



# 2011 MASON DIXON QUAD PENNSYLVANIA\*MARYLAND DELAWARE\*NEW JERSEY

January 9, 2011

**\*hosted by McDonogh School\***



## MARYLAND FINISHES SECOND AND DEFEATS PA ALONG THE WAY!

Congratulations to the 2011 Mason Dixon Quad Team that represented Maryland and the MSWA. Coming out of the gate, Maryland defeated Pennsylvania for the first time in over a decade in this event! PA has won the Quad title the last four years in a row and 7 in last 10 years so this was no easy feat. Having trained and/or coached all of the Maryland team members at one time or another leading up to the Quad, I knew that they were very capable of accomplishing this feat, especially after a hard 30 minute warm up they endured just 15 minutes prior to competing, plus the fact that they all believed in themselves.

In their first round win (32-24) over PA, Maryland found themselves down 18-0 after the first 6 bouts. Colin Kowalski (B&O Outlaws) finally put Maryland on the board and the team showed a lot of courage, beginning to claw their way back with four straight wins. It wasn't until Austin Kraisser's (Kolot/Warhawks) pin over Chris Weiler that put Maryland ahead 26-21 for good. The team rallied around their teammate to come out on top and it definitely showed in the results.

New Jersey in the second round just outclassed Maryland 52-12, shutout Delaware 94-0 and for the 2011 Mason Dixon Quad team title, beat PA 57-9. Our wrestlers understood New Jersey was going to be the most difficult dual, but held their heads up high after the loss and re-grouped for a 64-15 third round victory over Delaware to claim the Mason Dixon Quad team runner up spot. Many positive things were taken away by everyone who competed and with a little over a month away from the MSWA State Tournament, wrestlers can go adjust some things in their training to come out victorious for their state title.

Over the entire day of competition, Maryland wrestlers only gave up 3 pins and 4 major decisions (losses by 8-14 points), no tech falls (15 points or more) while coming out with 3 undefeated champions, 100lbs Owen Lawrie (Kolot/Hereford), 130lbs Kraisser (all pins and Maryland's Outstanding Wrestling Award Winner-Kolat/Warhawks), and 165lbs Michael Smith (Warhawks). Maryland also had six runner ups in 90lbs Kowalski (B & O Outlaws), 95lbs Ryan Friedman (Kolot/Warhawks), 105lbs Zach Smith (Kolot/Broadneck), 115lbs Steven Jernigan (Kolot/Fallston), 120lbs Justin Couto (Rampage), 150lbs Hunter Ritter (Fallston). 70lbs Danny Bertoni, 80lbs Michael Doetsch (Dundalk), 85lbs Steven Simpson (Rampage), 140lbs Christian Almony (Kolot/Fallston) all took bronze (third place).

Let us not forget those first time Mason Dixon Quad competitors who wrestler real tough and have a bright future ahead of them in this event and in their wrestling careers, 60lbs Luke Strappelli (Fallston), 65lbs King Sandoval, 75lbs Daniel Planta (Kolot/Warhawks), 110lbs Christian Scott (Kolot/Fallston). Thanks to Pete Welsh and Joe Bakewell of McDonogh for hosting this event again, Mike Clemens for coordinating and making the logistical side of things happen, Dave Strappelli for coaching in the corner as well as at the camps and clinics leading up to the event, the local businesses that contributed donations on behalf of many wrestlers, as well as the entire Maryland wrestling community who supported the team.

Finally, thank you to all of the supportive and committed parents of the wrestlers who competed to their very best at the Mason Dixon Quad. You are the ones who travel everywhere with and for them to competitions, camps, clinics, clubs, etc. After watching them compete together, it's evident in all of these young men that they have learned well from you, lessons of determination, sportsmanship, teamwork, persistence, and heart, which makes it all that much more enjoyable (and easier) to coach them in the greatest sport in the world!

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