

2016 Cheesehead Preview

By Tom Goff

For Cheesehead website

A dozen wrestling teams from Wisconsin will lock horns with 15 out-of-state teams, including eight from the Midwest that are nationally ranked, as the Cheesehead Invitational in Kaukauna just keeps getting better and better each year.

Now in its 18th season, the star-studded event which has evolved into the top tournament in the state and among the best the best in the country, will be held Friday night and all day Saturday at Kaukauna High School.

Tops on the elite list of entered teams is Carl Sandburg of Illinois, which is ranked seventh nationally by InterMat website published on Wednesday.

Also back after a two-year absence is five-time Cheesehead champion Apple Valley, Minn., which comes in ranked 16th, along with two-time and defending Cheesehead champion Southeast Polk, Iowa, the 14th-ranked team in the nation. Polk has been the champion two out of the last three years. Rounding out, the teams with national credentials are St. Michael-Albertville, winner of the prestigious Minnesota Christmas Tournament, (18th), Mt. Carmel, Ill., (21st), two-time Cheesehead champs Montini Catholic of Lombard, Ill. (27th), Platte County, Mo., (33rd) and Kasson-Mantorville, Minn. (39th).

No Wisconsin team is nationally ranked, but the field does feature a strong contingent, including defending Division 2 state champion Freedom, making its second appearance in the tournament, and the host Ghosts, the two-time defending Division 1 state champs and three-time Cheesehead champion Wisconsin Rapids. Kaukauna won its only Cheesehead title in 2006.

The talented field is headed by 21 nationally ranked individuals.

Apple Valley boasts a pair of top-ranked wrestlers in Mark Hall at 170 pounds and Gabe Steveson at 220. Both bring in spotless 23-0 records.

The individual spotlight will also shine on three competitors going for their third consecutive Cheesehead titles, including Hartford's Beau Breske, along with Austin O'Connor of St. Rita's Casica of Chicago, Ill., and Ethan Andersen of Southeast Polk.

O'Connor won two years ago at 106 as a freshman and repeated at 132 last year. As a junior this year, he is ranked third in the nation at 145.

Breske, a two-time state champion and three-time finalist, has won the past two years at 170. He is ranked third nationally and just recently won the Oshkosh on the Water Classic to bring his record to 19-0.

Of the trio, Andersen arguably has the toughest road to the top since Steveson stands in the way in what could be one of the most-anticipated matches of the tournament. Anderson, ranked sixth in the nation, is 17-0 and Steveson is coming off a stellar performance in the Clash in Rochester, Minn., last week to earn the top spot.

A rematch of the 160-pound finale in the Minnesota Tournament between Griffin Parriott of New Prague, Minn., and Brady Berge of Kasson-Mantorville might also be brewing. Berge, ranked fourth at 160, posted a 3-1 decision over Parriott, ranked third at 152, who moved up a weight for the event.

Both are currently ranked at 152 in Minnesota. Parriott was the 145-pound Cheesehead champ last year, while Berge won at 152.

Wisconsin state champion Paul Bianchi of Two Rivers is also going for a repeat. He won at 113 last year and is at 126 this year.

New to the tournament is Thompson, one of the top teams in Alabama, which joins returning teams from Edwardsville, Ill.; Lockport, Ill., Marist, Ill., St. Rita's, Ill.; and Waverly-Shellrock, Iowa.

Additional Wisconsin teams returning are DeForest, Hartland Arrowhead, Pewaukee, Port Washington, Sheboygan Falls and Wrightstown, a charter Cheesehead member, and the only team other than the hosts to appear every year since the first event in 1999.

Of the 27 teams in the tournament, 21 are ranked in their states. Five are ranked No. 1 and three are ranked second.

Wrestling begins at 5:15 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. For those that cannot make it to the tournament but would like to watch the finals, 3rd and 5th place matches they are being streamed.

Live stream is now available for the finals. Click the Trackwrestling logo above or below to purchase the finals live stream.

