



3rd Annual Dream Team Classic



Wrestle with the Best

By Robin Brinkley

Photos by Lanny Bryant

The Wrestling USA/Cliff Keen Dream Team classic at Lake Taylor High School was close for a while and entertaining throughout.

Whether that constituted a good showing by the home team is open to debate. But Great Bridge's Steve Martin, co-coach of Team Virginia with Poquoson's Billy Ruff, was upbeat after his team lost 49-3.

"I think we did a great job of staying in it and battling," Martin said. "You've got to understand those guys are future NCAA champions and All-Americans."

Poquoson's Mike Akers, a four-time Group AA state champion, edged three-time Oklahoma state champion Jason Powell 5-3 at 112 for Team Virginia's only victory.

Akers was named the Outstanding Performer for Team Virginia. Tyrone Lewis from El Reno, OK, won the award for Team USA. Lewis, a takedown expert beat Derek Lipoli from Great Bridge, 11-6.

Eight of the matches were decided by five points or fewer. Poquoson's Victor Jackson, who wrestled his sophomore season at Wilson, and Herndon's Matt Gal-

agher both lost in overtime.

Team USA owned the upper weights, getting technical falls at 171 and 189 and a pin at 215.

Of the five South Hampton Roads wrestlers on Team Virginia, Lake Taylor's Jesse Pearce fared best. He lost to Matt Bean 7-3 at 145 after leading 3-2 early in the second period.

Pearce was a late addition to Team Virginia and, in Bean, faced a national high school champion and a four-time Oklahoma state champion.

"I think I had a real good match," Pearce said. "I was real close to winning. I'm satisfied."

Kempville's Sean Early, another late fill-in, also went the distance although he didn't score an offensive point. Nick Frost from Arizona never trailed in beating Early 10-3.

Jason Potter from St. Charles, IL put on a takedown clinic in beating Great Bridge's David Walker by technical fall at 171. And Texan Buck

McLamb topped Western Branch's Marvin Urquhart 14-5 at heavyweight.

Urquhart, who's gained 15 pounds since winning his third state title, briefly tied the match at 5-5. But he twice needed injury timeouts to treat a cramping hamstring and McLamb dominated the final three minutes.

If Team Virginia had a goal it was to top the four wins and 14 points scored by



USA Dream Team Coach Archie Randall of El Reno, Oklahoma, giving advice to Dream Team member Joey Malia, as his father looks on.

Wrestling USA/Cliff Keen Dream Team



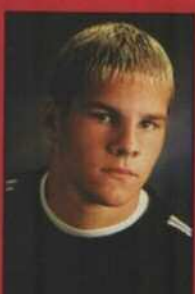
103-David Lopez
Valhalla HS, Jamul, CA



112-Jason Powell
Choctaw HS, Midwest City, OK



119-Luke Eustice
Blue Earth HS, MN



125-Joey Malia
Skyview HS, Billings, MT



130-Zach Roberson
Blue Valley NW HS, Overland park, KS



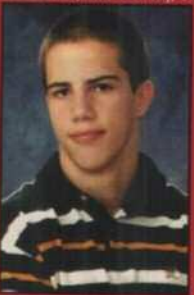
135-Foley Dowd
Peddie HS, Hightstown, NJ



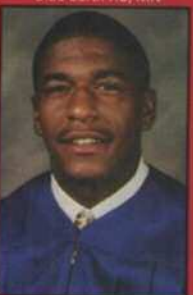
140-Clark Forwood
Archbold HS, OH



145-Matt Bean
Mustang HS, OK



152-Nick Frost
Salpointe HS, Tucson, AZ



160-Tyrone Lewis
El Reno HS, Yukon, OK



171-Jason Potter
St. Charles HS, IL



189-Damion Hahn
Lakewood HS, NJ



215-Tommy Rowlands
Bishop HS, Columbia, OH



275-Buck McLamb
Tascosa HS, Amarillo, TX

Team Iowa in last year's meet.

