

WRESTLING

Upsets highlight All-Star Classic; North, South squads split divisions

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The end of the state high school wrestling season usually serves as the starting gun for athletes sprinting for the meal table after weeks of watching their weight.

But the state's top senior grapplers put any plans for a postseason binge on hold for a week to compete in the Wrestling Coaches' All-Star Classic Friday night at Brookland-Cayce.

While the North squad cruised to an easy 36-18 win in the Class AAAA division, the match pitting the North and South all-stars in the Class AAA-AA-A division was not decided until the final match.

Class AA-A state 275-pound champion Charles Worsencroft of Swansea secured the 29-26 win for the South team with a second-period pin over Berea's Brian Holland, but not before Holland caught Worsencroft on his back early in the first period and nearly scored a pin.

"That was a good one. Charles hadn't ever been on his back like that before," Swansea coach Quincy Riley said. Riley, whose Tigers won the AA-A state title, coached the South squad, along with Lugoff-Elgin coach Tim Wash.

Prior to Worsencroft's win, the North team had taken a 26-23 lead when Belton-Honea Path's Adam Shirley upset Class AA-A state champion Willie Edmond of Swansea in the 189-pound matchup.

Four other state champions were defeated in the Class AAA-AA-A meet. Class AA-A champion Victor

Keenan of Blue Ridge defeated AAA champion Justin Catoe of Beaufort at 130.

Camden's Chad James, the AAA 135-pound champ, downed Blue Ridge's Bo Butler. Belton-Honea Path's Chuck Strickland, who finished third in the AAA meet, downed AA-A 145-pound champ Phillip Greer. Blue Ridge's Jason Cantrell, AA-A state champion at 171, handed AAA champ David Hester of Myrtle Beach his first loss.

Upsets were not limited to the AAA-AA-A meet, however. In last week's AAAA state tournament, heavyweight Ernest Miller of Rock Hill upset previously undefeated Jim Roe of Mauldin for the state title. Jody Myers of AAAA state champion Summerville, who finished third in the state meet, turned the tables on Miller, handing him a 6-3 defeat.

Spring Valley's Grier Wilson also pulled an upset. Wilson, who finished fourth at 140 in the AAAA tournament, moved up to 145 for the meet and defeated the 145 state runner-up, Shadell Davis of Chester.

Wilson said the win helped ease the disappointment of what he considered a poor showing in the state meet.

"I wanted the state, but this does make it a little better," Wilson said. "It really hasn't kicked in yet, but I think I'll feel good about this win tomorrow."

The outmanned South team will likely spend today licking its wounds, however. While the North squad brought five state champions, only three competed for the South team,

which had to use four wrestlers who did not place in the top four in the state tournament and two who didn't compete in the state tournament.

Still, Brookland-Cayce coach John Checkovich said he was pleased with the turnout of athletes. This was the first year the event used a dual-meet format pairing the top two seniors from each weight class in the Class AAAA and the Class AAA and AA-A divisions. Next year, Checkovich said he hopes to combine all the classes into one dual match pitting North against South.

Class AAAA division North 36, South 18

103 - Chris Casey (Brookland-Cayce), forfeit; 112 - Brian Zegar (Mauldin) def. Marlon Bates (Spring Valley); 119 - Eric Williams (SV) def. Charles Thurmond (Rock Hill); 125 - Morris Brice (RH) def. Steven Lever (Lexington); 130 - Keith Minder (Lower Richland) def. Scott Tribble (Laurens); 135 - Robin Counts (Wade Hampton) def. Chris Sample (SV); 140 - Walter Simpson (RH) pin; 145 - Grier Wilson (SV) def. Shadell Chase (Chester); 152 - Stephan Chase (Mauld) def. Jason Hoffman (SV); 171 - Aaron Strobel (Irmo) pinned John Burke (Wando); 189 - Dedrick Hall (Summerville) pinned Eric Burkett (I); 275 - Jody Myers (Summ.) def. Ernest Miller (RH).

Class AAA-AA-A division South 29, North 26

103 - Brad Redfearn (Cheraw) def. Chris Griffin (Dreher); 112 - Chris Watkins (Lugoff-Elgin) pinned Jamie Fraser (I); 119 - Luke Roberts (Laur.) def. Reggie Harris (Drh.); 125 - Brian Jacobs (Swansea) def. Arjondo Fuller (Berea); 130 - Victor Keenan (Blue Ridge) def. Justin Catoe (Beaufort); 135 - Chad James (Camden) def. Bo Butler (Blue Ridge); 140 - Jon Baskin (L-E) pinned Ville Encalade (Battery Creek); 145 - Chuck Strickland (Belton-Honea Path) def. Phillip Greer (Ninety Six); 152 - Greg Abercrombie (B-HP) pinned Hank Team (L-E); 160 - Lloyd Renfro (L-E) def. Rob Sawtelle (B-HP); 171 - Jason Cantrell (BR) def. David Hester (Myrtle Beach); 189 - Adam Shirely (B-HP) def. Willie Edmond (Swan); 275 - Charles Worsencroft (Swan.) pinned Brian Holland (Berea).