

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

The team stepped it up in the 2016-17 season and hasn't stopped through 2021-22. They became a sustained presence in District 3 similar to that during the formative years. In four of the postseasons Newport placed in the top five at the district individual tournament, with two runner-up finishes. Three more Perry County dual meet championships were gained to go along with two District 3 dual meet runner-up trophies and a first appearance at the PIAA state dual meet tournament. A total six-year dual meet record of 84-23. Top five finishes were achieved at four of the five Bedford tournaments held, as well as a runner-up and fourth place finish at the Carlisle tournament and championships in all five Newport holiday tournaments held. Place winners at districts and regions became a common phenomena and multiple wrestlers made the state tournament through 2020 (a record six in 2018). 2016 district champ Brady Herr placed eighth in the 2018 states as a senior; Ethan Rode won two district titles, a regional title and a fourth place state medal his senior campaign in 2020, capping two of the best final seasons in twenty years; and Ganon Smith placed third in the state as a senior in 2022.

This six-season period has been designated the 5th dimension in keeping with it being the fifth section in which the history of Newport wrestling so far has been divided. The term has two definitions: the first is that it's the name of a 1960/70s pop-vocal group; and the second is that it is a dimension unseen by humans where the forces of gravity and electromagnetism unite to create a simple but graceful theory of the fundamental forces. Although this is clearly a bit of an exaggeration, the achievements during this period have been outstanding. And then there was the 2020-21 season with the Covid pandemic impacting wrestling to an extent that it was almost other worldly - wrestlers wearing masks; no or very limited spectators; only eight wrestlers at each weight class at states! Who'da thunk - seemed like another dimension.

Major parts of the team's schedule were constant during the first four and sixth seasons of the 5th dimension: the Newport duals, the Perry County duals and the Carlisle invitational individual tournament before Christmas (the last a new addition to the schedule in 2016-17); the Newport holiday tournament between Christmas and New Year's; another dual meet tournament in early January the first four years; the Bedford individual tournament in late January; league and non-league dual meets interspersed between those events; the District duals in late January/early February (except 2017-18, the only season the team did not qualify); and the individual postseason starting with sections in mid-February. The Lancaster Catholic duals were attended the first two Januaries and the Blue Streak duals at Manheim Township the next two Januaries. The composition of the Tri-Valley League remained constant: Line Mountain, Upper Dauphin, Juniata, Halifax, Susquenita and Newport.

Covid 19 blew out the schedule during the 2020-21 season. No individual tournaments were attended (or held) and only the Perry County and District 3 duals were attended/held. The Tri-Valley league did not have a championship, although Newport wrestled all the teams in the league but Line Mountain - winning all contests. Only seven duals were held other than the two during the Perry County duals and the two during the District 3 duals.

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The availability of data for the six 5th dimension seasons is very good. Complete dual meet and tournament results are on [PA-Wrestling.com](http://PA-Wrestling.com) except for the Carlisle tournament during the 2017-18 season. Missing information for the Carlisle tournament was gleaned from archive materials of John Alvanatakis.

According to the 2018-19 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey wrestling is the seventh most popular sport for boys in the nation, with 247,441 participants at 10,843 schools. And female wrestling, having achieved Olympic Games status in 2004, is growing at a fast pace. According to wrestling historian Tom Elling, the number of female wrestlers nationwide increased by almost 5,000 during the 2018-19 season to 21,124 participants at 2,890 schools. Twenty states hold official female state wrestling championships and another sixteen unofficial state championships.

Female wrestling is not a PIAA sanctioned sport yet, but there is an unofficial state tournament. And Newport joined the ranks of PA schools to officially sanction wrestling in the fall of 2021. The 2021-22 season saw the first time Newport females had their hands raised as varsity victors (by forfeit) and in an exhibition match at a varsity meet (not by forfeit). This development would have certainly seemed extra-dimensional when Newport wrestling started over 60 years ago.

### *2016-17 and 2017-18*

The 2016-17 team continued on the same trajectory set by the 2015-16 team. December saw dominant championships in the Newport duals, the Perry County duals, and the home holiday tournament (seven champs). A respectable sixth place was had in their first Carlisle invitational (with Jordan Frey and Walker Klinger making the finals); and an outstanding third place at Bedford, the team's best finish there to date (with Devon Blose and Walker Klinger taking silvers). A repeat Tri-Valley championship was not in the cards, as both Upper Dauphin and Line Mountain took down Newport, but an overall record of 13-5 gained a place in the District 3 duals where they fell to returning champ Northern Lebanon. It was the individual post-season, however, where the team really excelled.

Newport won the Section 1 tournament, besting Upper Dauphin by over ten points. Senior Drew Paden was the only section champion, but seven other Newporters made the finals (Devan Blose, Dorian Gonzalez, Isaiah Bryner, Jordan Frey, Darius Gonzalez, Michael Capozzoli and Brady Herr) and four others placed third or fourth. More spectacularly, Newport came home from districts with the runner-up team trophy, placing nine wrestlers in the top seven. Devan Blose and Isaiah Bryner were district runner-ups; Dorian Gonzalez and Walker Klinger took thirds; and Michael Capozzoli and Drew Paden fourths. The four District 3 teams which had defeated Newport during the season all placed in the top five - one above and three below Newport. This performance was followed with an eighth place team finish at the Southeast

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Regional Tournament on the backs of fourths by Devon Blose and Brady Herr and a sixth by Isaiah Bryner. The top-ten region finish was the first since the sixth place in 1992. All three Buffalo place winners advanced to the PIAA tournament where they won their pigtail matches, but then bowed out, with two losing in the championship round to the eventual state champion.

No less than four wrestlers ended the 2016-17 season with thirty wins - Isaiah Bryner (34-13), Drew Paden (30-12), Brady Herr (34-14) and Walker Klinger (32-11). Herr (16-2), Blose (14-2) and Michael Capozzoli (10-2) had the best dual meet records, with four others having 14 wins - Bryner (14-3), Jordan Frey (14-4), Paden (14-3) and Klinger (14-4). Devon led in dual meet team points (73), followed by Brady (68), Isaiah (62) and Walker (60). Walker (9) and Devon (8) led in dual meet falls and Walker (23), Jordan (17) and Brady (16) led in overall pins. Klinger's 23 season falls ranks third for Newport all-time according to available records.

Jordan Frey graduated in 2017. He finished with an overall record of 87-38 (including three over twenty-match win seasons); and a dual meet record of 41-22 (29-8 his final two years). Jordan won the Newport holiday tournament three times; and during his senior campaign was also runner-up at the Carlisle invitational, runner-up at sections and sixth in the District 3 tournament. He had 37 career falls, 17 during his last season (second best on the team).

With three of its thirty-match winners and seven of its nine district place winners returning, the 2017-18 season looked bright; and it was. Three wrestlers from a very strong senior class reached the century mark in career wins: Walker Klinger (107); Brady Herr (118); and Isaiah Bryner (120). This places them up there with prior top career winners Adam Smith (132); Damian Jones (119); and Travis Young (114).

The team went 13-4 overall, improving to 4-1 and runner-up honors in the league, losing only to Upper Dauphin. Championships were again notched in the Newport duals, the Perry County duals and the Newport holiday tournament (six champs). An improved fourth place finish at the Carlisle invitational (with Brady Herr taking gold and Grant Kauffman a silver) and a fourth place at the Bedford tournament (with Devon Blose and Walker Klinger making the finals) completed a very successful in season individual tournament schedule, with an exciting postseason expected again.

A somewhat disappointing third place finish at sections (although only ten points out of first and 3.5 from second) was overshadowed by a fourth place finish at districts and another fourth at regions. The team was only five points from placing second at regions. This finish was the best since taking the runner-up region/district trophy in 1985; and led to the most Newport state qualifiers ever - six.

Three wrestlers won section titles (Michael Capozzoli, Brady Herr and Walker Klinger), the most section champs since 1999. Another four were runner-ups (Devon Blose, Dorian

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Gonzalez, Isaiah Bryner and Ethan Rode); and freshman Will Davis took a fourth. There were seven District 3 place winners: two runner-ups (Dorian Gonzalez and Brady Herr); two third place winners (Devon Blose and Walker Klinger); a fourth (Michael Capozzoli); and two fifths (Isaiah Bryner and Ethan Rode).

The record six wrestlers placing at regions and qualifying for states were runner-up Brady Herr; third-place winner Isaiah Bryner; fourth placers Devon Blose, Dorian Gonzalez and Walker Klinger; and Michael Capozzoli with a sixth place. Walker won his pigtail match at states, but then lost to the eventual champ before being eliminated. Devon lost his pigtail, but won two consolation matches before elimination.

Brady won his pigtail match at states by fall (a lateral drop of course) before losing to the eventual three-time champ, but then won in consolations by fall in the blood round to assure a PIAA medal. He dropped his next match to the eventual third-place winner before finishing with an eighth place medal - the first Newport state medal since Travis Young in 2003.

There were four wrestlers with thirty overall victories again: Brady Herr (34-8); Walker Klinger (33-7); Michael Capozzoli (31-12); and Isaiah Bryner (30-14). And two just short of that mark: Devon Blose (29-11) and Dorian Gonzalez (29-14). Klinger was undefeated in dual meets (16-0), the first undefeated dual meet season since his brother Dalton went 17-0 during the 2013-14 season. Others with outstanding dual meet records were Ethan Rode (15-1); Capozzoli (13-1); Blose (10-1); Herr (15-2); Grant Kauffman (14-2); Bryner (13-4); and Gonzalez (12-4). Walker ran the table on top dual meet achievements with 93 team points, 12 dual meet falls and 23 overall falls. Ethan was second in team points with 81, followed by Grant (67); Michael (64); Isaiah (62); and Brady (60). Three wrestlers had the second most dual meet falls at 8 - Michael, Grant and Ethan. Three had the second most overall falls at 13 - Devon Close, Brady and Grant.

Brady Herr, Walker Klinger, Isaiah Bryner and Michael Capozzoli, all of which were very accomplished four-year varsity grapplers, graduated in 2018. These four wrestlers amassed an amazing 438 career wins, including a record of 232-56 in dual meets. 117 of their dual meet and 212 of their overall wins were by fall. They were in the section finals nine times with four championships; were in the district finals three times with one gold; and one reached the region finals. In total, they garnered twelve top-four finishes at sections; ten top-five finishes at districts; six top-six places at regions; and one state medal. All four reached states their senior season. Their teams won the Perry County duals and the Newport holiday tournament all four years. It won the league title once and was runner-up twice. Their team's overall dual meet records were 58-17 and their league records 16-4. Their teams won the sectional tournament one season; was runner-up at the District 3 tournament twice; and placed fourth and eighth in two regional tournaments. They also placed third and fourth at Bedford tournaments and fourth at a Carlisle invitational. A well-accomplished group.

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Michael Capozzoli won a section title as a senior after having made the finals as a junior. He added fourth place district medals both years, as well as a sixth place at regions and a trip to states his senior campaign. Michael won the Newport holiday tournament as a sophomore and was in the finals the other two in which he competed as a freshman and senior. He took a third place at the Carlisle invitational during his senior season and a fourth as a junior. At Bedford, he finished sixth his senior year and eighth his freshman season. Michael's career record was 93-43 (with 31 wins his senior year) and his dual meet record 54-12 (with records of 18-3, 10-2 and 13-1 his final three seasons). He finished with 36 dual meet falls and 56 overall falls; and was in the top three dual meet pinners and the top five overall pinners all four years, leading the team his sophomore season in both categories with 13 dual meet and 21 overall falls. Michael was fourth on the team in dual meet team points both his senior (64) and sophomore (84) campaigns. He was a Tri-Valley League all-star his final three seasons.

