



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



The 2018 Cheesehead will take place January 5th and 6th at Kaukauna High School in Wisconsin. This year marks the 20th edition of the Cheesehead, a 32 team tournament that brings in some of the best teams from the Midwest and beyond. Six different states will be represented in 2018, featuring teams from: Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. There are seven teams making their first trip to the Cheesehead: Aurora Christian, IL, Joliet Catholic, IL, Hudson, WI, Mason City, IA, Neuqua Valley, IL, Oak Park River Forest, IL, and Waterford, WI.

Coming back to the Cheesehead to defend their title is Montini Catholic out of Illinois. Montini, a favorite to repeat, leads a group of six teams that are nationally ranked by InterMat's Fab 50 sitting at 6th. Joining Montini in the rankings are Apple Valley at 26th, Southeast Polk 29th, Simley 30th, Kasson-Mantorville 39th, and Mt. Carmel 47th. Illinois will have a strong presence at the 2018 Cheesehead, with the top three ranked teams in the state (Montini, Oak Park River Forest, and Mt. Carmel) competing. Thirteen of the teams competing are ranked top three in their state.

Five champs will return to defend their title in 2018. Dylan Ragusin of Montini won his title in overtime at 106 last season. Ragusin went on to win a USA Wrestling Triple Crown and place 3rd in the Ironman earlier this year. Joey Melendez of Montini was champion at 113 last year. The North Carolina commit was a Fargo Junior Freestyle and Ironman runner up to go with his second state title. Real Woods is the third Montini wrestler who returns with a Cheesehead title to his name. Woods is chasing his fourth cheesehead title after winning titles at 106, 113, and 126. Only three wrestlers have ever won four titles: Austin O'Conner (St. Rita), Nolan Hellickson (Southeast Polk), and Mikey Benefiel (Montini). Woods is a two time state champ and was runner up at the Ironman this season. Daniel Kerkvleit of Simley turned some heads last year en route to his Cheesehead title at 195. Kerkvleit blasted through two nationally ranked opponents to help solidify his name on the national stage. Kerkvleit went on to win a world cadet freestyle title this fall and was the Outstanding Wrestler in 2017's Cheesehead. Lastly, Gable Steveson of Apple Valley is returning as the 285 pound champion. Steveson is seeking his third straight Cheesehead title and is regarded by many as the best pound for pound wrestler in the country. The University of Minnesota recruit is a three time World Champion.

In all, 22 individuals enter the Cheesehead with a national ranking from either InterMat, Flowrestling, or The Open Mat. If things hold true, the three lightest weights could be the deepest. 106 currently holds three wrestlers that appear in the rankings, Cullan Schriever Mason City (as high as 2nd), Jacob Rundell Oak Park River Forest (7), and Colton Drousius Mt. Carmel (15). 113 also has three ranked individuals with Noah Surtain Edwardsville (4), Dylan Ragusin (5), and Matt Ramos Lockport (11). 120 has four potential ranked wrestlers, however Ryan Sokol of Simley (11) has not competed in recent events. The three expected to compete are Joey Melendez Montini (2), Sam Latona Thompson, AL (18), and Anthony Molton Lockport (19). Three wrestlers in the field are World Champions in Freestyle. As noted before Gable Steveson (285 Apple Valley) has won titles at the Cadet and Junior level. This past fall, Will Lewan (152 Montini) and Daniel Kerkvleit (220 Simley) won a cadet UWW world title.

Apple Valley has the most Cheesehead team titles winning the event five times. Other past team champions in the field include Montini (3), Southeast Polk (2), Mt. Carmel (1), and Kaukauna (1). Wrestling starts shortly after 5 pm on Friday, Jan. 5th. You can follow all the action at www.trackwrestling.com and find updates on twitter @Cheesehead_HS



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



National Team Rankings - www.intermatwrestle.com

**6th Montini, IL
26th Apple Valley, MN
29th Southeast Polk, IA
30th Simley, MN
39th Kasson-Mantorville, MN
47th Mt. Carmel, IL**

Nationally Ranked Individuals (Intermat, Flowrestling, The Open Mat)

