



2011 MARYLAND SCHOOLBOY NATIONAL TEAM

FREESTYLE & GRECO-ROMAN

“WIN IN INDY”

ALL BORN IN 1997 & 1998



The “WIN IN INDY” program began last September, but was a small component for the Maryland Schoolboy National Team’s overall success (born 1997-98). The financial and moral support of the MSWA, cooperative efforts from various Maryland Freestyle/Greco coaches and their clubs, hungry wrestlers who didn’t make the team but trained with them all the way to the end, support from a great coaching staff and unbelievably committed parents, an entire team was assembled to represent Maryland at the largest and most competitive Schoolboy aged National Duals Tournament taking place in Indianapolis. Being the first full team ever wasn’t enough to rest our laurels on though.

17 wrestlers from 70lbs to 265lbs represented every reach of Maryland including, Kent Island, Boonsboro, Bel Air, Annapolis, and Sparrows Point. Most if not all wrestlers had previously been exposed to Freestyle/Greco and the two intensive training camps and clinics just a month prior to competing accelerated their development, adaptation to the international rules, scoring, strategy, proper technique, and skills associated with that technique. The training certainly paid off, especially for those most inexperienced, but also for the most experienced who were able to help those inexperienced wrestlers and improve themselves and better understand the international styles.

Once it was time to compete, each wrestler stepped up time and time again and did exactly what the coaches asked of them, whether it was bumping up a weight class (even two), staying out of the line up when hurt even though they wanted to wrestle, to getting pins or just a point where needed or not getting a point scored upon them. These demands and the wrestlers meeting these demands became a factor in our success. A mutual respect was formed between the coaches and the wrestlers and strong team chemistry was created after the first day with five straight wins.

Prior to wrestling PA and NJ in the Greco Championship Bracket in day two, the respective coaches commented and took notice of our winning streak. After wrestling them, they realized our wrestlers came well prepared to battle with their states’ best wrestlers. We narrowly lost to NJ 41-30, PA’s second team 41-32 and PA’s first team 47-27, while giving up two forfeits due to injury (10 points) in all three bouts. Even after five straight losses to secure an eight place in Greco, the highest placing ever, our wrestlers kept their heads up, supported their teammates’ lows, and embraced their teammates’ highs.

Day three in Freestyle, we barely lost to PA’s second team 37-36 while giving up 2 forfeits again and let NJ slip by us 39-29 while giving up 1 forfeit. Actually our wrestlers improved drastically from the day before against those same two teams in Greco. Day four, beat up after a total of 16 bouts, we defeated Idaho 40-35 before dropping a heartbreaker to Indiana 46-30 for the chance to wrestle for 9th and 10th. We finished 12th overall, another highest placing ever. In summary, we finished 9-9 as a team, with 171 wins and 120 losses while receiving 34 forfeits and giving 15 forfeits.

Proper development of youth wrestlers should be every coach, parent, and wrestlers’ main objective. It’s not enough to compete every weekend as a wrestler or just sit in a corner and yell during a competition as a coach. Every parent on board with the WIN IN INDY program entrusted the coaching staff with their child and believed in the extensive preparation and training plan. Being able to pull out every ounce of will, heart, and energy may be the largest task as a coach for a wrestler to be successful and it’s a process that occurs over months, even years, not over a weekend competition.

In order to achieve any sort of success, a little luck certainly never hurts. I was lucky and fortunate enough to help prepare, develop, train, and coach 17 outstanding wrestlers, have 100% of their parent’s support along the entire way, as well as work beside a very passionate coaching staff. Luck was certainly on all of our sides; however each wrestler and their parents created their own luck when they decided to be part of the inaugural WIN IN INDY program. History was set, the bar raised, lifelong friends made, and an unprecedented 4 All Americans obtained.

WIN IN INDY prepares wrestlers for the future and will continue to do so with all the integral pieces in place to succeed. We are already planning for next year so if you know any wrestlers born in 1998-1999, please have them contact us.