Walker Klinger ended his career with the most falls of any Newport wrestler based on available records with 79, surpassing by far Justin Willi's previous high mark of 59. Walker won a section title his senior season, took two third-place medals at districts, and placed fourth at regions his senior year to earn a trip to states. He won the Newport tournament that senior year, having taken a second and two thirds in prior seasons; made it to the finals of the tough Bedford tournament both as a junior and senior to go along with a seventh-place finish as a sophomore; and was also a two-time runner-up at the Carlisle tournament. Walker finished with a 107-45 overall record (winning 20 or more matches all four years, with 32-11 and 33-7 marks his final two); and a dual meet record of 58-15 (going undefeated at 16-0 as a senior to accompany 15-3 and 14-4 records as a freshman and junior). Forty of his dual meet wins were by fall, with another 39 pins in tournaments. He led the team in team points (93), dual meet falls (12) and total falls (26) his senior season when he was named a Tri-Valley League all-star. Walker had also led the team in dual meet (9) and overall falls (23) his junior campaign and was second (11) and third (16), respectively, in those categories as a freshmen. He was fourth in team points as a freshman (64) and junior (60). As of his graduation, Walker was the only Newport wrestler to have two seasons with 20 or more falls. His 107 career wins places him eighth on the current Newport career win list; and his 79 career falls still tops the list.

Isaiah (who attended Greenwood High School) completed his career with 120 wins, the second most for a Newport wrestler up until that time. He won the Newport holiday tournament four times, the only Newport wrestler (and one of only four wrestlers) to do so in the 35 years it has been held; and was named the outstanding wrestler in his final Newport tournament. Isaiah was also a four-time section and District 3 place winner, with three section runner-up finishes and a fourth as a sophomore and a runner-up district medal his junior campaign to go along with three fifth places. He was third at regions as a senior and sixth as a junior, earning two advancements to the state tournament. Isaiah placed third at Bedford as a junior and fourth as a sophomore and senior, along with fifth place finishes at the Carlisle invitational his final two seasons. His overall record was 120-38 (winning 20 or more matches each year with records of

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32-10, 34-13 and 30-14 his last three seasons); and was 61-13 in dual meets (with a 19-2 sophomore record to accompany records of 15-4, 14-3 and 13-4 in his other seasons). He had 25 overall falls, 17 of them in dual meets. Isaiah scored over 60 dual meet team points all four seasons, being second on the team twice (with 90 as a sophomore and 62 as a junior), third as a freshman with 65 and fifth as a senior with 62. Isaiah was a three-time Tri-Valley all-star. His 120 career wins is currently third best in Newport wrestling history.

Brady Herr ended his career with an eighth-place PIAA state medal in his second trip to states; a district championship as a sophomore with a silver medal as a senior and a sixth as a junior; a regional runner-up medal as a senior and a fourth as a junior; and section championships as a sophomore and senior with a runner-up finish as a junior and a sixth as a freshman. He won the Carlisle invitational and placed third at Bedford his senior season to go along with third and fifth place finishes at Bedford as a sophomore and junior, respectively, and a fifth place at Carlisle as a junior. Brady won the Newport holiday tournament his last two seasons and was runner-up his first two. In his junior year he was second in dual meet team points (68) and third in dual meet falls (6) and overall falls (16); and was tied for second in overall falls as a senior with 13. Brady finished with an overall record of 118-46 and a dual meet record of 59-16. Fifty-two of his wins were pins and 24 of his dual meet wins were by fall, having established the throw as a signature move for the Buffaloes for a period of time. He was a Tri-Valley League all-star as a junior and senior and was named to the second team of the Patriot-News Big 15 all-star team his last season. Brady's 118 wins are currently fifth on the all-time Newport win list. His district title is one of only 28 and his state medal is one of only 20 won by Newport wrestlers in the 64 seasons of the team.

### *2018-19 and 2019-20*

Even with the 2018 graduation of four wrestlers who totaled 438 career wins and 212 career falls, the 2018-19 team kept the momentum of the previous few seasons going without missing a beat; and even cranked it up a bit. John Alvanitakis called it a historic year in his News-Sun season recap. The following paragraph is a synopsis of the start of John's article.

Consisting of four seniors, two juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen, the team opened the season by winning their dual meet tournament; won the Perry County duals for an event-best sixth straight time; were runner-ups at the 21-team Carlisle invitational; and grabbed their fifth straight Newport holiday tournament championship - all before New Year's 2019. After the break, Newport reeled off five straight wins to reach 11-0 before dropping its first match to Bermudian Springs. The regular season was closed out with four wins in five matches - the lone loss to Upper Dauphin 34-30, which cost the team a Tri-Valley League championship, but would later be avenged in a major way. Their 15-2 record earned the team a fourth seed in the District 3AA dual championships, but first they headed to Bedford where nine Buffaloes medaled and the team finished fourth in a field of 27 top AA programs in the state. In one

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glorious night at Northern Lebanon High School Newport topped Upper Dauphin and then Northern Lebanon to reach the District 3 dual finals and earn a trip to the PIAA state dual tournament - both firsts for the Newport program. Newport fell to Hamburg in the finals, but then defeated Danville in the first round of states, another first for the program. At Hershey Park Arena Newport fell to Burrell and Muncy to fall out of state medal consideration, but the coaches and wrestlers all enjoyed the historic ride.

Including the postseason duals, the team finished 2018-19 with a dual meet record of 18-5. It was runner-up in the league with a 4-1 record. As noted, the team won their own and the Perry County duals again; were runner-ups in the District 3 duals; and won a match after qualifying for the state duals for the first time. They were runner-ups at the Carlisle invitational, with seven place winners (including champion Ethan Rode and runner-up Devon Blose); won their own holiday tournament, with 11 wrestlers placing third or better (including six champions); and placed fourth at Bedford with nine place winners (including runner-up Ethan Rode and fourth placers Ganon Smith and Devon Blose).

The district returned to a two-AA section format for the 2019 postseason after two seasons with four AA sections. Newport was runner-up at the Section 1 tournament, outscoring 14 teams including Bermudian Springs and Upper Dauphin and finishing only four points behind Boiling Springs. Twelve Buffaloes placed in the top six, including section champions Dorian Gonzalez and Ethan Rode, runner-up freshman Will Davis, and third-place medalists freshman Ganon Smith, Grant Kauffman, Devon Blose and Brenden Leach, a transfer student formerly on the Central Dauphin East wrestling team.

With twelve wrestlers at districts, eight of which placed in the top eight, Newport placed third; one point behind second place Upper Dauphin, a half a point ahead of Boiling Springs and three and a half better than Northern Lebanon in the four-way race for second. Hamburg was the champion going away. Ethan Rode won Newport's second district title in four years; Dorian Gonzalez took a third; Devon Blose and Brandon Leach fourths; Ganon Smith a fifth; freshman Nathan Rode a sixth; Mason Huggins a seventh; and Grant Kauffman eighth. Six of these wrestlers qualified for regions and three placed, earning a trip to states. Ethan Rode placed fourth in the region; Dorian Gonzalez fifth; and Ganon Smith sixth. Both Ethan and Dorian won their preliminary matches at states but then fell to eventual state finalist before being eliminated from the competition.

Five wrestlers had 30 or more overall wins with excellent dual meet records to boot, but Ethan Rode led the team in all categories: an overall record of 41 wins and 5 losses; an undefeated dual meet record of 23-0; 131 team points; 19 dual meet falls (a new all-time Newport season record); 28 overall pins (a new all-time Newport season record); two championships and a runner-up finish at in season tournaments; a section title; a District 3 title; and a fourth place at regions. Ganon Smith went 38-15, the most wins ever for a Newport

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freshman and was the first ninth grader to make the state tournament since Sherm Hostler in 1963. The other thirty-match winners were Devon Blose (35-13); Branden Leach (34-14); and Nathan Rode (30-17). Dorian Gonzalez missed some matches due to injury and finished at 28-9. Grant Kauffman (27-14) and Will Davis (27-15) also logged over 20 wins.

In addition to Ethan Rode, very good dual meet performances were enjoyed by Dorian Gonzalez (12-1); Ganon Smith (20-3); Branden Leach (19-4); Devon Blose (18-4); freshman Calvin Sarver (14-3); and Nathan Rode (16-5). Ganon was second in team points (101), while Branden (81) and Devon (75) were third and fourth. Branden was second in dual meet falls (11); Ganon second (10); and freshman Danny Capozzoli fourth (9). Branden was also second in overall pins (20); Ganon was third (17); Nate Rode fourth (16); and Grant Kauffman fifth (15). Eight wrestlers made the Tri-Valley all-star team and Ethan and Dorian were named to the third team of the Patriot-News Big 15 all-star team.

Branden Leach and Devon Blose graduated in 2019. Although he wrestled at Newport only one season, Brandon Leach had an impactful influence on the 2018-19 team. He had a dual meet record of 19-4 with 11 falls, second most on the team; and an overall record of 34-14 with 20 falls, again second most on the team. His dual meet team points total of 81 was third on the team. Branden won the Newport holiday tournament and placed sixth and seventh at Carlisle and Bedford. He placed third at sections and fourth at districts.

Devon Blose finished his career with a dual meet record of 42-7 (including 14-2 and 10-1 seasons as a sophomore and junior); and an overall record of 91-36 with 33 falls. He made the state tournament twice, placing fourth in the region his sophomore and junior campaigns. Devon was a district and section runner-up as a sophomore; a section runner-up and third in the district as a junior; and third and fourth at sections and districts respectively as a senior. He was in the Bedford finals twice and also took a fourth place; was a two-time finalist at the Newport holiday tournament; and was also runner-up at the Carlisle invitational his senior season, having placed fourth and sixth then prior two years. Devon led the team in dual meet team points as a sophomore (73) and was second in dual meet falls with 8; was tie for second in overall falls as a junior with 13; and fourth in team points as a senior (75). Devon was a Tri-Valley League all-star all three of his varsity seasons.

The 2019-20 season was another banner one for the team, with two dominant senior leaders - Ethan Rode and Dorian Gonzalez - who capped record setting careers. Team achievements were similar to those of other recent years and Ethan and Dorian's individual achievements were special. The biggest damper on the season was the emergence of county rival West Perry, which had become a AA competitor in the 2018-19 season when their co-op program with Carson Long Academy ended after the private school closed.

Before Christmas the team won their three competitions at the Newport duals, including a close 41-36 victory over Midd-West; beat Susquenita handily at the Perry County duals, but

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dropped a one-match swing match to West Perry 33-36; and then hammered Steel High before dropping another one-match swing dual to league rival Line Mountain 36-42. After the holiday break the team reeled off ten dual meet victories, including a 5-0 record at the Blue Streak Duals, to again qualify for the District 3 duals. They defeated Biglerville before dropping yet another one-match swing dual to Bermudian Springs this time 34-39. After besting Bishop McDevitt in the consolation quarter-finals Newport fell to West Perry, this time 27-36, in the consolation semi-finals to miss a chance to qualify for the state duals again. Newport's final dual meet record was another excellent 17-4.

The Newport holiday tournament was very competitive, with only seven and a half points separating the top three teams. Newport took the title based on criteria - the most champions (five) - when York Suburban equaled their point total of 194.5. Camp Hill had 187 points. The team also did well at both the Carlisle invitational and Bedford tournament - placing fourth in both. Ganon Smith and Mason Huggins made the finals at Carlisle; Dorian Gonzalez and Nathan Rode took thirds; and Ethan Rode a fourth. At Bedford both Dorian and Ethan reached the finals; Ganon and Grant Kauffman placed fourth; and Will Davis and Mason Huggins took fifths.