106- Cullan Schriever- Mason City, IA (3,2,3)
106- Jacob Rundell- Oak Park River Forest, IL (10, 12, 7)
106- Colton Drousius, Mt. Carmel, IL (NR, NR, 15)
113- Noah Surtain, Edwardsville, IL (4, 4, 4)
113- Dylan Ragusin, Montini, IL (6, 8, 5)
113- Matt Ramos, Lockport, IL (20, 11, 18)
120- Joey Melendez, Montini, IL (2, 2, 5)
120- Ryan Sokol, Simley, MN (NR, 11, 12) (has not competed recently)
120- Sam Latona, Thompson, AL (NR, 18, 12 @ 113)
120- Anthony Molton, Lockport, IL (NR, NR, 19)
132- Real Woods, Montini, IL (3, 3, 3)
132- Aaron Schulist, Mukwonago, WI (19, 15 @126, 17)
138- Anthony Madrigal, OPRF, IL (NR, 2, 1) (has not competed recently)
138- Fidel Mayora, Montini, IL (20, 17, NR)
145- Kendall Coleman, Mt. Carmel, IL (8, 4, 9)
152- Will Lewan, Montini, IL (5, 6, 3)
160- Tyler Dow, Stoughton, WI (8 @170, 5, 2 @ 170)
170- Patrick Kennedy, Kasson-Mantorville, MN (NR, 1, 2) (has not competed recently)
182- Jared Krattinger, Waterford, WI (8, 7, 8)
220- Daniel Kerkvleit, Simley, MN (2, 3, 3)
285- Gable Steveson, Apple Valley, MN (1, 1, 1)
285- Keaton Kluever, Kaukauna, WI (17, NR, NR)

State rankings come from

WI- www.wiwrestling.com
IL- www.illinoismatmen.com
IA- www.thepredictament.com
MN- www.theguillotine.com
MO- www.missouriwrestling.com
AL- no rankings available, used state place



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



State Ranked Teams

- #1 3A- Montini, IL
- #1 AA- Kasson-Mantorville, MN
- #2 3A- Oak Park River Forest, IL
- #2 AAA- Apple Valley, MN
- #2 AA- Simley, MN
- #2 3A- Southeast Polk, IA
- #2 1A- Aurora Christian, IL
- #2 D1- Kaukauna, WI
- #2 D3- Fennimore, WI
- #3 3A- Mt. Carmel, IL
- #3 D1- Stoughton, WI
- #3 D2- Freedom, WI
- #3 Class 3- Platte County
- #5 D1- Hudson
- #7 3A- Lockport, IL
- #8 D1- Mukwonago, WI
- #9 3A- Waverly Shell Rock, IA
- #9 D2- Wrightstown, WI
- #10 D2- Two Rivers, WI
- #10 D1- Waterford, WI
- #11 D1- Arrowhead, WI
- #12 3A- Carl Sandburg, IL

Ranked Wrestlers by Weight

- 106** 12 ranked and 1 honorable mention
- 113** 11 ranked and 3 honorable mention
- 120** 17 ranked and 2 honorable mention
- 126** 13 ranked and 3 honorable mention
- 132** 16 ranked and 3 honorable mention
- 138** 8 ranked and 4 honorable mention
- 145** 7 ranked and 4 honorable mention
- 152** 10 ranked and 1 honorable mention
- 160** 12 ranked and 0 honorable mention
- 170** 7 ranked and 3 honorable mention
- 182** 8 ranked and 1 honorable mention
- 195** 6 ranked and 1 honorable mention
- 220** 5 ranked and 1 honorable mention
- 285** 9 ranked and 0 honorable mention



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



Individual State Rankings

106

- 1 AAA IA - Cullan Schriever Mason City
- 1 AAA IL - Jacob Rundell OPRF
- 1 AA MN - Logan Vaughan Kasson-Mantorville
- 2 AAA IL - Colton Drousias Mt. Carmel
- 2 AA IL - Dean Hamiti Joliet Catholic
- 2 D1 WI - Jaden Verhagen Kaukauna
- 3 6A AL- Dylan Lesueur Thompson (Place)
- 5 AAA IL - Mike Kaminsky Lockport
- 6 AAA IA - Devin Harmison SE Polk
- 7 D1 WI - Tyler Goebel Mukwonago
- 7 D2 WI - Nolan Hansen Two Rivers
- 11 D1 WI - Alexander Wicks Stoughton
- HM AAA IL - Nain Vazquez Montini

