

Section IV Wins New York State High School Wrestling Championships; Nickerson Outstanding

By Justin Basch, Exclusively for ArmDrag.com

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A capacity crowd was at hand to witness a display of power, technique, and prowess as 30 wrestlers gave it their all to earn the highest honor in New York State, the New York State Championship.

Ryan Needle (Section 6) and Troy Nickerson (Section 4) successfully defended their NYS Championship titles and became the 11th and 12th high school wrestlers to ever become a three-time New York State Champion.

Nickerson was also named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament as he made his way through states with a pin-fall, technical fall, major decision, and another technical fall. Nickerson has an opportunity to become the first ever five-time New York State Champion.

Section 4 finished the tournament in first place with 237 points. Section 5 trailed closely behind them throughout the tournament and finished in second place with 190 points.

Here's a match-by-match recap of the best high school wrestlers in New York State:

96 lbs – A reversal in the last 40 seconds of the match scored J.P. O'Connor of Section 4 a 2–0 victory over Section 3's Kevin Smith, in a very narrowly contested battle of the lightweights.

103 lbs – Both men were ready to give it their all after Tyler Mumbulo of Section 4 and Dan Bischoff of Section 2 got to the finals by defeating their semi-final opponents by a one point decision. In the end, it however, it was Mumbulo who scored some early takedowns to help him earn a 5–1 victory over Bischoff.

112 lbs – After two-time NYS Champion, Troy Nickerson (Section 4) took down Tom Magnani of Section 11 and received back-points early in the first period, it was obvious Nickerson was going to dominate the match. Nickerson went on to defeat Magnani, in a return bout from last year's State Finals, via technical fall in 4 minutes, 31 seconds. After an outstanding tournament, Nickerson was crowned this year's M.O.W.

119 lbs – Section 5's very own Gregor Gillespie, used all of his speed and mite to earn his way to a NYS Championship, after defeating Section 8's Jamie Sgaglione 10–0. Gillespie finished the season with an undefeated record.

125 lbs – Section 11's Steve Hromada used some very quick and powerful penetrations to keep this narrowly contested battle moving, as he earned a 9–3 victory over Section 2's Matt Stuart.

130 lbs – In what many are calling the most controversial match all season, Pat Lloyd of Section 9 rode out Andrew Kreiger of Section 5 in double overtime to become the NYS Champion with a score of 0–0.



It is being argued everywhere of whether or not Lloyd had his hands locked towards the end of the double overtime period.

135 lbs – After running into many road blocks after the past few years, Section 5's Trevor Chinn finally earned a NYS Championship after defeating John Minckler of Section 10. Chinn dominated throughout the match as he won with a final score of 7–3.

140 lbs – Ryan Needle of Section 6, became the 12th high school wrestler to become a three-time NYS Champion. Earlier in the night, Nickerson, became the 11th. Needle took down John Cummings of Section 11 seven times and let him up eight different times to earn a final score of 14–8. Needle finishes his high school career with a 240–12 record.

145 lbs – Chris Hand of Section 4 defeated Alton Lucas of Section 11 in a very high paced match-up between two very strong competitors. Hand won the match 7–3.

152 lbs – Nationally ranked Josh Glenn of Section 4 had nothing but winning on his mind. After physically dominating for just over 2 and a half minutes, Glenn pinned Section 1's Joe Srednicki in a mere 2 minutes, 37 seconds.

160 lbs – Sherwood Fendryk of Section 4 defeated Section 11's Rob Parker with his very explosive style and technique. Fendryk, who met and defeated one of Section 5's best, Steve Stulpin, in the 2nd round, went on to beat Parker with a score of 6–2.

171 lbs – Section 6's Will Sidney physically dominated Elliot Smith of Section 10 with a final score of 10–3 to win his first ever NYS Championship.

189 lbs – After being down and realizing a win was out of sight, Section 2's Mike Sanacore began to get a little rough and had two unnecessary roughness calls against him in the last 45 seconds of the match. Mike LaBella of Section 8 defeated Sanacore with a final score of 10–3.

215 lbs – Section 5's Mike Patterson became a two-time NYS runner-up after being physically shown up by Gian Villante of Section 8. Villante won the match with a close score of 7–5.

275 lbs – In an amazing display of effort, it was 275 pound sophomore Arthur Jones of Section 4 who pinned Justin Tougas of Section 2 in a mere 3 minutes, 43 seconds. After the match Jones stood up and did a cartwheel out of excitement.