The team also excelled again in the individual postseason. With half of the teams from the district in Section 1, Newport placed third, twenty points above Boilings Springs and within ten of Bermudian Springs and West Perry. Three champs were crowned, the most ever for Newport when only two section tournaments were held: Dorian Gonzalez; Mason Huggins; and Ethan Rode. Will Davis was runner-up; Ganon Smith third; Calvin Sarver, Grant Kauffman, Danny Capozzoli and Nathan Rode fifth; and freshman Dominic Failor sixth. All ten moved onto districts.

Newport took fourth place at the District 3 tournament, besting Bermudian Springs and finishing just eight behind Bishop McDevitt and six and a half behind West Perry. Hamburg won going away again. Ethan Rode won his second district title, the first multiple winner since Damian Jones from 1991 to 1993 and only the sixth Newport wrestler to win more than one district gold. Three wrestlers placed third: Ganon Smith; Will Davis; and Nathan Rode. Two placed fifth: Dorian Gonzalez and Mason Huggins. Grant Kauffman took a seventh and Danny Capozzoli a seventh.

With six wrestlers picking up points and two in the finals, the team placed eighth, only five points behind Hamburg. Ethan Rode won in the finals, Newport's first regional champion since Damian Jones in 1993. Dorian fell short, but became one of only six Buffalo regional finalists since District 3 joined the Southeast Region in 1999. Newport had not had two in the region finals since 1992.

At states Ethan pinned his opponents in the round of 16 and quarter-finals before falling short 4-7 in the semi-finals. He pinned another opponent in the consolation semi-finals and then

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dropped a razor thin 4-3 decision to place fourth in the state. This was the highest state finish since Adam Smith took first in 2001. Dorian won his round of 16 match, but fell to the eventual state champ in the quarter-finals and was then eliminated by the eventual third-place wrestler in the consolations; tough draws.

Several on the 2019-20 team had excellent dual meet seasons, but Ethan Rode's was extraordinary. He finished his second undefeated campaign, this one at 21-0 - the first Buffalo to accomplish multiple undefeated dual meet seasons since Adam Smith did it at the turn of the century. More spectacularly, Ethan piled up 124 team points out of a possible 126, with 16 falls, seven forfeits and one major decision. And he hit the trifecta again, leading the team in dual meet team points (124), dual meet falls (16) and overall falls (28). His overall record was 42-5.

Mason Huggins, Ganon Smith and Dorian Gonzalez had stellar dual meet seasons. Mason went 20-1; and was second in dual meet team points (111) and dual falls (15). Ganon was 19-2 in duals; third in team points (111); and fourth in dual pins (11). Dorian also went 19-2 in dual meets; was fourth in team points (96); and third in dual falls (12). Nathan Rode (13-3, 6 falls), Will Davis (16-5, 8 pins), Danny Capozzoli (14-7, 9 falls), and Andrew Degiglio (13-7, 10 falls) also contributed substantially in dual meets.

Overall, Mason Huggins finished at 33-9, with a second best 25 pins. Ganon Smith was 37-9 overall and third in overall falls (21). Dorian Gonzalez ended at 38-9, with a fourth best 19 pins. Also logging 30 or more wins were Will Davis (36-14, 15 pins) and Danny Capozzoli (30-19, 17 falls). Nathan Rode went 26-9 with 15 total falls and Andrew Degiglio logged 15 overall pins.

Dorian Gonzalez and Ethan Rode graduated in 2020. Both four-year varsity letterman, Dorian and Ethan had spectacular careers that merit inspection in light of the entirety of Newport wrestling history. The statistics set forth below, and others on this site that reflect how a wrestler ranks in some category in Newport wrestling history, should be considered in light of the number of young men who have put on a Newport varsity wrestling uniform. Over the 64-year history of the program, which had its first varsity season in 1957-58, there have been 817 slots available for each dual meet and then postseason competition (with anywhere from 11 to 14 weight classes per season depending on the year). Although many wrestled in multiple seasons, others competed in dual meets but did not make the postseason team. While the exact number of wrestlers with varsity matches or those with postseason matches has not been counted, the number must be near or over a thousand.

Ethan and Dorian's paths to success were different. Dorian came out of the gate like a thoroughbred, having a good freshman season and three even more impressive runs. Ethan struggled as a freshman, improved substantially his sophomore season and then came out with guns blazing his final two years. While both had considerable normal wrestling skills, Dorian

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was a master of speed and agility able to score from unexpected positions and Ethan was a master of throws that one could sometimes see coming and other times came out of nowhere.

Dorian Gonzalez was a regional runner-up his senior season, having placed fourth as a sophomore and fifth as a junior, punching his ticket to states three times. He was a District 3 runner-up as a sophomore; took third places as a freshman and junior; and placed fifth as a senior. He was in the section finals all four of his years, claiming two section titles. Dorian won three Newport holiday titles and placed second as a junior. He took a second place at Bedford his senior campaign and eighth as a sophomore, to go along with thirds at the Carlisle invitational as a senior and sophomore and fourth as a junior.

Dorian had a dual meet record of 52-9 (9-2, 12-4, 12-1 and 19-2) and a total record of 116-40 (21-8, 29-14, 28-9 and 38-9). He had 22 dual falls and 43 career pins. In his senior year he was fourth in team points, third in dual falls and fourth in total pins. Dorian was a four-time Tri-Valley League all-star and was named to the Patriot-News Big 15 third team as a junior and the second team of the Patriot-News all-stars as a senior.

Dorian is one of only three Newport wrestlers who placed in the District 3 tournament four times and one of only five who placed in the top three at three District 3 tournaments. He is one of only four Newport wrestlers who qualified for the state tournament three times; one of 20 to reach at least the state quarter-finals; one of 26 to be a regional finalist; and one of 37 to qualify for the state tournament. Dorian's 116 career wins ranks him sixth among Newport wrestlers in total varsity match wins.

Ethan Rode was fourth in the state as a senior; won a regional title that year; and won two District 3 golds as a junior and senior. He won two section titles to accompany a runner-up finish as a sophomore and fourth as a freshman; placed fifth at districts as a sophomore; and fourth at regions as a junior to earn his first trip to states. Ethan won the Newport holiday tournament his final two years and was runner-up as a freshman. He won the Carlisle invitational his junior campaign and was fourth as a senior; and was a runner-up at Bedford his last two seasons, having placed fifth as a sophomore.

Ethan had an overall record of 121-31 (including final three seasons of 25-8, 41-5 and 42-5); and a career dual meet record of 68-8 (including a record of 59-1 in his final three seasons with tallies of 15-1, 23-0 and 21-0). He had a total of 73 career falls, 45 of which were in dual meets. Ethan led the team in dual meet team points as a junior (131) and a senior (124), and was second as a sophomore (81). He also led the team in dual meet (19 and 16) and total (28 and 28) falls his last two seasons, and was tied for second in dual meet (8) and for fourth in overall (12) falls as a sophomore. Ethan was a first team Patriot-News all-star his senior year and was named to the Patriot-News Big 15 third team as a junior. He was a Tri-Valley all-star his last two seasons.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Ethan's 121 career victories is second on the Newport all-time win list and his 73 career falls is second on the all-time pin list based on available records. He is one of only six Newport wrestlers who won more than one District 3 championship and one of only 20 who won District 3 titles. Ethan is one of only nine Newport wrestlers to place in the top four in the state tournament; one of 11 to place in the state tournament; one of 14 to reach the state semi-finals; one of 12 who were regional tournament champions; one of 14 who qualified for the state tournament more than once; one of 20 to reach at least the state quarter-finals; one of 26 to be a regional finalist; and one of 37 to qualify for the state tournament. He is one of only 11 Newport wrestlers to have more than one undefeated dual meet seasons and one of 32 to have even a single undefeated dual meet season. Ethan is also one of only 12 Newport wrestlers to have made the Patriot-News first team all-stars since it was first published during the 1970-71 season; and the first since Adam Smith in 2001.

Ethan's final two dual meet seasons set falls and team points records based on available records. In 2018-19 he was 23-0 with 19 falls, one forfeit, two major decisions and one regular decision; and 131 team points out of a possible 138. In 2019-20 he was 21-0 with 16 falls, four forfeits and one major decision; and 124 team points out of a possible 126. In the 17 regular dual meets before the postseason in 2020, Ethan scored a maximum 102 team points with 13 falls and four forfeits. During the dual meet postseasons in 2019 and 2020 he went 10-0 with eight falls, two major decisions and 56 team points out of a possible 60.

### *2020-21*

The Covid 19 pandemic was just starting to make the news at the end of the 2019-20 season. Fist bumping rather than handshaking when meeting friends was just starting at the state tournament; and then at the Big 10 college tournament that weekend everyone in the gym was washing their hands meticulously. By the beginning of the next season, everything had changed. As the Patriot-News understated at the end of November: "Wrestling in 2020-21 will look different."

Hand washing and other sanitary measures, distancing and wearing mask were the order of the day in American society due to the pandemic. The wrestling world paralleled these measures. Vaccines did not become available until near the end of the 2020-21 season; and not for students until well after the season had ended.

Cleaning mats became a priority during dual meets and tournaments, and for practices. At first two mats were used at dual meets in an alternating manner with the non-used mat being cleaned when the other was in use, but this was determined unnecessary in relatively short order. The hand shake before and after matches was eliminated; with fist bumps occurring at times.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Although not possible between wrestlers when wrestling, distancing was reflected by others participating in meets and tournaments such as timekeepers. And fans were not permitted at meets and tournaments - the ultimate in distancing.

The Pennsylvania statewide mask mandate applied to wrestling. Wrestlers in central Pennsylvania wore masks during matches. Other parts of the state did not seem to comply as well. Masks were worn at all the postseason tournaments in which Newport had participants. Masking did not seem to be enforced at states. Enforcement during matches was not by the referee, but by the official in charge of the meet or tournament. The wearing of masks didn't really seem to impact matches; both wrestlers had the same impediment.

Newport already had a good before and after mat-cleaning process for practices and saw little change in that regard. The locker rooms were disinfected daily and clean towels were distributed for each practice. Masks were worn by all at practices and water bottles were not shared. Some schools practiced in two different groups (light weights and heavy weights); and some also used pods, where wrestlers only practiced with very limited teammates. Newport did not adopt these measures. Wrestlers were, however, instructed to and followed the distancing rules outside of practice in an effort not to be put out of competition by contact tracing protocols.

Newport's approach worked. Once their first match was finally held on January 16, the team competed continually throughout the truncated regular season and the postseason without being shut down.

Early on the PIAA had decided individual tournaments should be limited to eight per weight class, so that they could be completed in a single day with no overnight stays. This is how the postseason tournaments were arranged, as will be more fully discussed below. Almost no individual tournaments were held during the season. An exception was the Powerade tournament in western Pennsylvania, which was held at a convention center rather than Cannon-McMillan High School.

Dual meet tournaments were also a scarce commodity, although quad meets were often held. The PIAA dual meet championships were limited to one representative per district, with only the final four meeting at a common venue - the Cumberland Valley High School dome - rather than the traditional three-day finishing event at the Giant Center.