113

- 1 AAA IL - Noah Surtin Edwardsville
- 2 AAA IL - Dylan Ragusin Montini
- 3 AAA MN- Regan Schrempp Apple Valley
- 3 7A AL - Emmanuel Oliver Thompson (Place)
- 4 AAA IL - Matt Ramos Lockport
- 4 AA MN - Jared Johnson Kasson-Mantorville
- 5 AAA IL - Josh Ogunsanya OPRF
- 6 AA MN- Zach Miller Simley
- 6 D1 WI - Mason Campsure Kaukauna
- 8 D1 WI - Leo Draveling Hudson
- 11 D3 WI - Luke Blair Fennimore
- HM AAA IL - Noah Mis Mt. Carmel
- HM D1 WI - Nathan Rein Stoughton
- HM D2 WI - Carsten McHugh Freedom

120

- 1 AAA IL - Joey Melendez Montini
- 1 Class 4 MO - Cody Phippen Platte County
- 1 7A AL- Sam Latona Thompson (State Place)
- 1 AA MN- Robby Horsman Kasson-Mantorville
- 1 A IL - Cameron Johnson Aurora Christian
- 2 AAA IA - Kobey Pritchard SE Polk
- 2 D1 WI - Hunter Lewis Stoughton
- 2 AA MN - Cael Berg Simley
- 3 AAA MN- Adam Mickelson Apple Valley
- 3 D2 WI - Matt Bianchi Two Rivers
- 3 D3 WI - Mason Lull Fennimore
- 4 AAA IL - Nico Bolivar OPRF
- 5 AAA IL - Anthony Molton Lockport
- 6 AAA IA - Dylan Albrecht Waverly-Shell Rock
- 6 D1 WI - Sam Winski Waterford
- 6 D2 WI - Chayd Huss Wrightstown
- 9 D1 WI - Jack Ganos Arrowhead
- HM AAA IL - Rehan Uribe Mt. Carmel
- HM D1 WI - John Diener Kaukauna

126

- 1 D2 WI - Cody Holmes Two Rivers
- 1 7A AL - Chandler Akins Thompson (Place)
- 2 D1 WI - Dominic Dentino Arrowhead
- 3 A IL - Noah Villarreal Aurora Christian
- 3 D3 WI - Alex Birchman Fennimore
- 4 AAA IL - Luke Odom Edwardsville
- 5 AAA IL - Connor Gaynor Mt. Carmel
- 6 AAA IL - Dylan Burnoski Montini
- 6 AAA MN- Peyton McLagan Apple Valley
- 6 AA MN - Ryan Sokol Simley
- 7 AAA IA - Evan Yant Waverly-Shell Rock
- 8 D1 WI - Braden Whitehead Stoughton
- 10 AAA IA - Camden Baarda SE Polk
- HM AAA IL - Eddie Bolivar
- HM D1 WI - Lucas Benn Mukwonago
- HM D2 WI - Quincy Klister Wrightstown



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



132

1 AAA IL - Real Woods Montini
 1 D1 WI - Aaron Schulist Mukwonago
 1 7A AL- Gabe Hixenbaugh Thompson (Place)
 1 AA MN - Jake Gilva Simley
 2 AAA IL - Tony Madrigal OPRF
 3 AAA MN- Sebas Swiggum Apple Valley
 3 Class 4 MO - Austin Kincaid Platte County
 3 AAA IA- Gauge Perrien SE Polk
 3 D1 WI - Brandon Micksch Kaukauna
 3 D2 WI - Joey Bianchi Two Rivers
 3 D3 WI - Aidan Nutter Fennimore
 4 AAA IL - Pat Nolan Carl Sandburg
 5 D1 WI - Eric Halverson Pewaukee
 6 D1 WI - Luke Mechler Stoughton
 9 AAA IA - Colby Schriever Mason City
 10 AAA IA - Ian Heise (Waverly-Shell Rock)
 HM AAA IL - Jamie Suarez Wheaton North
 HM D2 WI - Koy Murphy Freedom
 HM D2 WI - Wyatt Bruecker Wrightstown

138

1 AAA IL - Fidel Mayora Montini
 1 D1 WI - Keegan O'Toole Arrowhead
 1 AAA IA - Nate Lendt SE Polk
 2 AAA MN- Brady Gross Apple Valley
 5 AAA IL - Torry Early OPRF
 5 D2 WI - Ben Durocher Wrightstown
 5 A IL - Zeke Marshall Aurora Christian
 7 AA MN - Bennett Berge Kasson-Mantorville
 HM AAA IL - Phillip Sims Metea Valley
 HM D1 WI - Mikael Kolosso Kaukauna
 HM D1 WI - Gavin Model Stoughton
 HM D1 WI - Mitchell Anderson Hudson

