyrone Perkins of North Pitt 3-2 in his first consolation match. But he finished strong by knocking off Oliver Sanchez of Chase 3-0 in the fifth-place final. Wineberg finishes the year at 28-3.

Dakota Elliott at 130 pounds, who worked his way into the consolation semifinals with a convincing win against Chris Brock of Wheatmore, finally ran out of gas. He dropped a 7-3 decision to Austin Collins of North Surry, and then was bested 10-5 by Brian Nadeau in the fifth-place match. Elliott finishes the year at 29-9.

Yackey turned in a third-place finish for the Vikings in Class 1A. Following a two-point loss to Jamie Lemon of Central Academy in the semifinals, Yackey defeated Adrian Garcia of West Wilkes 6-3 in his first consolation match, and he followed that up by knocking off Chad Hoff of Pamlico County (in a rematch of their first-round match) 5-0 to take third. Yackey finishes the year at 34-8.

Team-wise, West Wilkes wins the Class 1A title with 110.5 points. Avery finished in a two way tie with Lejeune in 25th place. Each team had eight points. In Class 2A, Croatan won the team championship with 136 points. Ashe County finished in a three-way tie with Salisbury and North Pitt. Each team had 34 points. In Class 3A, Fred T. Foard won the championship with 90 points, nosing out Union Pines by two points. St. Stephens finished third with 85 points. Ryan Farnsworth of the Indians won the title at 119; Bradley Bader of St. Stephens was a runner up at 112. Hayden Albert of Fred T. Foard finished second at 160. Scott Hardiman of Hibernia, the Wrestler of the Year in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, won the title at 135 pounds. In Class 4A, Parkland won the title with 145 points. South Caldwell was seventh with 49. Alex Cabrera of the Spartans finished second at 112 pounds. Alexander Central was tied for 60th with three points; Watauga finished in a four-way for 66th with one point.

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