In addition to these Covid-related changes, the PIAA had decided to break with the national norm and reduce the number of weight classes for the 2020-21 season. The first nine weights stayed the same - 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152 and 160. One class was eliminated between 170 and 220. The new top weights are 172, 189, 215 and 285 (rather than 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285).

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

The very balanced schedule developed by Coach Capozzoli over the years (both within District 3 and statewide) was infected during 2020-21. No Newport or Blue Streak duals with a good assortment of teams from the district. And no Carlisle invitational with good AAA and AA individuals from District 3; no Newport holiday tournament with some good local AA individuals; and no Bedford tournament with good western Pennsylvania AA teams and individuals.

Nonetheless, Newport had an excellent dual meet season and another good showing in the postseason individual tournaments. Although the Tri-Valley league did not have a championship, Newport won all four of its matches against league teams; no match was held with Line Mountain. And the squad took runner-up honors at the District 3 dual meet tournament, finishing with a 9-2 record, before placing fourth in their super section and seventh at districts.

Following three easy wins over outmatched foes at the Buffalo Duals, the Perry County tournament was held January 23. After defeating Susquenita handily, the team was once again foiled by West Perry. Lopsided wins against Juniata and Upper Dauphin set up close victories against Bishop McDevitt (31-30) and Camp Hill (38-30). These key wins consolidated an 8-1 record and the final spot in the District 3 duals.

Only four teams qualified for the D3 duals due to pandemic concerns. Newport drew a semi-final match with Northern Lebanon, another perennial District 3 dual contestant and familiar foe. The team fell behind 26-0 before winning seven of the final eight matches - the last four by fall - to prevail 37-32. 189 pounder William Finkenbinder was the unlikely hero with a walk-off fall to clinch a team spot in the district finals. Newport didn't have anything for Boiling Springs, which won the district title and went on to place fourth in the state.

The postseason individual tournaments were all different due to the pandemic. The team was in Section 1 with the normal teams that composed that section, but only eight wrestlers at each weight from the 16 teams qualified. Newport qualified eight wrestlers and placed fourth, only five points behind Bermudian Springs, but substantially behind Boiling Springs and West Perry. Six of the eight wrestlers placed in the top four to move on to districts. Ganon Smith was runner-up to the eventual state champion from Biglerville; Danny Capozzoli and Will Davis took thirds; and Mason Messick, Grant Kauffman and Mason Huggins placed fourth. Travis Lilly at fifth and Tyler Geer at sixth did not advance.

The District 3 tournament also had eight competitors in each weight, four from each of the two super-sections. Newport placed seventh, it's sixth top-ten team finish in a row. Danny Capozzoli and Will Davis garnered third-place medals and Mason Huggins a fourth to advance regions. Grant Kauffman and Ganon Smith both placed fifth to just miss the mark.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

In a now recognizable pattern, only eight were in each weight at regions - four from District 3, three from District 11 and one from District 1/12; and only the top four place winners would advance. Danny Capozzoli took a fourth place to remain alive for another week. Mason Huggins took a fifth, registering a fall in his final high school bout; and Will Davis placed sixth.

In the most radical break from tradition, state qualifiers did not advance from regional tournaments. An additional week of wrestling was added to maintain eight-man brackets at states. Two super regional tournaments were held - one in the east and one in the west. Newport's Southeast Region (Districts 1, 3, 11 and 12) joined with the Northwest Region (Districts 2 and 4) to form the East AA Super Regional Tournament. Danny Capozzoli won his first consolation match and placed sixth, falling short of the top four that advanced. Considering that only 16 wrestlers in each weight class made either the east or west super regional and 20 wrestlers normally qualify for states, the Patriot-News and others observed that qualifying for a super region was the equivalent of making states in this very odd Covid-impacted season.

Will Davis, Mason Huggins, Dan Capozzoli and Grant Kauffman graduated in 2021. All were four-year varsity guys whose records and achievements would be increased if their senior season had not been held during a pandemic, when the dual meet season was truncated and no individual tournaments held till the postseason.

Grant Kauffman won the Newport tournament twice; placed third and fourth at the Carlisle invitational; and took a third and eighth at Bedford. He ended his career with a dual meet record of 39-14 (his best season record being 13-2 as a freshman); and an overall record of 77-37 (logging more than 20 wins twice). Grant placed third (10th grade), fourth (12th grade) and fifth (11th grade) at sections; and fifth (12th grade), sixth (11th grade) and eighth (10th grade) at districts. He ended his career with 43 falls, tying for second in overall falls on the team as a sophomore. Grant was a three-time Tri-Valley all-star.

Danny Capozzoli capped his tenure with third-place medals at sections and districts, and a fourth at regions to make the final 16 in the state at his weight class - an achievement which would have qualified him for states in any other year and led to a sixth place finish at the super regionals. He had placed fifth at sections as a junior and sixth as a sophomore; also taking a seventh at districts his junior year. Danny was a runner-up and fourth-place finisher at the Newport holiday tournament and placed sixth at the Carlisle invitational as a junior. He had a career dual meet record of 40-30 (with a 9-2 record his senior year); and an overall record of 73-66 (having won 30 matches his junior season). Danny had 40 career falls (with the third most on the team as a senior) and was a two-time Tri-Valley all-star.

Mason Huggins won a section title as a junior, placing fourth in his last season and fifth as a sophomore. At districts Mason improved each year going from seventh as a sophomore, to fifth and then fourth as a senior. He placed fifth at regions his senior campaign. He was runner-up at the Carlisle invitational in eleventh grade; took a fifth at Bedford that season and an eighth

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

the year before; and placed third at Newport's holiday tournament during his freshman and sophomore years. Mason had a career dual meet record of 44-23 (29-3 his last two seasons with records of 20-1 and 9-2), and a 78-60 overall record (with a 33-11 junior year that included two unfortunate tournament defaults). He logged 46 career falls, 35 in his final two seasons. Mason was a two-time Tri-Valley all-star; was second on the team in dual meet team points, dual meet and overall falls as a junior; and as a senior was first in overall falls, second in dual meet falls and third in dual meet team points. His 25 falls in his penultimate season is the fourth most in a season for a Newport wrestler based on available records.

Will Davis finished his Newport career with a dual meet record of 53-19 (including 16 wins both as a sophomore and a junior and a 10-1 final season); and an overall record of 94-47 (with records of 27-15, 36-14 and 14-4 in his final three seasons). Had it not been for the pandemic, Will would certainly have reached the century mark in career wins. He was a two-time section runner-up, placing third as a senior and fourth as a freshman. In his last two seasons he took third-place medals at districts; and placed sixth at regions as a senior. Will won the Newport tournament twice and placed third as a freshman. He also took fifth and sixth places at Bedford and a sixth at the Carlisle invitational. As a senior Will was second in dual meet team points and falls and fourth in overall pins. He had 34 career falls and was a two-time Tri-Valley all-star.

### *2021-22*

Nine of the 13 wrestlers logging more than ten matches during the 2021-22 season were underclassman - three freshman, four sophomores and two juniors. They combined with the four seniors to complete a fine season - reclaiming the Tri-Valley League championship, using only three duals and reaching the District 3 duals semi-finals. Ganon Smith put together an excellent final campaign culminating in a third-place state medal.

The team went 14-3, losing only to three of the teams finishing in the top four at the District 3 duals, including West Perry at the Perry County duals to finish runner-ups. Its 5-0 league record included substantial victories over Line Mountain, Juniata and Halifax and two come-from-behind wins - an exciting 39-36 over Susquenita at the Perry County duals after trailing 24-36 with three matches to go, Mason Messick sealing the victory with a 4-2 win; and a 13-point victory over Upper Dauphin after trailing 3-24. In advancing to the semi-finals of the District 3 duals Newport handily won its preliminary meet over ELCO and then squeaked by Berks Catholic 31-30 in a controversial meet that came down to not giving up bonus points in the final match.

Two wrestlers went undefeated in dual meets for the first time since the 1997-98 season. Standout seniors Ganon Smith was 17-0 and Nathan Rode 12-0. Only two dual losses were sustained by freshmen Ryan Lawler (15-2) and Roman Polcha (14-2), and sophomore Travis Lily (10-2). Both senior Andrew Degiglio and junior Caleb Leshner logged in at 13-4. Ganon led the

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

team in dual meet team points (93), dual falls (11) and overall pins (28). Ryan was second in dual meet team points (78); Roman third (74); and Nathan fourth (72). Caleb and Nathan both had nine dual meets falls. Lawler had 23 overall falls, which is most assuredly a record for a Newport freshman (although pin records are missing for some seasons).

Crowning seven champs, Newport won its own holiday tournament by over 20 points. Five Buffaloes placed at the Carlisle invitational, including a first place finish for Ganon Smith, and four at Bedford, with Ganon again winning gold. Respectable seventh and ninth place finishes were achieved by the team at these two large tournaments, respectively.

The eight-per-weight-class format first used at the section tournament during the 2020-21 Covid season was retained. Nine Newport wrestlers qualified and seven placed. The team took fourth among 15 teams, half of those in the district. Ganon Smith and Nathan Rode were crowned champions; Ryan Lawler took a third; Roman Polcha, Travis Lily and Mason Messick fifths; and Evan Rice a seventh. The district tournament did not go as well. The underclassmen didn't get their sea legs under them, with only Messick taking a seventh place; and Nathan Rode was injured in a very close semi-final match, thereafter defaulting to sixth. Ganon Smith, however, claimed gold with all three of his matches ending by fall.

Ganon made the finals at regions on the strength of another fall and a major decision, but fell to the eventual state champion by decision. Smith picked up another two falls in his first two matches at states before dropping a decision in the semifinals. He again pinned his opponent in the consolation semifinals and won a well-wrestled 3-2 decision to cap an outstanding season and career with a third-place state finish.

Ganon Smith finished with a 40-2 overall record; Ryan Lawler was 32-9; Andrew Degiglio 21-9; Roman Polcha 27-10; Travis Lilly 21-10; and Nathan Rode 16-3 (two of which were injury defaults). Ganon was named a Penn Live first team all-star and the Tri-Valley League most valuable wrestler. Degiglio, Lawler, Polcha and Rode joined him as Tri-Valley League all-stars. Coach Capozzoli was named Tri-Valley League coach of the year for the fifth time based on available records (2010-11; 2015-16; 2016-17; 2020-21; and 2021-2022).

Nathan Rode and Ganon Smith graduated in 2022. Nathan had a dual meet record of 41-8, reflecting a 83.67 win percentage for ninth among Newport wrestlers graduating since 1980 based on available records. He was not only undefeated in duals this senior campaign at 12-0, but nine of those wins were by fall and the other three by forfeit, thus maxing out in team points at 72. Nathan did not participate in tournaments during the regular season due to injury, but won a section title before losing his first match in the district semi-finals and defaulting twice to sixth place, ending his final season with a 16-3 record. He was third at districts and the Carlisle invitational as a sophomore and had won 56 matches, including a 29-8 dual meet record, before deciding not to wrestle during the Covid season his junior year. Nathan's career record was 72-30; and he was a two-time Tri-Valley League all-star.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Ganon Smith had an outstanding career, achieving a third-place state finish as a senior and accumulating the second most career wins of any Newport wrestler with a final record of 129-30. His 75 career falls is second in Newport history based on available information. His dual meet record of 66-6, including an undefeated 17-0 senior year to go along with 10-1, 19-2 and

20-3 records the three prior seasons), reflects a win percentage of 91.67, fourth among Newport wrestlers graduating since 1973 based on available records. Ganon was a four-time Tri-Valley League all-star, including most valuable wrestler as a senior when he was also selected to the PennLive all-star first team.

