

Forward and Acknowledgements

Newport High School has a long, storied history of wrestling. The program was not there at the beginning of Pennsylvania wrestling but became a presence immediately upon establishing a varsity program in 1957. Forty-nine of its 65 teams have had winning seasons, with 45 of them winning ten or more meets and 20 winning league championships. Only eight of the 92 schools in south central Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Associations's District 3 have more state champions - and only two of those schools now compete with Newport in the AA small school division. Newport is also one of only six schools from District 3 who have won official or unofficial state championships - having done so in 1963 when it had two wrestlers in the state finals.

This website is a continuation of a publication written in 1971, entitled "Fourteen Years of Wrestling at Newport High School." That entire document in its original form has been posted. There is also a record of all individual dual meet and most tournament matches during that 14-season time period and the 1971-72 season, but it has not been posted. In addition to the 1971 document, the website includes numerous statistical lists and narratives on the following time-periods into which Newport's wrestling history has been divided:

1. the formative years of the official varsity program from the 1957-58 season to the 1971-1972 season, during which the Newport Buffaloes won twelve outright and one co-league championships as a team, had its first state champion and crowned three district champions twice;
2. the second wave from the 1972-1973 season to the 1986-87 season which saw more successful teams and individuals, including the 1984-85 season when Newport crowned its second state champion and had five qualifiers for the state tournament;
3. the next generation from the 1987-88 season through the 2000-01 season, during which two sons of Newport wrestlers achieved the top of the podium at states for the Buffaloes;
4. the fourth tier from the 2001-02 season through the 2015-16 season, during which there was more team and individual success, including regaining the top spot among Perry County teams, winning the first Tri-Valley league title since 1984, and crowning another District 3 champion; and
5. the fifth dimension from the 2016-17 season through 2021-22, which saw Newport once again become a force in District 3 as a team and individually by placing in the top four of the District 3 individual tournament four straight years, taking runner-up honors in the District 3 dual meet tournament in 2019 and 2021, and having its first two-time district champion since the early 1990s.

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In addition to the materials from the 1971 publication, which were in some part derived from a review of the official match scorebooks, the source materials for this update include year-end records supplied by Newport coaches that reside in the Newport High School library; information provided by Coach Capozzoli, including official scorebooks; information on the Newport Holiday Tournament supplied by Newport Athletic Director Sean Lesh; publications in the News-Sun, Patriot-News and Perry County Times; archive records of News-Sun sports reporter John Alvanitakis; publications in the Blunita, Newport High School's yearbook; information in "The History of the PIAA State Wrestling Championships," by Norm Palovcsik and Mike Smith (initially by Bob Hower); various PA Wrestling Handbooks by Tom Elling; "Overtime Pennsylvania Wrestling 1936-2014" by Paul W. Amic; numerous programs from section, district, region, state, Christmas and other tournaments; and data available on the internet.

Particular thanks go out to Coach Capozzoli and John Alvanitakis of the News-Sun, who were ever so helpful in putting this together, and to Newport's former Librarian Wayne Beaver who was apparently dogged in having coaches supply season recaps. Also thanks to former Newport wrestlers and coaches who have given me their scrapbooks and other materials and assistance - Jeff Bilger, Darry Campbell, Mike Gunkle, Dave Jones, Coach Al Kline, Al Kline, Mike Kline, Jim Kraft, Steve Peters, Jay Wilson and Andy Zook.

A special thank you to Doris Smith for allowing me to access her husband Mike's voluminous materials following his death; to Dean Kerstetter, who supplied valuable archive information on the Tri-Valley League; to Brian Creps, who provided records from the Bedford tournament; and to Newport Athletic Director Shawn Lesh, who provided access to archives on the Newport holiday tournament and information in the Newport library. And a thank you and recognition to two websites that have a wealth of information on Pennsylvania wrestling made available to the public for free: pa-wrestling.com and boutmastersllc.com (by Triple J Bout Masters, LLC). Finally, thank you to Sarah Cressler for designing and developing the website.

Reference to source materials is not included for ease of reading, but is available upon request. There are likely mistakes in the materials. Please feel free to contact me when you find them.

Records on dual meet scores is complete. Full league standings and all-star honors are generally set forth, although those for six years in the 1970s, three in the 1990s and the first five seasons at the turn of the century are missing. Many of these exist and will hopefully be provided soon. Information on the team and individuals at postseason and in season tournaments is relatively complete throughout the years.

Season information on individual wrestlers, including dual meet and total records, team points and falls, is available through the 1973-74 season and from the 2004-05 season forward. From 1974-75 through 1987-88 complete dual meet and total records are available, but dual meet team points and falls are generally unavailable. There is a list of career falls from 1986 that has

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been used. From 1988-89 through 2003-04 dual meet records, team points and falls are generally not available, although some of that information is for some seasons (1997-98; 1999-2000; 2001-02; 2002-03; and 2003-04) and for some wrestlers in other seasons with noteworthy records that were reflected in news articles.

The materials included here on Newport wrestling can be broken into four general categories:

1. The original 1971 publication entitled “Fourteen Years of Wrestling at Newport High School,” with a narrative on current observations of what it was like in the beginning.
2. Narratives on the five time periods into which the history of Newport wrestling has been divided.
3. A statistical summary of every varsity wrestling season from 1957-58 to 2022-23.
4. A series of statistical lists set forth below.

The following information has been provided for each varsity season:

1. dual meet scores
2. overall and league dual meet records
3. most dual meet team points and falls (if records available)
4. varsity tournaments entered
5. junior varsity/junior high dual meet records (if available)
6. team achievements
7. individual wrestler records
8. wrestlers with undefeated dual meet seasons (if any)
9. all-star team selections (Patriot-News and league) (as available)
10. dual meet team points leaders (if records available)
11. dual meet falls leaders (if records available)
12. overall falls leaders (if records available)

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13. postseason tournament place winners
14. summary of matches for those wrestlers who reached the state tournament
15. Christmas and other in season tournament place winners and team standings (as available)
16. standings in the league (as available)
17. standings at the section tournament (as available, either with mythical or official scoring)
18. standings at the district, regional and state tournaments (if Newport scored well, either with mythical or official scoring)
19. list of head, assistant and junior high coaches (as available)

As can be seen, there is missing data. Please contact me if you have any information that would fill in the gaps. And as noted, there likely are mistakes - please contact me with any corrections.

The following statistical lists are included:

1. Team achievements
 - League affiliations and coaching records
 - Dual meet records with championships
 - Postseason dual meet tournaments results
 - District individual tournament team high placements
2. Individual tournament achievements postseason and in season
 - State and regional champions
 - District champions
 - State place winners
 - Region place winners
 - District place winners
 - Multiple-time section champions
 - Section champions and runner-ups
 - State qualifiers by name
 - State qualifiers by year
 - Miscellaneous postseason achievements

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In-season individual tournament champions

3. Dual meet individual achievements

Undefeated individual dual meet seasons
Top career dual meet win percentages
Most career dual meet wins by time period
 The formative years
 The second wave
 The fourth tier
 The fifth dimension
Most career dual meet falls
Dual meet team points leaders by season
Dual meet falls leaders by season

4. Career individual achievements and honors

100 or more career wins
Top career win percentages
Most career wins (graduates through 1993)
Most career wins (graduates from 1994 to present)
Most career wins by time period
 The formative years
 The second wave
 The next generation
 The fourth tier
 The fifth dimension
Most career falls
Most falls in a season
Hall of Fame members
 District 3
 Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches
Patriot-News all-stars
League all-stars