145

1 AAA IL - Jake Stiles Montini
 1 AAA IA - Cade DeVos SE Polk
 2 AAA IL - Kendall Coleman Mt. Carmel
 2 D3 WI - Trevor Wanek Fennimore
 3 AAA IL - Baylor Ferdandes Lockport
 8 AAA IA - Dalton Woodyard WSR
 12 D2 WI - Walker Vandehey Wrightstown
 HM AAA IL - Eddie Ordonez OPRF
 HM D1 WI - Logan Hatch Hudson
 HM D1 WI - Nick Starich Pewaukee
 HM D1 WI - Jake Schulte Mukwonago

152

1 AAA IL - Will Lewan Montini
 1 D3 WI - Riley Blair Fennimore
 2 AAA MN- Nate Larson Apple Valley
 2 D2 WI - Sam Peters Freedom
 3 AAA IA - Lance Runyon SE Polk
 4 A IL - Jay Cee Gonzalez Aurora Christian
 7 AAA IA - Jacob Hermann Waverly-Shell Rock
 9 D1 WI - Austin Rauls DeForest
 9 D2 WI - Matthew Maitland Wrightstown
 10 AA MN - Nolan Wanzek Simley
 HM D1 WI - Brandon Harrison Mukwonago

160

1 AAA IL - Matt Ortiz Montini
 1 D2 WI - Evan Vosters Freedom
 2 AA MN - Dalton Andrist Kasson-Mantorville
 3 D1 WI - Joshua Otto Arrowhead
 3 AA MN- Quayin Short Simley
 4 AAA IL - Jack Fisher OPRF
 4 D1 WI - Jacob Anderson Hudson
 5 D1 WI - Zach Lee Kaukauna
 6 AAA MN- Devin Roberts Apple Valley
 6 D1 WI - Cade Spilde Stoughton
 7 D2 WI - Tommy Bianchi Two Rivers
 9 D1 WI - Vince Digennaro Milton

170

1 D1 WI - Tyler Dow Stoughton
 1 AA MN - Patrick Kennedy Kasson-Mantorville
 3 AAA IA - Thad Breitspecker SE Polk
 5 AAA IA - Bryson Havel Waverly-Shell Rock
 6 D1 WI - Jacob Sklenar Pewaukee
 7 AAA MN- Tony Watts Apple Valley
 12 D2 WI - Dakota Brockman Freedom
 HM AAA IL - Jacob Boumans Neuqua Valley
 HM AAA IL - Daemyen Middlebrooks OPRF
 HM D1 WI - Jacob Stachowski Mukwonago



Cheesehead 2018 Preview



182

1 D1 WI - Jared Krattinger Waterford
2 AAA IL - Danny Benoit Mt. Carmel
3 AAA IL - Trevor Swier Montini
3 Class 4 MO - Dakota Schmidt Platte County
3 D1 WI - Bryson Alsteen Kaukauna
4 AA MN - Ethan Shea Kasson-Mantorville
5 AAA IL - Alex Hirschfield Carl Sandburg
10 D2 WI - Brody Brozewski Freedom
HM D3 WI - Will Ahnen Fennimore

195

2 AAA IL - Peter Christensen Montini
2 D1 WI - Jack Trautman Waterford
3 AAA IA - Gabe Christenson SE Polk
4 D2 WI - Matt Verhasselt Freedom
5 AAA IA - Brayden Wolf Waverly-Shell Rock
6 D1 WI - Jerry Lipke Milton
HM AAA IL - Elijah Osit OPRF

220

1 AA MN - Daniel Kerkvliet Simley
1 D1 WI - Aric Bohn Mukwonago
1 Class 4 MO - Sage Smart Platte County
4 AA MN - Garsen Schorr Kasson-Mantorville
12 D1 WI - Gavin Miller Stoughton
HM D1 WI - Derek Polczynski Arrowhead
HM D2 WI - Ethan Witcpalek Wrightstown

285

1 AAA MN - Gable Steveson Apple Valley
1 D1 WI - Keaton Kluever Kaukauna
2 D1 WI - Cole Godbout Hudson
6 AA MN - Luke Zaiser Simley
6 AAA IA - Andrew Snyder Waverly-Shell Rock
6 D1 WI - Aodan Marshall Stoughton
6 D2 WI - Damien Bullock Two Rivers
7 AA MN - Brett Paulson Kasson-Mantorville
8 D1 WI - Boyd Biggs Waterford