

Cordova's Byron Smith wins 120-pound title at Black Horse

CBHS wins overall title led by Kaleb Baker the meet's outstanding wrestler

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Prep Wrestling

Byron Smith stuck with it.

When Smith came to Cordova High as a freshman three years ago, his initial plan was to join the football team. However, one of the Cordova assistant coaches convinced him to try out for wrestling.

Smith, as Cordova coach Brad McCarter tells it, didn't know anything about the sport.

"It was awkward," McCarter recalls. "He was just terrible, flat out. But with his work ethic, he worked hard to get where he is."

Smith, to his credit, has progressed considerably since he joined the Wolves' varsity wrestling squad. Take, for instance, his display in the finals of 120-pound division of Saturday's Stewart Schay Black Horse Invitational at Houston High.

Roughly an hour after his intense semifinal match against Christian Brothers' Jon David Santi, Smith won the individual title in his division in relatively easy fashion over Paul Klein of Brother Martin of New Orleans.

Saturday's finals win came as a huge sigh of relief for the 5-foot-2 Smith, who won each of his three matches after placing third in the 120-pound class last year and dropping both of his preliminary matches in the Black Horse Invitational in 2010.

This year, tournament organizers elected to name the event in honor of Stewart Schay, a former Houston High wrestler who died as a result of an automobile accident in 2004. Schay last wrestled for the Mustangs in 2003. Now in its 18th year, this year's tournament was comprised of 21 schools.

For Smith, he was happy he never gave up wrestling. After last year's poor showing in the Black Horse tournament, Smith worked intensely in the offseason with his coaches

and even attended national camps in North Dakota and Iowa to grasp a thorough understanding of the sport. He was, in fact, determined to upgrade his mechanics.

Fortunately for him, he stuck with it.

"I cried," said Smith, explaining how he reacted after placing third last year. "I wasn't the same for two or three days. I was just sad and down and didn't think I could have been a wrestler. But I worked hard in the offseason."

As usual, Christian Brothers exhibited a masterful showing in claiming its fifth consecutive Black Horse overall team championship. CBHS scored 323 points to edge second place Brother Martin who tallied 302.5.

The Purple Wave, led by Arizona State signee Kaleb Baker, had 11 wrestlers competing in various weight classes in Saturday's finals. Six of them emerged victorious, including Baker in the 152-pound division. Baker was named the meet's outstanding wrestler. Other Purple Wave winners were: Tanner Tisdale (106), Elijah Oliver (113), Nick Gray (132), Brandon Hataway (170), Barrett Walthall (182),

Cordova's Jordan Davis won the Black Horse 195-pound final over Hoover's, (Ala.) Alec Shunnarah. His teammate, Allen Carter, fell to CBHS's Tanner Tisdale in the 106-pound final.

The only other Memphis-area wrestler to win an individual title was Bartlett's Adrian Keeley who won the 285-pound heavyweight division.

BLACK HORSE RESULTS

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

- 106 lbs -- Tanner Tisdale - CBHS defeated Allen Carter - COR by Maj Dec 9-1
- 113 lbs -- Elijah Oliver - CBHS defeated Markwae Sanders - DUN by Dec 4-2
- 120 lbs -- Byron Smith - COR defeated Paul Klein - BM by Dec 8-2
- 126 lbs -- Austion Meyn - BM defeated Payton Garlington - HOV by Dec 3-1
- 132 lbs -- Nick Gray - CBHS defeated Sidney Blackwood - GT by Maj Dec 9-1
- 138 lbs -- Dominic Casadaban - BM defeated Red Croom - CBHS by Fall 3:05
- 145 lbs -- Tyler Robertson - BM defeated Bailey Wittman - CBHS by Dec 10-5
- 152 lbs -- Kaleb Baker - CBHS defeated Christian Carnahan - DUN by Fall 0:49
- 160 lbs -- Devin LeBlanc - BM defeated Luke Parish - CBHS by Dec 3-1
- 170 lbs -- Brandon Hataway - CBHS defeated Daniel Albrecht - BM by Fall 5:28

182 lbs -- Barrett Walthall - CBHS defeated Kyle Delaune - BM by Maj Dec 12-4
195 lbs -- Jordan Davis - COR defeated Alec Shunnarah - HOV by Maj Dec 11-3
220 lbs -- Cameron McGill - DUN defeated Corbin McOlgan - CBHS by Dec 7-3
285 lbs -- Adrian Keeley - BAR defeated Drayke Armstrong - CBHS by Fall 3:34

CONSOLATION MATCHES (THIRD/FOURTH PLACE)