Nationally Ranked Individuals and Teams according to InterMat (as of Jan. 6)

106

10 Joey Melendez Montini

16 Patrick McKee St. Michael-Albertville

113

2 Real Woods Montini

126

7 Matthew Schmitt Platte County

132

6 Rudy Yates Carl Sandburg

8 Dylan Duncan Montini

138

5 Mitchell McKee St. Michael-Albertville

16 Will Lewan Montini

145

3 Austin O'Connor St. Rita

14 Ethan Karsten Platte County

152

3 Griffin Parriott New Prague

12 Jake Allar St. Michael Albertville

19 Shane Tucker Mt. Carmel

160

4 Brady Berge Kasson-Mantorville

9 Lucas Jeske St. Michael Albertville

170

1 Mark Hall Apple Valley

182

3 Beau Breske Hartford

18 Patrick Brucki Carl Sandburg

195

16 Jacob Raschka Pewaukee

220

1 Gable Steveson Apple Valley

6 Ethan Andersen Southeast Polk

Teams

7 Carl Sandburg

14 Southeast Polk

16 Apple Valley

18 St. Michael-Albertville

21 Mt. Carmel

27 Montini

33 Platte County

39 Kasson-Mantorville

State Ranked Individuals and Teams (updated as of Wednesday)

106

- 2 Cody Phippen Platte County
- 2 Patrick McKee St. Michael-Albertville
- 2 Gabe Hixenbaugh Thompson
- 2 Joey Melendez Montini
- 3 Robby Horsman Kasson-Mantorville
- 4 Walker Vandehey Wrightstown
- 6 Brody Kust Two Rivers
- 8 Dylan Albrecht Waverly-Shell Rock
- 9 John Diener Kaukauna
- 10 Hunter Lewis Stoughton

113

- 1 Real Woods Montini
- 1 Brandon Klein Stoughton
- 1 Nate Larson Apple Valley
- 1 Cody Mealer Thompson
- 2 Louie Hayes Carl Sandburg
- 4 Gauge Perrien SE Polk
- 6 Zach Nygaard St. Michael-Albertville
- 9 Joey Bianchi Two Rivers
- 10 Jared Johnson Kasson-Mantorville

120

- 1 Ty Lee Kaukauna
- 1 Dom Latona Thompson
- 2 Abdullah Assaf Lockport
- 3 Matrix Jisko Wisconsin Rapids
- 3 Caleb Guzior Mt. Carmel
- 5 Kaleb Louis Stoughton