In addition to his state medal, Ganon was region runner-up as a senior and sixth as a freshman; was a district champion as well as third once and fifth twice; and won a section title to go along with runner-up and two third-place finishes. He won the Newport holiday tournament and placed in the top four at the Carlisle invitational and Bedford tournament all three years they were held during his tenure - taking gold, silver and fourth at Carlisle and gold and two fourths at Bedford. He was among the leaders in team statistics all four years - having the most dual meet team points twice while also being second and third; leading in dual meet falls twice along with being third and fourth; and leading in overall falls once to go along with being second once and third twice.

Ganon's senior campaign ranks up there with the best of Newport grapplers. In addition to being 17-0 in duals, his overall record was 40-2 - losing only to the eventual state champ in the region finals and the state runner-up in the state semi-finals. He dominated the team's dual meet statistics by leading in dual meet team points (93), dual meet falls (11) and total falls (28) - the later matching the most falls in a season of any prior Newport wrestler. Ganon is the only Buffalo to win all three in season individual tournaments in the 14 years in which the team participated in three such tournaments (1998-99 through 2006-07 and 2016-17 through 2021-22, except for 2020-21). And then he won sections and districts in the post season to garner an unprecedented five gold medals in one season.

### *Perry County Dual Championships*

Newport's astronomical dominance of the Perry County duals continued through the 2018-19 season, with the team winning its fourth, fifth and sixth straight Perry County duals. The six titles from 2013 through 2018 is the longest streak by a school during the 31 years of the county tournament. No other school has won more than three solo titles in a row.

The closest match from 2016 through 2018 was a 48 to 20 victory over Susquenita in 2017. The only other match in which Newport did not score 60 or more points was a 53 to 21 win over West Perry in 2016. Susquenita was the runner-up in all three of these tournaments.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

In 2019 West Perry started to come into its own. It defeated Susquenita in the first round 37-30, while Newport bested the Blackhawks 53-27 in the second round. In the finals West Perry won eight of the 14 matches, locking up a 36-33 win with a narrow 3-1 victory in the penultimate match before forfeiting the final match.

West Perry was more dominant at the 2020 tournament, defeating Susquenita 47 to 21 before Newport gained a 42 to 27 victory over the same, setting up another Newport-West Perry dual for the championship. This time Newport took an early 12-0 lead before West Perry shut the door with six straight wins. By the end the Mustangs had again taken away eight bout wins to prevail by an enlarged 42 to 23.

And West Perry upped their game again at the 2021 PECO, winning nine of 13 bouts against both Newport and Susquenita. Winning the last three bouts against Susquenita, two by fall, Newport overcame Susquenita 39-36, but then fell to West Perry 51-8. West Perry then defeated Susquenita 51-21 to cop their third tournament title in a row.

As it now stands, Susquenita and West Perry both have 12 overall solo championships and the one tri-championship. Newport has seven solos and the one tri. The match win-loss records have also become closer. Susquenita still leads both other county schools: Newport by 18 to 14 and West Perry by 17 to 15. West Perry leads Newport by a tally of 19 matches to 13.

Stepping up was the name of the game at the Perry County tournament for Buffalo wrestlers who graduated during the 5th dimension years. A tournament retrospective in the News-Sun through the 2018 meet listed high achievers as those with at least six matches who were undefeated and those with seven wins out of eight matches. Adding results from the last two tournaments, eight of the 13 Newport wrestlers in this top individual grouping graduated in the last five years.

Isaiah Bryner ('18), Walker Klinger ('18) and Ganon Smith ('22) became the only Buffaloes to go 8-0 at the duals. Walker scored 45 teams points and Isaiah 44, ranking them tied for second and tied for fourth, respectively, amongst all county wrestlers in team points at the tournament as of 2018. Ganon scored 39 team points at the tournament. Devon Blose ('19) finished with a 6-0 record, joining Adam Smith ('01) and Craig Hockenberry ('93) in this category.

Five 5th dimension wrestlers joined the 7-1 club: Jordan Frey ('17); Michael Capozzoli ('18); Brady Herr ('18); Ethan Rode ('20); and Will Davis ('21). Michael had six falls, tied for second on the county-wide list as of 2018; and 40 team points for ninth on that list. The lone losses by Brady and Ethan were to Susquenita's state runner-up/two-time district champ Dalton Group. Eric Kemble ('11), Justin Willi ('10) and Jost Ostott ('02) had won seven of eight matches at the duals in previous eras. Also distinguishing themselves during the 5th dimension

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

were Dorian Gonzalez ('20) and Mason Huggins ('21), who both went 5-1; and Danny Capozzoli ('21), who suffered two defeats but had five falls.

### *District 3 and State Dual Tournaments*

The 5th dimension years have been the most successful for Newport at the District 3 team wrestling championships. Having never placed before, the team took two runner-up trophies back to Perry County - 2019 and 2021, the 2019 finish earning them a first-time advancement to and a first-time win at the state team tournament. They qualified five of the six seasons (2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022); and won seven matches. Prior to the 2019 tournament, the Buffaloes had won two matches in their nine previous appearances.

In 2017 and 2018, the set up of the D3 duals remained the same as it had been since 2011 - an eight team bracket with qualification through the power rating system. The brackets were expanded to 12 teams for the 2019 and 2020 tournaments, with qualification remaining through power rankings. As noted for the 2021 Covid-impacted season, a four-team bracket was used with qualification still through power rankings.

Newport was seeded fifth at the 2017 tournament and fell to fourth seeded and eventual third-place finisher Northern Lebanon. Revenge, however, was Newport's at the 2019 and then again at the 2021 duals.

Newport advanced to the tournament as the number 4 seed in 2019, drawing fifth-seeded Upper Dauphin in the quarter-finals. The Buffaloes avenged an earlier 30-34 league loss with a 37-31 victory, closed out in the final bout of the meet by Dorian Gonzalez's major decision over one of Upper Dauphin's top wrestlers after freshly returning from Newport's injury list. In the semi-finals the team defeated number one seed and host Northern Lebanon 35-27, this time coming from behind in the final two matches with a fall by Dorian and a 12-5 decision by Mason Kauffman. The second exciting meet of the night had been tied three times with six lead changes. Three days later number three seed Hamburg defeated Newport 24-41 in the finals, but the team's ticket to the state tournament had been punched.

Only twenty teams qualified for the state team dual championships. Newport was matched with Danville, District 4's third-place team, in the preliminary round. The meet, held at the Buffaloes home gym, was a fall-fest. Twelve bouts ended with pins, nine of them fortunately for the home team. The final score was 54-24 and Newport advanced to the final 16 AA teams in the state. The Giant Center was not kind, however, with a 15-42 loss to Burrell in the championship bracket and a 24-52 loss to Muncy in the consolations. Muncy lost their next match to the eventual fourth-place team and Burrell advanced to the final six before losing to the third-place finisher. Newport had logged its first and so far only victory in the state dual meet tournament.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Newport was seeded fifth at the 2020 district tournament. After a seven-fall win over Biglerville in the first round, the team came up just short against fourth-seeded Bermudian Springs in the quarter-finals. The meet was tied four times before Newport was within striking distance at 34-36 with a match to, but fell 34-39. A victory was notched against Bishop McDevitt in the first consolation round 37-29 when Andrew Degiglio and Grant Kauffman had falls in the final two bouts with the team trailing 25-29. Neighboring West Perry defeated the Buffaloes in the consolation semi-finals 36-27. Bermudian Springs held its fourth seed, losing to sixth-seeded West Perry in the third-place match. Newport also maintained its seed by reaching the final six.

Fourth-seeded Newport again defeated top seeded Northern Lebanon in their home gym at the 2021 District 3 tournament. In what must rank up their in exciting Newport dual meet endings, the team charged back from a 13-32 deficit (once 0-26) with four falls to seal the 37-32 upset. The pinners were Ganon Smith, Will Davis, Mason Huggins and William Finkenbinder with the closer. A 51-15 loss in the finals to Boiling Springs kept them from the state tournament due to the pandemic-impacted qualifying rules even though the Buffaloes were district team runner-ups for the second time in three seasons. Boiling Springs took a fourth at the state duals.

Newport entered the 2022 tournament as the number six seed of 12 qualifiers based on power rankings. ELCO was dispatched in round 1 by a 45-24 score on the strength of seven falls and a decision. The team defeated third-seeded Berks Catholic in a controversial quarter-final match 31-30. Newport then fell to eventual champ Bishop McDevitt 46-23 in the semi-finals and Northern Lebanon 38-32 in the consolation semi-finals, where it was forced to forfeit a match due to a concussion injury in the prior match.

The controversy in the Berks Catholic match involved girls wrestlers. As reflected in the Patriot-News, after Berks Catholic sent out freshman Brayden Hartranft at 113, Newport countered with freshman Adalynn Smith, who was an automatic victor because the Roman Catholic Diocese has a policy that Catholic boys are not allowed to wrestle girls. Newport also sent out Alexis Otstott to receive a forfeit at 160, which was followed by Ganon Smith and Nate Rode falls. No girls were sent to the mat in the semi-final match with Bishop McDevitt. This is not the first time girl forfeits have been used in dual meet competition against non-boundary Catholic schools; it happened some years ago in District 11.

Coach Capozzoli, leaning on that fact that his girl team members have been weighing in and wrestling all season, said: "I'm responsible to give the kids an opportunity to win a match, and it's not like these girls haven't been part of the program. I kind of figured we were outgunned by McDevitt going into it, and I just knew that wasn't going to make a difference. I did a lot of soul-searching making that decision. I talked to a lot of people. It's my responsibility to give my kids an advantage. I'm not going to get into all the other variables. For 34 years, I've been working with my kids, from kindergarten all the way up through. I take complete responsibility for every aspect of that program. We have a wonderful group of people. . . I wish

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

we could come up with a way to level the playing field and make it so it's more fair, but I don't know what more I can do. I work with my kids everyday, in my boundaries."

Boiling Springs has won the most District 3 dual championships (9) and been in the finals the most times (13), with a five-year championship run from 2011 through 2015. They won the state dual meet tournament in 2015 and had been the runner-ups in 2012. Hanover has the second most championships (7), all in a row from 1991 through 1997; and the third most appearances in the finals (8). Three teams have taken three championships - Bermudian Springs, Brandywine Heights and Schuylkill Valley. Bermudian is second in final-two finishes (9) and Brandywine tied for third (8). Bermudian made the state dual meet finals in 2008. Only five other teams have more than two first or second place trophies - Biglerville (4, having won the first tournament in 1991), Schuylkill Valley (3, all gold), Hamburg (3, with two championships), Bishop McDevitt (3, also with two championships) and Juniata (3, with one first place finish in 2003 when it ran the table to become the first District 3 team in either classification to win a state dual meet championship). Newport is one of only five teams to reach the AA district dual finals twice. One of those five, Northern Lebanon, is the only other AA team from District 3 not mentioned before to reach the state dual finals (2017) in the 33 years of the dual tournament.

### *Other dual meet tournaments*

The dual meet tournament schedule was scaled back starting in the 2016-17 season. Only one tournament rather than two in addition to the Buffalo Duals, the Perry County Championships and the District 3 Team Championships (when qualified) were attended through 2019-20. No duals other than the PECO and district tournaments were attended in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, with Newport not holding its normal season-opening duals. The Newport duals were held in 2021-22, when Newport also participated in the PECO and district duals.

