

Pioneers Produce 4 Place Finishers At Old App Invite

Written by Mike Kelly

Wednesday, 23 November 2011 21:40

The Todd Allan era began on a positive note on Wednesday at Lentz-Eggers Gym. The Pioneers hosting the tenth annual Old Appalachian Invitational produced four place finishers and one champion against a competitive 12-team field that included wrestling powers Ashe County, Alexander Central, and Alleghany. Gus Coffey led the way for WHS as he captured

the title at 113 pounds. Coffey, a state qualifier who was 40-9 last season, went 3-0, which included two pinfalls, on the day. The WHS junior pinned Irvin Portugal of Robbinsville in 1:40 ; he pulled out a 13-10 decision against Cody Jackson of Enka in the semifinals; and he pinned Jordan Welsh (in 1:12) of Black Mountain-Owen to win the championship.

Sophomore Mark Townsend finished second at 106. He dropped a 3-0 decision to Hunter Billings of Enka in the finals. Townsend nosed out a 2-1 against David Gonzalez of Alexander Central in the quarterfinals before he defeated Zack Orr of Robbinsville 4-3 in the semifinals. Demetre Kostis finished third at 138; Kostis, a sophomore and a state qualifier last season, defeated Zane Knight of Alexander Central by pinfall (2:12) in the quarterfinals. But he dropped a 10-4 decision to Jefferson Futch of West Henderson in the semifinals. Kostis won by injury default against Cody Gilliam of McDowell in the consolation semifinals, and he defeated Knight in a rematch 10-4 for third place.

Senior Jonah Critcher finished fourth at 182. He won by major decision, 13-2, over Creed Lovin of Robbinsville in his first-round match. He lost by pinfall (1:29) to William Miller of Ashe County in the quarterfinals; he pinned (4:00) Donovan Wrightsman of West Henderson in his first consolation match, and he defeated Dustin Jones of Alexander Central 9-6 in the consolation semifinals. He lost to Tanner Lenon of McDowell by pinfall (4:31) in the third-place match.

"I was pleased," Allan said. "We had some good efforts today for the first-time out. And I'm going to add four more wrestlers Monday. For the first time in a while (since the Brian Oliver era in the late 1990's) we're going to have a full team. I've got 22 guys on the roster."

Enka won the team title with 165.5 points. WHS finished in an eighth-place tie with Alleghany. Both teams had 75 points; Ashe County was seventh with 87 points.

"(Football) coach (Tim) Pruitt has really helped a lot," Allan said. "He's got some of his football players involved. He knows the value of having his players compete in other sports. And I'm a big believer in that myself. I played a lot of sports when I was in school.

"Plus, I'm easy to get along with and I try to make it fun for the kids. It's not all about wrestling with me. I want them to be successful, but I also want them to participate in other activities. Now, I'll get on the kids, if I have to, but for the most part I'm easy to get along with. My main goal is helping kids. And I'm glad for this opportunity."

The Pioneers will host a tri-match with Freedom and West Caldwell Tuesday night at Lentz-Eggers Gym. The bouts begin at 5:30 p.m.

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OLD APPALACHIAN INVITATIONAL

Team Scores

1. Enka 165.5
2. West Henderson 136.0
3. Robbinsville 135.5
4. McDowell 101.0
5. Owen 101.0
6. Alexander Central 98.0
7. Ashe 87.0
8. Alleghany 75.0
- 9. Watauga 75.0**
10. Mallard Creek 64.5
11. Draughan 44.0
12. AC Reynolds 43.0

WHS RESULTS: PIONEERS HAD FOUR PLACE FINISHERS AND ONE CHAMPION

106 POUNDS:

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1st Place - Hunter Billings of Enka

2nd Place - Mark Townsend of Watauga

3rd Place - Zack Orr of Robbinsville

4th Place - David Gonzalez of Alexander Central

1st Place Match

Hunter Billings (Enka) 3-0, Sr. over Mark Townsend (Watauga) 27-21, So. (Dec 3-0).

3rd Place Match

Zack Orr (Robbinsville) 3-1, So. over David Gonzalez (Alexander Central) 19-23, Jr. (Pin 1:59).

113 POUNDS:

1st Place - Gus Coffey of Watauga

2nd Place - Jordan Welsh of Owen

3rd Place - Cody Jackson of Enka

4th Place - Irvin Portugal of Robbinsville

1st Place Match

Gus Coffey (Watauga) 40-9, Jr. over Jordan Welsh (Owen) 23-17, So. (Pin 1:12).

3rd Place Match

Cody Jackson (Enka) 4-1, Fr. over Irvin Portugal (Robbinsville) 3-2, So. (Dec 10-8).

138 POUNDS:

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1st Place - Josh Davis of Robbinsville

2nd Place - Jefferson Futch of West Henderson

3rd Place - Demetre Kostis of Watauga

4th Place - Zane Knight of Alexander Central

1st Place Match

Josh Davis (Robbinsville) 3-0, Sr. over Jefferson Futch (West Henderson) 30-28, Jr. (Dec 6-5).

3rd Place Match

Demetre Kostis (Watauga) 42-12, So. over Zane Knight (Alexander Central) 2-2, Fr. (Dec 10-4).

182 POUNDS:

1st Place - Luke Hampton of Alleghany

2nd Place - Cole Leighton of Owen

3rd Place - Tanner Lenon of McDowell

4th Place - Jonah Critcher of Watauga

1st Place Match

Luke Hampton (Alleghany) 40-10, Sr. over Cole Leighton (Owen) 32-10, Jr. (Dec 5-3).

3rd Place Match

Tanner Lenon (McDowell) 38-13, Sr. over Jonah Critcher (Watauga) 22-12, Sr. (Pin 4:31).

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