



Jake Braunscheidel makes St. Francis history

ALBANY, NY (FEBRUARY 28, 2015) — Senior captain Jake Braunscheidel earned 5th place in the 195-lb. division at the NYSPHSAA Federation Tournament to finish his season with All-State honors. Braunscheidel becomes the highest place finisher at the NYSPHSAA Tournament in St. Francis wrestling history (five others have placed 6th, the most recent being Chris Smith at 275 lbs. in 2004).

Braunscheidel's path to the podium was no easy task. After battling to a 2-1 win over Brian Beyers of Washingtonville, he pinned previously undefeated Cameron Calderelli of Brockport (the eventual 4th place finisher) to advance to the semifinals on day one. Day 2 opened with a loss to #1-seed Christian Araneo of Ward Melville, 9-2. Braunscheidel then dropped the consolation semifinal to Peter Pjetri of Suffern 5-3, and stormed back with an impressive 7-2 win over Andrew Rakitsis of Plainedge to earn the 5th place medal.

Participation in the NYSPHSAA Tournament was no guarantee. For the second year in a row, ranked at 182-lbs. locally, he faced a road block in the Monsignor Martin league after rolling twice to two-time CHSAA champion and fellow NYSPHSAA place finisher Rich Jones of St. Joe's. After some consideration, Braunscheidel chose to move up to 195 lbs. for the Monsignor Martin All-Catholic tournament and qualifier. Entering as the #2 seed, Braunscheidel pinned James Thomas of Canisius, the #1 ranked wrestler in WNY by the Wrestling Review. The following week, Braunscheidel defeated #1 seed and 2014 CHSAA champion/NYS qualifier Peter Corbett of St. Anthony's of the Nassau-Suffolk Catholic league. He was voted the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the CHSAA tournament after his 3-1 overtime victory in the finals.

With a record of 47-12 on the season, all but one of Braunscheidel's losses were to state qualifiers in New York, Virginia, and New Jersey—ten of the losses came to state tournament place finishers at either 182 or 195. He

avenged his only loss to a non-state qualifier (a 1-0 decision on the first day of the season) twice during the season, including once in the championship finals of the Lew-Port Tournament. The 47 wins this season are the second highest total for a St. Francis wrestler in school history (He and teammate/state qualifier Tito Colom-49 wins-both broke the previous record of 46). His 125 career wins are also good for second all-time in school history (129-Brian Rogers '10).

Braunscheidel finishes his career as a three-time MMAA All-Catholic champion, a three-time CHSAA place finisher (3rd, 2nd, 1st), and a one-time NYSPHSAA place finisher-5th.

Teammate, junior Tito Colom entered the NYSPHSAA tournament with high expectations and his sights on the top of the podium. Seeded #2 at 113 lbs., Colom was upset by Phil Spadafora of Half Hollow Hills East 9-6 to take that goal away. Colom won his first consolation match 16-0 over Ryan Brown of Canton, then fell to Anthony Cirillo of Rocky Point 4-1, eliminating him from competition. Colom finishes the season with an impressive 49-6 record, including a win over the Division II champion, Theo Powers of Mexico. Colom won the CHSAA championship at 113 lbs. which featured two 2014 CHSAA champions, and he won by pin over Brian Kelly of St. Anthony's in the finals to win the state Catholic championship. Colom finished the season ranked #1 in WNY by the Wrestling Review at 113 lbs. and he returns to the Red Raider lineup next season.

Photo and summary provide by Coach Mike Messore.