Newport won championships at its own duals during the first four fifth dimension years as well as in 2021-22, going undefeated at 15-0. Schools in the eight-team brackets at the tournaments from 2016-17 through 2019-20 were Midd-West, Trinity and Fairfield; at three were Halifax and Camp Hill; and at two were Cedar Crest, York Suburban and Octorara. Attending once were West Perry, Harrisburg, Steel-High and Eastern York. Only six teams participated in the 2021-22 tournament (Newport, Camp Hill, Eastern York, Midd-West, Trinity and York Tech, with each team having three matches.

The team won by at least 22 points in all matches from 2016-17 through 2018-19. After a lop-sided win over Fairfield at the 2019-20 tournament and a more competitive 39-25 defeat of Octorara, the Buffaloes held on to beat Midd-West 41-36 in the finals after taking a 35-21 lead with four matches to go. Ethan Rode sealed the victory with a fall before three meet-ending losses. All the victories in 2021-22 were by a wide margin: 64-6 over York Tech; 66-9 over Eastern York; and 62-12 over Midd-West. Including the results at the five tournaments prior to the 2016-17 season, Newport's record at its ten dual tournaments now stands at 27-2.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

The other dual tournament attended by Newport - the Lancaster Catholic Duals in 2016-17 and 2017-18 and the Blue Streak Duals at Manheim Township in 2018-19 and 2019-20 were round robin events. There are references on line to the Lancaster County Duals going back to the 2004-05 season; they ceased to be held after 2017-18. Newport only attended the last two. The first Blue Streak Duals were held in 2018-19; Newport attending the first two. They were not held in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, but Township did have a dual quad which Newport did not attend. The Blue Streak Duals are scheduled to be held during the 2021-22 season and Newport is expected to attend.

Bermudian Springs and Bishop McDevitt, two of the top small schools in District 3, participated in both the last two Lancaster Catholic and the first two Blue Streak duals, along with Newport - a third top team in the district. In the 2016-17 season Bermudian Springs was runner-up at the District 3 duals; won its section tournament; was third at districts and fifth at regions. In 2017-18 they won their section again; were sixth at districts; and eleventh at regions; and in 2018-19 they were fourth at the district duals; third at sections; and eighth at districts. Bishop McDevitt won the district duals in 2016-17; was fourth at the state dual tournament; and took third at their sections, fourth at districts, second at regions and second in the PIAA tournament. In 2017-18 McDevitt was runner-up at the district duals; second in their section; third at districts; won the region tournament; and was eleventh at states. In 2019-20 they were runner-ups at sections and districts and third at regions.

Other teams at the 2017-18 Lancaster Catholic Duals were AAA Central York, Hanover, Pequea Valley and West York. Each team had five matches except the home team, which had four. AAA Hershey was also at the 2016-17 duals, enabling each team to have five matches. The same scenario played out at the two Blue Streak Duals, with eight teams in 2018-19 allowing all teams to have five matches but only seven in 2019-20 when the home team sat out a round. The teams attending in 2019-20 in addition to Township, Bermudian, McDevitt and Newport were Central York, Trinity and Warwick. Trinity had not attended during the 2018-19 season, but AAA Mechanicsburg and Strath Haven did.

Newport went three and two at the 2016-17 Catholic duals, falling to Bermudian and McDevitt and defeating the home team easily and two AAA teams - Hershey handily and Central York 32-25. In that final meet the score was tied with two matches to go. Both Devon Blose and Dorian Gonzalez defeated their opponents to notch a team victory. The Buffaloes fell to Bermudian and McDevitt in 2017-18, and Central York also extracted revenge. But a lopsided win over West York and another exciting match, this time with Pequea Valley, salvaged the day. After coming back from a 27-6 deficit, Newport trailed Pequea 31-30 with one contested match to go (the final weight was to be uncontested by either team). Grant Kauffman secured a third period fall to seal the 36-31 team win. Pequea Valley placed fifth at the district tournament that season.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Newport fared better at the two Blue Streak Duals, going 4-1 in 2018-9 and 5-0 in 2019-20, the only loss being to Bermudian. Three of the wins at the first duals (against Township, Strath Haven and Warwick) were by more than 30 points. The only somewhat close victory was return revenge against Central York 48-31. The wins in 2019-20 were closer, but wins nonetheless. Trinity went down 57-21; Central York 44-33; and Bishop McDevitt 48-34. The last was a substantial victory, as McDevitt was second at districts and third at regions that season. The other two matches were nail biters. Newport trailed the home team 36-34 following an unexpected injury default in the penultimate match, but Mason Huggins came through with a fall to secure a 40-36 win. And the Warwick meet was even closer. After six falls by Warwick and four plus a forfeit during the first 13 bouts, the score stood Warwick 39, Newport 34. No worries; Newport had an ace in the hole. Ethan Rode pinned his opponent in 24 seconds to bring the score to Newport 40, Warwick 39.

### *Newport Holiday tournament*

Newport won all six of its holiday tournaments held during the last seven seasons; the tournament having been cancelled during the Covid season. The first two were won with substantial dominance, the third comfortably, the 2019-20 tournament by the slimmest of margins; the last one again with comfort Newport's seventh team championship in a row. Several AAA schools were added to the tournament over these years.

The Buffaloes now have ten first place trophies, the most of any participating school. Juniata and Warrior Run each have seven; and the only other schools with more than one are West Snyder with four and Kishacoquillas with two. Newport's 2019-20 championship allowed it to eclipse the five Juniata had won in a row. Warrior Run has won three in a row twice, but Newport now stands at the top of list with seven consecutive first place finishes. An interesting side note about Warrior Run - at the 2013 tournaments they had a set of three brothers or cousins win titles - Brian, Zach and Jon LeBarron.

There were only six teams at the 2016-17 tournament, which was consequently a round robin format. Tulpehocken and Williamson did not attend; Camp Hill, Columbia, Halifax, Sugar Valley, and West Perry returned from the 2015-16 tournament. Camp Hill, Columbia and Sugar Valley did not return for the 2017-18 event, but JP McCaskey, Springfield Delco (a District 1 AAA school) and York Suburban were added and Williamson returned to make a seven-team field. The round robin format was used for 11 weights and brackets for three.

During the 2018-19 season a full eight teams participated in the tournament with regular brackets in each weight class. Red Land, Harrisburg and Pequea Valley were new to the lineup and Tulpehocken came back while JP McCaskey, Springfield Delco and York Suburban did not return. Eight teams participated in the 2019-20 tournament again, but a lack of wrestlers at 220 required a round robin at that weight; all other weights were bracketed. Juniata returned after a

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

long hiatus and York Suburban after a short one. Red Land and Halifax did not attend. A round robin format returned in 2021-22 when six teams were in the tournament, four of which had returned from 2019-20 (Hamburg, Pequea Valley, Tulpehocken and Williamson) and newcomer Hanover in addition to the host. Camp Hill, Harrisburg, Juniata and York Suburban did not return.

Newport won the 2016-17 tournament by 68 points over second place Camp Hill. Halifax was only slightly behind Camp Hill. The team had 13 place in the top four and 11 in the top two, with seven champs (Dorian Gonzalez, Isaiah Bryner, Jordan Fry, Darius Gonzalez, Ryan Smith, Drew Paden and Brady Herr). Tyler Shomper, Danny O-Toole, Ethan Rode and Walker Klinger were runner-ups. Danny O'Toole was awarded the trophy for the most falls in the least time (three falls in 3:52).

Newport's championship in 2017-18 was by an even greater margin - 70.5 points over second place AAA JP McCaskey, with Halifax third again by just a few points. Thirteen Buffaloes placed in the top four, with eight in the top two. Six won gold: Grant Kauffman, Isaiah Bryner, Dorian Gonzalez, Brady Herr, Walker Klinger and Derek Peachey. Devon Blose and Michael Capozzoli took silvers. The team also swept the individual trophies for the first time with Isaiah Bryner being named outstanding wrestler and Walker Klinger taking home the award for most falls in the least time.

AAA schools Red Land and Harrisburg challenged at the 2018-19 tournament, but Newport prevailed by 37 over the former and 45 over the latter. The team had 13 place in the top five with nine in the finals. Taking first place medals were Ganon Smith, Grant Kauffman, Mason Kauffman, Will Davis, Branden Leach and Ethan Rode. Runner-ups were Andrew Degiglio, Dorian Gonzalez and Devon Blose.

As noted, things got very competitive at the 2019-20 event, with only seven and a half points separating the top three teams. Both Newport and AAA York Suburban had 194.5 points and Camp Hill had 187. Newport took the title based on criteria - the most champions. Nine Buffaloes placed in the top four with seven in the finals. Ganon Smith, Andrew Degiglio, Dorian Gonzalez, Will Davis and Ethan Rode were crowned champions. Cameron Sarver and Danny Capozzoli were runner-ups.

Newport outscored Williamson by 23.5 points at the 2021-22 tournament, with Hanover a distant third by another 20 points. Seven champions were crowned by the Buffaloes - Roman Polcha, Even Rice, Travis Lilly, Ryan Lawler, Andrew Digiglio, Mason Messick and Ganon Smith. Tyler Geer and Caleb Leshar took thirds.

Isaiah Bryner became only the fourth four-time Newport holiday tournament champion at the 2017 tournament. The others to achieve this milestone since the first tournament during the 1985-86 season are Tim Martz, East Pennsboro, in 1997; Matt Miller, Juniata, in 2002; and

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Bobby Manning, West Perry, in 2011. Dorian Gonzalez and Ganon Smith also joined an exclusive club at their final tournaments when they took golds for the third time. Although there have been many three time champions, Dorian and Ganon are among only four from Newport. The other two are Damian Jones ('93) and Adam Smith ('01).

### *Other in season individual tournaments (Bedford and Carlisle)*

The Carlisle individual tournament has a long pedigree. Originally called the Carlisle Christmas Tournament, the first one was held during the 1962-63 season. The 2016 Carlisle Invitational Tournament attended by Newport during the 2016-17 season was its 55th. The early tournaments were much smaller. Newport attended three many years ago - at Christmas 1979, 1980 and 1981. There were eight teams at those events. The Buffaloes did well in 1979, placing third behind Solanco and Big Spring, with three champs (Rick Weller, Steve Barlup and Al Kline). Team standings for the other two years have not been found, although Red Land and Northern in addition to host Carlisle appear to also have been in attendance.

