

North Hills Drops Heartbreaker to Greensburg Salem

February 2, 2010 by Rick Smith – Despite winning eight of the fourteen bouts contested, North Hills (16-9) lost its opening round WPIAL Class AAA team playoff dual meet to Greensburg Salem (11-8), 31-28, last evening at North Hills Senior High School.

Down 7-0 after the first two bouts of the contest, the Indians recorded three straight wins by decision by T.J. McElwaine (215 pounds), Mike Dietrich (285), and Drew Walker (103) to jump out to a 9-7 lead. The next bout at 112 pounds would prove to be a big one. Leading 2-0 early in the bout and looking well in control, North Hills freshman Tyler Walker inadvertently slammed his opponent, Austin Caldwell, to the mat. When the Greensburg Salem coaches decided that their wrestler could not continue the match, the Golden Lions were awarded a 6-point default victory and were back in the lead at 13-9.

Undaunted, North Hills' Cameron Weber (119) and Kraig Esswein (125) went right back to work with successive technical fall victories and the Indians' Troy Zangaro (130) won by decision to give North Hills its largest lead of the evening at 22-13. However, decisions by Ryan Gibson (140) and Ben Amrhein (160) were not enough for the Indians to overcome two Greensburg Salem falls and a forfeit victory over the last five bouts of the night.

The Indians will wrap up their dual meet season next week with a pair of exhibitions, both of which will be home meets in the senior high gymnasium. Penn Hills will visit on Wednesday, February 10th and Woodland Hills will be the opponent on Friday, February 12th. Both matches begin at 7:00pm. North Hills' graduating seniors will be honored prior to the final dual meet of the season against Woodland Hills.

Greensburg Salem 31 North Hills 28

- 171 – Nick Parrish (GS) dec. Alen Turcinhodzic (NH), 5-2
- 189 – Matt Kepple (GS) maj. dec. Ben Smith (NH), 11-0
- 215 – T.J. McElwaine (NH) dec. John Peiffer (GS), 5-3
- 285 – Mike Dietrich (NH) dec. Manny Cox (GS), 5-1
- 103 – Drew Walker (NH) dec. Carl Kelley (GS), 7-2
- 112 – Austin Caldwell (GS) default (inadvertent slam) Tyler Walker (NH)
- 119 – Cameron Weber (NH) tech. fall Cody Pelliccione (GS), 16-1 at 6:00
- 125 – Kraig Esswein (NH) tech. fall Blake Shirey (GS), 16-0 at 4:10
- 130 – Troy Zangaro (NH) dec. Josh Falatovich (GS), 5-4
- 135 – Chad Shifko (GS) fall Joden Rocco (NH), 3:13
- 140 – Ryan Gibson (NH) dec. Will Maschmeyer (GS), 3-2
- 145 – Zach Voytek (GS) wbf
- 152 – Trey Hahn (GS) fall Jake Campbell (NH), 2:22
- 160 – Ben Amrhein (NH) dec. Walt Cable (GS), 8-2