That seemed possible for a while. After Akers won, Brandon Calderwood extended Luke Eustice to the limit before succumbing 19-16. He still had a shot with three seconds to go when he was penalized for unnecessary roughness while trying to get his foot out of Eustice's grip.

Jackson scored a takedown with one second left to force overtime with national high school champ Joey Malia of Billings, MT at 125. But Malia got a takedown one minute into overtime to win 11-9.

Team Virginia's last shot to win came at 135 where Gallagher led yet another national high school champ, Foley Dowd of New Jersey, 7-6 in the third period. Dowd tied the match with an escape and scored a takedown 13 seconds into overtime.

The only pin came at 215 where Tom Rowlands from Columbus, Ohio stopped Caleb Race of the Miller School in 1:18.

Damion Hahn, who passed up the other postseason high school events to train for an Olympic freestyle spot, dazzled the crowd with a technical fall over Justin Johnson.

Final Results of the Dream Team Classic

- 103-David Lopez dec Donnie Periera, 5-2
- 112-Mike Akers dec Jason Powell, 5-3
- 119-Luke Eustice dec Brandon Calderwood, 19-16
- 125-Joey Malia dec Victor Jackson, 11-9 OT
- 130-Zach Roberson dec Adam Britt, 6-1
- 135-Foley Dowd dec Matt Gallagher, 9-7 OT
- 140-Clarke Forward dec Tim Foley, 22-7
- 145-Matt Bean dec Jesse Pearce, 7-4
- 152-Nick Frost dec Sean Early, 10-3



Virginia fans had the rare opportunity to witness the "Best of the Best", in high school wrestling. These young men competed in the "Virginia Challenge Match" and the "Dream Team Classic". Of the 56 wrestlers on the mat, 30 of them hold a combined 61 State Titles and countless world, national, and state awards. (Picture taken aboard the while touring the aircraft carrier USS George Washington.)

- 160-Tyrone Lewis dec Derek Lipoli, 11-6
- 171-Jason Potter dec David Walker, 22-7
- 189-Damion Hahn dec Justin Johnson, 25-9
- 215-Tom Rowlands pinned Caleb Race, 1:18
- HWT-Buck McLamb dec Marvin Urquhart, 14-5

Dream Team Classic wrestlers attend SEALs exhibition.

BY TOM ROBINSON
NORFOLK

- They say Navy SEALs can kill a man with their bare hands in more ways than you can imagine. Who knew they could charm the life out of you, too?

The men of SEAL Team 8 were in full public-relations mode, coming in on their day off to show some potential future SEALmates the ropes -- those they dangle from out of helicopters, for example, while performing in the dead-of-night rescue

missions in places around the globe.

Their guests to the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base were about 60 high-school wrestlers specifically invited to a three-hour sampling of SEAL life for the simple reason that young wrestlers often blossom into fine special agents of war.

That is, it's documented that wrestlers and SEALs share behavioral traits, says Capt. Robert P. Schoultz, head of the East Coast SEAL teams and a former wrestler at Virginia Beach's Cox High School.

Most in common is probably a close, personal relationship each has with being mentally and physically miserable, and their intriguing predisposition to love every minute of it.

"A wrestling room is not a nurturing, comfortable and hospitable environment,"

Virginia Dream Team



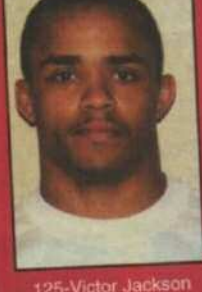
103-Donnie Periera
Stonewall Jackson, VA



112-Mike Akers
Poquoson, VA



119-Brandon Calderwood
Broad Run, VA



125-Victor Jackson
Poquoson, VA



130-Adam Britt
Alee, VA



135-Matt Gallagher
Herdon, VA



140-Andrew Shule
Brookville, VA



145-Tim Foley
Broka Point, VA



152-Kyle Baker
Turner Ashby, VA



160-Derek Lipoli
Great Bridge, VA



171-David Walker
Great Bridge, VA



189-Justin Johnson
North Stafford, VA



215-Caleb Race
Miller, VA



275-Marvin Urquhart
Western Branch, VA