The Carlisle tournament, now held in mid-December, has consisted predominantly of District 3 AAA schools since the two divisions were created. The 20-team lineup in December 2016 included 12 D3 large schools, three District 1 AAA schools and five D3 AA schools, including Newport. Four AAA schools did not attend in 2017, but two others did for a field of 18 teams - 11 D3 AAA, two D1 AAA and the five D3 AA teams. Four D3 AAA schools did not return for the 2018 tournament, but the field expanded to 21 teams with the addition of four D3 large schools and three AA schools (two from District 11 and one from District 3). West Perry changed that season from a AAA to a AA school, making the composition of the 2018 tournament 13 AAA teams (11 from D3 and two from D1) and eight AA teams (six from D3 and two from D11). Two D3 large schools and one D3 small school did not attend in December 2019. The team count (21) and AAA-AA breakdown (13-8) remained the same, with the addition of a D3 AA team and AAA teams from Districts 3 and 1. The 21 teams at the 2019 tournament doing the 2019-20 season were Carlisle; Bermudian Springs; Central Bucks East; Newport; Red Land; Boiling Springs; South Western; Shippensburg; Interboro; West Perry; Susquenita; Lower Dauphin; Dover; Palmerton; West York; William Tennent; Fairfield; Susquehanna Township; Greencastle Antrim; Trinity; and Panther Valley. The field increased to 25 at the 2021-22 invitational, consisting of 14 AAA schools (12 from District 3 and two from District 1) and 11 AA teams (nine from District 3 and one each from Districts 1 and 11). The new teams were Gettysburg, which took the team title, Chambersburg, Conestoga Valley, Waynesboro, Brandywine Heights, Steelton-Highspire and North Schuylkill. Those that did not return from 2019-20 were Dover, William Tennent and Panther Valley

Newport showed well in all five Carlisle tournaments held during the fifth dimension years, with finishes of sixth in 2016 (the 2016-17 season), fourth in 2017, runner-up in 2018, fourth again in 2019 and seventh in 2021. Jordan Frey and Walker Klinger were runner-ups in

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

2016, while Micheal Capozzoli and Drew Paden took fourths, Isaiah Bryner and Brady Herr fifths, and Devon Blose a sixth. Two Newporters again made the finals in 2017, with Brady Herr taking a title and Walker Klinger second. Dorian Gonzalez and Michael Capozzoli took thirds; Grant Kauffman and Devon Blose fourths; Isaiah Bryner fifth; and Derek Peachey sixth. Two Buffaloes reached the finals for a third year in a row at the 2018 tournament. Ethan Rode won gold and Devon Blose silver. Other place winners were Kauffman third; Ganon Smith and Gonzalez fourth; Nathan Rode fifth; and Brenden Leach sixth. Although there were no champs in 2019, Newport had two in the finals again and a best-so-far nine wrestlers placed in the top six. Both Smith and Mason Huggins were runner-ups; Gonzalez and Nathan Rode took thirds; Ethan Rode placed fourth; and Calvin Sarver, Danny Capozzoli and Will Davis finished sixth. Ganon Smith returned to the finals in 2021, winning the title this time with three falls and two decisions over two-time AAA state qualifiers from Gettysburg and Central Bucks East. Roman Polcha took fourth; Ryan Lawler fifth; Caleb Leshner sixth; and Aiden Crockett seventh.

Newport is one of only two teams that placed in the top ten at all five Carlisle tournaments from 2016 through 2021, placing sixth, fourth, second, fourth and seventh. Carlisle is the other, with places of seventh, third, first, first and fourth. Bermudian Springs, Shippensburg, Red Land and Central Bucks East were also consistent with four top-ten finishes at the five invitationals. District 1's Methacton won the 2016 event and then did not return. Gettysburg took a fifth in 2016 and won the 2017 tournament before not returning to defend its title until 2021, when it did take the championship again. Boiling Springs placed sixth in its only appearances in 2019 and 2021. West Perry placed tenth and fourth then past two invitations.

Newport had an outstanding four top-four finishes at the Thomas Tournament in Bedford during the four late-Januaries of the fifth dimension years before Covid hit: a tie for third in 2016-17 and then three straight fourths. The team then placed ninth during the 2021-22 season. The team's only previous top-ten finish had been a seventh during the 2002-03 season. No tournament was held during the 2020-21 season.

Newport had six place winners at the 2017 Bedford tournament when it tied for third place as a team. Devon Blose and Walker Klinger were runner-ups; Isaiah Bryner placed third; Darius Gonzalez fourth; Brady Herr fifth; and Drew Paden sixth. Eight place winners helped Newport to its fourth place finish in 2018. Devon Blose made the finals again, accompanied by teammate Walker Klinger, both placing second. Grant Kauffman and Brady Herr took fourth places; Isaiah Bryner a fourth; Ethan Rode a fifth; Michael Capozzoli sixth; and Dorian Gonzalez eighth. Even better in 2019 nine Buffaloes medaled to gain another fourth place team finish. Ethan Rode was the sole finalist, falling to the eventual state champion from Greenville. The other place winners were Ganon Smith (fourth), Devon Blose (fourth); Andrew Degiglio (sixth); Mason Kauffman (sixth); Will Davis (sixth); Branden Leach (seventh); Grant Kauffman (eighth); and Mason Huggins (eighth). Six medal winners were enough in 2020 for the team to gain their fourth top-four finish. Ethan Rode was joined in the finals this tournament by Dorian

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Gonzalez, both gaining runner-up finishes. Ganon Smith and Grant Kauffman both took fourth place medals and Will Davis and Mason Huggins both placed fifth. Ganon came back in 2022 to take a title with two falls and a finals win over a returning state place-winner from Chestnut Ridge. Roman Polcha copped a fourth place; Ryan Lawler seventh; and Andrew Degiglio eighth.

The teams at Bedford remained relatively constant during this five-year period, with 27 teams in 2017, 28 in both 2018 and 2019, 29 in 2020 and then 31 in 2022. Seven Pennsylvania districts, four regions and one other state were represented at the 2020 tournament. Maryland's North Garrett has been a long time participant. The southwest region, which includes Bedford, was by far (as usual) the most represented (22 teams): District 5 with ten teams; District 6 with seven; and District 7 with five. Next was the southeast region (3 teams): District 11 with two and Newport from District 3. Two teams were from the northeast region's District 4 and one from the northwest region's District 10. The three teams that dropped out in 2022 were all from District 7 (Freedom Area, Jefferson Morgan and Mt. Pleasant) and were replaced by three District 7 teams (Beaver Falls, Ligonier Valley and West Greene) and two teams from District 4 (Milton and Williamson).

Only two teams listed in the fourth tier narrative as having participated in 2016 were not at the 2020 tournament - Richland and South Fayette (the former not attending after 2016 and the latter not after 2018). District 6's Mount Union participated in 2017, but did not return; and District 5's Hyndman returned in 2018 for two tournaments but stopped attending in 2020. New teams were Freedom Area from District 7 (first attending in 2017 for four tournament before not returning in 2022); Southern Huntingdon from District 6 (starting in 2019); and Northeast Bradford from District 4 (starting in 2020). District 6's Huntingdon also returned in 2020. Three of the new teams placed in the top ten during the five years: Freedom tied Newport for third in 2017, but then fell to seventh, ninth and thirteenth; Mt. Union placed eighth at its single tournament; and Huntingdon had a sixth-place finish in its 2020 return and eighth in 2022. Two of the teams that left placed in the top ten the previous season: Mt. Union's eighth place and South Fayette, which had placed ninth in 2018.

Newport was among the top four most successful teams at the five tournaments, but there is no doubt that Chestnut Ridge was the best with five championship trophies (finishes adding up to 5). Next was Burrell, with finishes of fifth, third and then three runner-ups (finishes adding up to 14). Greenville was third best with a seventh, second, third, fifth and sixth (finishes adding up to 23), while Newport was just behind them with its tie for third, three fourth places and a ninth (finishes adding up to 24). Athens was the only other team placing in the top ten all five tournaments with a second, eighth, two tenths and a third (finishes adding up to 33).

As noted in the fourth tier narrative, the strength of Bedford is reflected in several ways - state champs and total place winners; and postseason team success. The number of state place winners was consistent throughout the first four years of this period and similar to the number coming out of prior tournaments, but trailed off a bit in 2022: 2017 (17 place winners; 12 in the

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

top four; six in the finals; three champs); 2018 (19 place winners; five in the top three; one champ); 2019 (18 place winners; seven in the top three; four in the finals; three champs); 2020 (16 place winners; nine in the top four; four in the finals; one champ); 2022 (10 place winners; five in the top four; two in the finals; one champ).

The nine state champions were Brian Courtney, Athens (2017, his second; no Bedford titles); Justin McCoy, Chestnut Ridge (2017; three-time Bedford champ); Tony Cahill, Berlin Brothersvalley (2017; no Bedford titles); Danny Scheib, Tri-Valley (2018; one Bedford title); Jared McGill, Chestnut Ridge (2019; three Bedford titles); Dayton Pitzer, Mount Pleasant (2019; one Bedford title); Jacob McMasters, Greenville (2019; two Bedford titles); Kaden Cassidy, Bedford (2020; one Bedford title); Gavin Bradley, Athens (2022; two Bedford titles). As reflected in this list, some wrestlers win state titles a couple weeks after not prevailing at Bedford and other wrestlers who win both in one year may not have taken Bedford gold in prior years.

Chestnut Ridge won all six District 5 tournaments from 2017 through 2022; won the southwest region three times and was runner-up twice and third once in the other three seasons; and placed in the top ten at the state tournament four of those six seasons. They also won the District 5 dual meet championship all six years and took third at the state duals four times. Burrell placed third, fourth and first at the 2017, 2018 and 2021 southwest regionals and tenth at states in 2018 and 2020; District 7 does not have a team championship at their individual districts. Burrell also won the District 7 dual championship five of the six seasons, placing second in 2022. Newport placed second, fourth, third and fourth at District 3 tournaments during this period; fourth at the 2018 southeast regions; and were runner-ups at the District 3 dual championships in 2019 and 2021. Greenville placed second, third and second at the 2017, 2018 and 2019 District 10 tournaments; third, fourth and second in the northwest region those seasons; and seventh at states in 2019. Athens won the District 4 tournament, was third in the northeast region and placed tenth at states in 2017. North Star was runner-up at the District 5 individual and dual meet tournaments in both 2017 and 2018, and runner-up against at the 2022 duals. Berlin Brothersvalley was second at the District 5 2020 tournaments. Freedom Area was fourth in the southwest region in 2019 and eight at the state tournament. They were also runner-ups at the District 7 duals in 2017 and 2019.

### Uniforms

New warm-up jackets came onto the scene for the 2016-17 season. They are blue with a gray Newport outlined in white on the front. The words Buffalo go down the right long sleeve and wrestling down the left long sleeve in blue within a white bar.

The blue uniforms introduced in 2012-13 with Newport across the front and Buffaloes down the back were available at least through 2017-18. And the blue uniform with a white N on the front introduced in 2015-16 were available at least through the 2019-20 season.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

New blue and gray uniforms appeared during the 2017-18 season. They are blue down the front with a white N and blue in the bottom back with Buffs across the lower back in white. The tops of the back are gray extending down the sides. There are no strips around legs; three white bars down the back through the gray area; and blue strip around the shoulders.

Another mostly blue uniform was introduced for the 2019-20 season. It has a white N on front, with a white Newport on left leg. The top of the back is plaid with a bar strip down it. There are white strips around legs and shoulders at the individual wrestler's own expense. Mostly white uniforms with the wrestler's name on the back similar to those from the early 2010s also appeared this season. A blue Newport is on the front, with a solid blue belt around waist and two blue strips on the legs. These same two uniforms were worn during the 2020-21 season.

### Rules

Two-piece uniforms were approved to be worn for the 2017-18 season. The alternate two-piece uniform consists of compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling and a form-fitted compression shirt. Wrestlers have the option of the new two-piece uniform or the traditional one-piece singlet. Few schools in the state or District 3 have opted to purchase two-piece uniforms. Chestnut Ridge did so and has indicated, along with other schools in District 5 that have introduced two-piece uniforms in their junior high programs, that the option has increased the number of participants in their programs. Newport has not purchased two-piece uniforms for any age group.

### Rule changes

As indicated above, Pennsylvania broke with the national norm for the 2020-21 season and reduced the number of weight classes. The first nine weights stayed the same - 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152 and 160. One class was eliminated between 170 and 220. The new top weights are now 172, 189, 215 and 285 (rather than 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285). The hair length rule was also eliminated for the 2020-21 season; and a technical violation added for pulling hair.

Limited seeding was implemented for the 2017 state tournament. No regional champs meet in the preliminary round; and regional champs and runner-ups from the same region do not meet in the championship bracket until the finals. Regional champs are ranked using formula tied to winning percentage and prestige points based on their previous year's placement at states and/or regions. Returning state champions are separated in the championship bracket regardless of their formula ranking if they won their region.