106 lbs -- Drew Nicholson - BCS defeated Stephen Rumney - BM by Dec 8-3
113 lbs -- Taylor Gambill - BM defeated Austin Payne - HIX by Fall 1:40
120 lbs -- Jett Gray - DUN defeated Joh David Santi - CBHS by Fall 3:22
126 lbs -- Wade Nash - CRU defeated John Tully - MBA by Dec 6-2
132 lbs -- Isaiah Hawthorne - HIX defeated Mason Williams - BM by Fall 2:29
138 lbs -- Austin Drake - DUN defeated Trey O'Bannon - MUS by Dec 4-0
145 lbs -- Connor Kelly - DUN defeated Trevor Edwards - GR by Dec 4-0
152 lbs -- Tyler Garrison - BLK defeated Patrick Hoppe - BM by Dec 6-2
160 lbs -- Tyler Sells - BLK defeated Kilian Hoyt - GR by Dec 5-4
170 lbs -- Kyle Miller - GR defeated Jacob Thomas - HOV by Dec 6-4
182 lbs -- Derrick Tucker - GT defeated Stevie Dasaro - GR by Dec 2-0
195 lbs -- Franklin Garstin - MBA defeated Marcus Stewart - DUN by Dec 11-5
220 lbs -- Josh Tapia - BM defeated Corey Tonini - GR by Dec 4-2
285 lbs -- Ross Brister - BM defeated Tres Ring - COL by Dec 3-1

CONSOLATION MATCHES (FIFTH/SIXTH PLACE)

106 lbs Dylan Coggins - BLK defeated Kyle Dunn - CRU by Fall 4:57
113 lbs David Drago - CRU defeated Jesse Escue - BLK by Fall 4:12
120 lbs Austn Schiro - CRU defeated Nick Dyer - HOV by Dec 8-5
126 lbs Cameron Hall - ARL defeated Tanner Robertson - CBHS by Tech Fall 15-0
132 lbs Jacob Carter - BAR defeated Stephen Johnson - MBA by Dec 8-2

138 lbs Hunter Richardson - COL defeated Ameer Jabrin - HIX by Dec 4-2
145 lbs Jordan Wright - CRU defeated Robbie Goldshot - COR by Maj Dec 10-0
152 lbs David Baumohl - GR defeated Cody Wehunt - HOV by Inj. Def.
160 lbs Aaron Alemany - HIX defeated Tyler Whitworth - ARL by Dec 7-2
170 lbs Aaron Gambino - CRU defeated Billy Rainey - COL by Dec 15-11
182 lbs Essex Ramsey - BTN defeated Dylan Bargerstock - HIX by Fall 0:45
195 lbs Michael Edwards - CBHS defeated Sam Salvo - GR by Fall 4:31
220 lbs Justice Houston - GT defeated Jacob Clapp - CRU by Dec 7-1
285 lbs Austin Wells - BLK defeated Madison Malone - BCS by Fall 0:55

CONSOLATION MATCHES (SEVENTH/EIGHTH PLACE)

106 lbs Sam Bellet - MBA defeated James Westmoreland - BOL by Fall 2:10
113 lbs Jarrett Anthony - HOV defeated Novell Carter - ELM by Dec 5-4
120 lbs Zac Sumner - COL defeated Jacob Kimbrough - BLK by Fall 0:29
126 lbs Hunter Vanderworp - BLK defeated Connor Stewart - MUS by Fall 4:10
132 lbs Ayinde Bakari - BLK defeated Pierce Williams - CRU by Fall 4:16
138 lbs Jessie Akozbek - GR defeated Dniel Evans - CRU by Dec 3-0
145 lbs Wells Hamilton - MBA defeated John Olivieri - BLK by Fall 1:36
152 lbs Jordan Giroir - CRU defeated Nathan Enzor - ARL by Fall 4:13
160 lbs Austin Vansword - HOV defeated Nick Kilmer - BCS by Forfeit
170 lbs Jevon Brown - BLK defeated Ridley Wills - MBA by Dec 10-9
182 lbs Yehia Riles - CRU defeated Conner Helton - BLK by Fall 4:55
195 lbs Nathan Hale - COL defeated Ryan Schouest - CRU by Inj. Def.
220 lbs Alexander Tekle - HO defeated Bret Winters - HOV by Fall 2:46
285 lbs D'On Coofer - MBA defeated Rasan Sanders - HIX by Fall 0:51

TEAM SCORES

1st CBHS 323

2nd Brother Martin 302.5
3rd Duncan 150
4th Blackman 142.5
5th Crusaders 132.5
6th Grisson 118.5
7th Hoover 118
8th Montgomery Bell Academy 106
9th Hixson 105.5
10th Cordova 97.5
11th Collierville 81
12th Germantown 78
13th Arlington 63.5
14th Bartlett 56
15th Briarcrest 43
16th Houston 27
17th Brighton 27
18th Memphis University School 25
19th East Literature Magnet 22
19th Bolton 10
21st St. George's 3

OUTSTANDING WRESTLER - 152LBS - KALEB BAKER - CBHS

BEST MATCH - 113LBS - ELIJAH OLIVER - CBHS AND MARKWAE SANDERS -
DUN

