

Amrhein Rolls to Chartiers-Houston Tournament Title

SAT, Dec 13, 2008 Houston, PA

Standout junior Ben Amrhein rolled to five straight victories on his way to winning the 160-pound title at the Chartiers-Houston Tournament on Saturday. Amrhein, widely considered to be one of the WPIAL Class AAA's top wrestlers at his weight, was inexplicably unseeded in his bracket, as were all of his North Hills' teammates. Amrhein showed the seeding committee the errors in their ways by dominating four straight wrestlers on his way to a 5-1 championship final victory over 4th-seeded Tyler Holt of Uniontown.

Amrhein started the tournament Friday evening with preliminary round wins over South Fayette's Adam Zombeck (by major decision, 19-7) and Chartiers-Houston's Joey Schneider (by fall at 3:34) and a quarterfinal victory over Upper St. Clair's Connor Buker (by major decision, 9-0). Amrhein then began his Saturday with a semifinal pin of Albert Gallatin's Cody Mitchell at 1:32 to set up his win in the finals. Amrhein now boasts a perfect 6-0 early season record. Congratulations Ben!

Also making the podium for the Indians were junior T.J. McElwaine (third at 215 pounds) and sophomore Troy Zangaro (fourth at 103 pounds). McElwaine won four of his five bouts, losing only to the eventual champion, Jeremiah Karpency of Albert Gallatin. Zangaro, wrestling in his first varsity tournament, was 4-2 for the weekend, including three victories by fall.

Chipping in with wins and helping North Hills to a tenth place finish at the 24-team tournament were Kraig Esswein (112 pounds), Josh Neurohr (125 pounds - including the fastest pin in the tournament in just nine seconds), Ryan Gibson (135 pounds), Zach Gloekler (145 pounds), Adam Muehlbauer (171 pounds), and Mike Dietrich (285 pounds - including a preliminary round upset of the tournament's #1-seeded heavyweight).

The tournament was won in dominating fashion by Albert Gallatin. Here are the complete team standings:

1 183.5 Albert Gallatin

2 133 Elizabeth Forward

3 123.5 West Allegheny

- 4 115 Chartiers-Houston
 - 5 114.5 Upper St. Clair
 - 6 111 Norwin
 - 7 110.5 Keystone Oaks
 - 8 98.5 Fort Cherry
 - 9 94 Avella
 - 10 93 North Hills
 - 11 84 South Side Beaver
 - 12 76 Jefferson Morgan
 - 13 74 Jeannette
 - 14 59 Bentworth
 - 15 56.5 Charleroi
 - 16 53 Center
 - 17 49 Kittanning
 - 18 46 Chartiers Valley
 - 18 46 South Fayette
 - 20 44 Beth Center
 - 21 43 Southmoreland
 - 22 40 Freedom
 - 23 34 Uniontown
 - 24 18 South Park
- by Rick Smith**