5 Garrison Murphy Freedom

5 Adam Brown SE Polk

9 Brady Goss Apple Valley

126

1 Paul Bianchi Two Rivers

1 Nathan Lendt SE Polk

2 Yahya Thomas Mt. Carmel

3 Keaten Schorr Kasson-Mantorville

3 Jimmy Pawelski Montini

4 Trent Leon Kaukauna

4 Austin Akins Thompson

5 Robbie Precin Carl Sandburg

5 Trey Dockery Platte County

5 Sebas Swiggum Apple Valley

6 Tristan Jenny Stoughton

7 Mitch Garvey Freedom

132

1 Matthew Schmitt Platte County

1 Mitchell McKee St. Michael-Albertville

1 Rudy Yates Carl Sandburg

2 Dylan Duncan Montini

3 Patrick Spray Wisconsin Rapids

3 Zach Barnes SE Polk

5 Austin Yant Waverly-Shell Rock

5 Jake Silzer St. Rita

6 Kyle Rathman Apple Valley

11 Kendall Coleman Mt. Carmel

138

1 Will Lewan Montini

2 Riley Pike Thompson

3 Zach Lee Kaukauna

3 Jack Mulay Mt. Carmel

5 Laken Duerschmidt Two Rivers
7 Isaac Haman Kasson-Mantorville
9 Garrett Model Stoughton
10. Chase Logelin New Prague
10 Darby Schumacher Wrightstown
145
1 Ethan Karsten Platte County
1 Austin O'Connor St. Rita
1 Brock Morgan Apple Valley
1 Trey Watson Thompson
1 Collin Kraus Stoughton
2 Shayne Oster Lockport
5 Patrick Kennedy, Kasson-Mantorville
6 Aidan Yde Arrowhead
6 Dillon Hoey Mt. Carmel
7 Christian Robertson Carl Sandburg
152
1 Brady Berge Kasson-Mantorville
1 Griffin Parriott New Prague
1 Jake Tucker Mt. Carmel
1 Jake Allar St. Michael-Albertville
4 Riley Pike Thompson
5 Ben Klister Wrightstown
6 Josh Becker Sheboygan Falls
6 Kelvin Yde Arrowhead
7 Zach Waggenhoffer Waverly-Shell Rock
7 Will Gahnz DeForest
11 John Prieto Carl Sandburg
160
1 Johnny Blankenship Platte County
1 Lucas Jeske St. Michael-Albertville
2 Seth Vosters Freedom

3 Sean Mattek Sheboygan Falls
4 Tyler Dow Stoughton
4 Seth Walker Waverly-Shell Rock
4 Ben Schneider Carl Sandburg
3 Cameron Lopez Mt. Carmel
4 Drew Krepline Kaukauna
7 Josh Verbeten Wrightstown
170

1 Mark Hall Apple Valley
1 Brock Benitz Wisconsin Rapids
2 Andy Bigelow Kasson-Mantorville
2 Nick Knutson New Prague
2 Luke Moore Thompson
3 Jackson Hemauer DeForest
4 David Riojas Mt. Carmel
5 Brian Krasowski Carl Sandburg
9 Chris Prosser Edwardsville
10 Cody Wonderlich SE Polk
10 Max Post Sheboygan Falls
12 Adam Vosters Freedom
182

1 Beau Breske Hartford
2 Stetson Burmeister Wrightstown
2 Lucas Jeskie St. Michael-Albertville
2 Patrick Brucki Carl Sandburg
3 Aaron Berge Kasson-Mantorville
3 Nicholas Mobley Thompson
3 Tyler Blankenship Platte County
4 Nathan Fuller Wisconsin Rapids
10 Leo Ortiz Mt. Carmel
5 Jamiir Moore Waverly-Shell Rock
6 James Watters Edwardsville

10 Kameron Padavich SE Polk

HM Alex Schodin DeForest

195

1 Jacob Raschka Pewaukee

1. Noah Ryan Kasson-Mantorville

2 Dru Worker Mt. Carmel

3 Evan Ronsen St. Michael-Albertville

3 Luke Hester Thompson

6 Cole Bateman Carl Sandburg

6 Dustin Setzer Sheboygan Falls

220

1 Gable Steveson Apple Valley

1 Ethan Andersen SE Polk

3 Evan Foster St. Michael-Albertville

4 Casey Jumps Platte County

6 Evan Philibeck Freedom

7 Mason Van Asten Kaukauna

285

1 TJ Rayam Thompson

2 Blaze Beltran Pewaukee

2 Brady Koller Sheboygan Falls

3 Matthey Reyes Mt. Carmel

5 Keaton Kluever Kaukauna

5 Evan Foster St. Michael-Albertville

7 Tanyi Besong, Apple Valley

8 Daniel Ramirez SE Polk

Teams

1 Thompson 7A Alabama

1 St. Michael-Albertville AAA Minnesota

1 Kaukauna Div. 1 Wisconsin

1 Carl Sandburg 3A Illinois

1 Kasson-Mantorville 2A Minnesota

2 Mt. Carmel 2A Illinois
2 Apple Valley 3A Minnesota
2 Platte County Missouri Class 3
3 Southeast Polk 3A Iowa
4 Stoughton Div. 1 Wisconsin
5 Lockport 3A Illinois
4 Two Rivers Div. 2 Wisconsin
8 New Prague 2A Minnesota
5 Sheboygan Falls Div. 2 Wisconsin
6. Wisconsin Rapids Div. 1 Wisconsin
6 Wrightstown Div. 2 Wisconsin
7 Montini 3A Illinois
8 Pewaukee Div. 1 Wisconsin
10 Waverly-Shellrock 2A Minnesota
11 Freedom Div. 2 Wisconsin
13 Edwardsville 3A Illinois