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

In District 3, the number of AA sections went back to three, from two, for the 2017 postseason. The AA district tournament retained 12-wrestler brackets in each weight class throughout the fifth dimension years, but seventh place matches were added for the 2017 tournament. This was due to the increase of qualifiers from six to seven for the Southeast Region. In 2020 the brackets at regions expanded from 12 to 13 per weight, but District 3's number of qualifiers remained the same. The number of qualifiers from the region to the state tournament stayed at six, as has been the case since 20-wrestler brackets were first initiated at states in 2015.

As outlined above, all the postseason tournaments during 2021 were limited to eight-wrestler brackets due to Covid. There were only two AA sections, Section 1 with 16 teams and Section 2 with 17 teams. As a result of the eight per bracket rule, some wrestlers did not qualify for the postseason. Each section sent four to districts. Newport was in Section 1. District 3

advanced four wrestlers to regions. The Southeast Region consists of 59 teams - the 33 from District 3; 20 from District 11 (with two qualifiers in 2021); and six from Districts 1 and 12 (with two qualifiers). Five wrestlers in each weight advanced from the Southeast Region to the East Super Region. The other three wrestlers in each weight were from the Northeast Region, which consists of Districts 4 and 2. The East Super Region consisted of 101 total teams: the 33 from District 3; 20 from District 11, six from Districts 1 and 12; 29 from District 4, and 13 from District 2). Four wrestlers from the super region advanced to the state tournament along with four from the West Super Region.

### Future college wrestlers

The following wrestlers graduating during the fifth dimension years have gone out for wrestling at colleges: Isaiah Bryner ('18; Messiah); Michael Capozzoli ('18; Pitt-Johnstown/Millersville); Brady Herr ('18; Ursinus); Dorian Gonzalez ('20; Elizabethtown); Danny Capozzoli ('21; Millersville); Will Davis ('21; Delaware Valley/Elizabethtown); Ganon Smith ('22; Elizabethtown).

### Future coaches

It is too early to tell whether the fifth dimension will produce any future coaches.

### Brothers

Father-son wrestlers are addressed in this Newport wrestling history as part of the narrative for the fourth tier years and notable multi-wrestler families in that for the next generation years. Now it's time to focus on brothers. Many a match has been had at various places throughout the homes and yards by brother wrestlers. Without a doubt, brothers have formed an integral part of the Newport wrestling tradition.

## **The Fifth Dimension** **2016-17 to 2021-22**

One set of four brothers has been identified as having all logged varsity matches for Newport - the Lenig brothers: John ('77); Bob ('78); Greg ('80); and Andy ('82). Six sets of three brothers with varsity matches have been identified - Earl ('59), Jim ('61) and Bob ('66) Heisey; Clyde ('61), Al (69) and Bil ('72) Cressler; Mike ('67), Norm ('71) and Pat ('77) Shull; Charles ('67), Brooks ('72) and Hunter ('74) Smith; Chuck ('74), Tony ('75) and Scott ('80) Maxwell; and Dylan ('93), Jost ('02) and Zach ('08) Otstott. An abundant 61 sets of two brothers have been found. There may be others not identified. Please bring any that were missed or set out in error to my attention.

### *Multiple brothers with at least one postseason title*

The first set of brothers were Earl ('59), Jim ('61) and Bob Heisey ('66). Earl was a section champ and district runner-up his senior season, with an overall record of 27-7-1 and a dual meet record of 18-5-1 during the first two years of Newport's program. Jim followed up with a section and district championship his senior campaign, with an overall record of 40-11-1 and a dual meet record of 34-7-1. Bob later compiled a dual meet record of 15-6 and an overall record of 17-9.

Earl and Jim were the first of only two sets of brothers to make the district finals. And the Heisey family was also the first to have sets of brothers in two generations. Earl's son Todd Heisey ('79) was a section champ with a dual meet record of 49-9-1 (including a 16-1 dual record his senior campaign) and an overall record of 64-21-1. And Todd's brother Mike ('83) won a section title and finished with 30 dual meet wins (22-6-2 his final two seasons) and 48 overall victories (35-9-2 his final two seasons).

The other set of brothers to both reach the district finals were Dave ('64) and Bruce ('69) Jones. Dave was a two-time section champ and district runner-up with an overall record of 33-11-2 and a dual meet record of 23-8-2. Bruce was a state runner-up and a two-time section, district and region champ with an overall record of 49-4-1 and a dual meet record of 29-1-1 (including two undefeated dual seasons). The Jones brothers had a combined dual meet record of 52-9-3.

The Jones family also had a set of brothers in two generations. And as with the Heisey family, there were two brothers in each generation that won section titles or more. Dave's oldest son David Jones ('89) was a section champ with 58 overall victories (43-13-1 overall his last two seasons). Younger brother Damian ('93) was a state champ, a fifth and sixth place state medalist, and a three-time section, district and region champ, with an overall record of 119-18-1. He had two undefeated dual meet seasons and is the only Newport wrestler to have an undefeated dual meet and tournament season (37-0 in 1993).

## **The Fifth Dimension 2016-17 to 2021-22**

Seven other sets of brothers had two brothers who won postseason championships. One of the brother sets won seven section titles and six won three. Four of the sets had a brother take at least one district championship and two a regional title. Three of the sets had three brothers log varsity matches.

Clyde Cressler ('61) was a region champ; a two-time district champ and district runner-up; and a four-time section champ, with an overall record of 60-10 and a dual meet record of 41-5 (including an undefeated dual meet season his senior campaign). Middle brother Al ('69) garnered a section runner-up trophy and finished with a 36-6-1 dual meet record and a 42-12-1 overall record. And youngest brother Bil ('72) was a three-time section champ, with an overall record of 55-8-1 and a dual meet record of 37-4-1 (including an undefeated dual meet season his junior season and a 32-match dual meet undefeated streak), and was named to the Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team twice. The Cressler brothers held varsity spots on ten of the first 15 Newport squads, with an overall dual meet mark of 114-15-2.

Hayes Kline ('60) was a district champ and two-time section champ with an over-all record of 38-6 and a dual meet record of 30-3. He was undefeated at 13-0 in dual meets his senior campaign with an overall season record of 18-1. Younger brother Glenn ('61) was a section champ his senior season, finishing with an overall record of 19-5 and a dual meet record of 16-4. The Kline brothers were 46-7 in dual meets.

Larry Frey ('61) was a district runner-up, a two-time section champ and a one-time runner-up. His overall record was 39-14-2 (37-7-1 in his final three years) and his dual meet record 32-9-2 (29-3-1 in his final three years). Larry was undefeated at 13-0 his junior dual meet season, with a 24-match dual meet undefeated streak into his senior year. He also led the team in dual meet team points as a junior. His brother Dennis Ehrhart ('74) was a section champion and a runner-up. He was 11-1-1 in duals his senior year, finishing with a dual meet record of 33-8-1 and an overall record of 39-15-1.

Mike Shull ('67) was a four-time section finalist with two championship trophies, as well as two-time Christmas tournament champion. He had a dual meet record of 49-5 and an overall record of 64-9. He capped his career off with an undefeated 12-0 dual meet record and an overall season record of 16-1 as a senior. Mike logged 25 dual meet falls. Middle brother Norm was a section champ in 1970 and gained two runner-up finishes at Christmas tournaments. Youngest brother Pat ('77) was a four year varsity letterman with a 17-6 dual meet and 18-10 overall record his junior and senior years.

Charlie Smith ('67) was a two-time section champ with a dual meet record of 26-2 and an overall record of 34-6. He was undefeated in dual meets his senior season at 12-0, leading the team in dual meet team points. Charlies had 18 dual meet and 23 overall falls. Middle brother Brooks ('72) was a section champ and runner-up with four Christmas tournament championships, including one outstanding wrestler award. He finished with an overall record of

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54-4 and a dual meet record of 38-2. Brooks was undefeated at 12-0 in dual meets and had an overall record of 15-0 his sophomore year before a season-ending injury. He led the team in dual meet team points a record three seasons, accumulating 29 dual meet falls and 37 overall falls. Youngest brother Hunter ('74) had a stellar senior campaign with a dual meet record of 12-1-1 (nine falls and second in team points) and an overall record of 15-2-1. The Smith brothers were 83-10-2 in dual meets.

Lee Dobyns ('69) won a district championship, a district runner-up trophy and two section titles. He finished with an overall record of 36-8 and a dual meet record of 23-4. Brother Rich ('71) was a section champ and runner-up, with a dual meet record of 32-1-2 and an overall record of 40-7-2. Rich had two undefeated dual meet seasons, including a 34-match dual meet undefeated streak. The Dobyns brothers had a combined dual meet record of 55-5-2.

Mark Peters ('72) won region, district and section titles his senior campaign, the section title being his second. He had a 36-9-1 overall record and a 22-7-1 dual meet record. Brother Dean ('72) won a section title in 1970, when he and Mark became the first and only brothers to be section champs at the same tournament.

### *One brother with at least two postseason titles*

Vance Miller ('62) was a district champ and district runner-up and three-time section champ, with a dual meet mark of 34-1 and an overall record of 46-6. He had two undefeated dual meet seasons, finishing his career with 32 straight dual meet victories. Older brother Barry ('60) was 16-6-2 in dual meets and 17-8-2 overall. The Miller brothers were 50-7-2 in dual meets.

Juan Seiber ('85) won a state championship, a third-place state medal, a region/district championship, a third-place region/district medal, two section championships, a section second place and two Juniata holiday tournaments. He completed his career with an overall record of 80-8 (including a 30-1 record his senior season) and a dual meet record of 48-3 (including one undefeated campaign). Juan had 57 overall falls and was named to the Patriot-News Big 12 all star team his senior year. Older brother Doug ('82) was a section runner-up his junior season, logging a dual meet record of 11-2-1.

Bart Campbell ('86) took runner-up and third place medals at the region/district tournament, two section titles to go along with a runner-up finish, and a Christmas tournament championship. He had a dual meet record of 40-1-3 (including undefeated junior and senior campaigns) and an overall record of 64-10-3. Bart had 42 overall falls and was named to the Patriot-News Big 12 all star team his senior year. Older brother Bret ('84) had logged varsity matches in all four of his seasons on the team.

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Craig Congioli ('97) was a two-time section champ as well as a Christmas tournament champ. He was 24-8 and 29-4 his final two seasons, with an overall record of 80-36. Older brother Chris ('95) was a two-year varsity starter.

John Steffen ('99) was also a two-time section champion as well as a Christmas tournament champ, finishing with an overall record of 40-20. Younger brother Jordan ('03) logged varsity matches for the team.

Tyler Eisenhart ('07) won two section titles, placed fourth in the district tournament his senior year and was runner-up at the Christmas tournament his junior campaign. His dual meet record in his final three seasons was 39-17 and his overall record 68-41. Records for his freshman year are not available. Younger brother Chris ('12) was a four-year varsity starter, placing sixth at the district tournament his senior season.

Dorian Gonzalez ('20) was a three-time regional place winner (second, fourth and fifth); a four-time district place winner (second, two thirds and a fifth); a four-time section finalist with two section titles; a three-time Christmas tournament champ and one-time runner-up; a Bedford tournament runner-up; and was a four-time Tri-Valley league all star. His dual meet record was 52-9 (9-2, 12-4, 12-1 and 19-2) and his overall record 116-40 (21-8, 29-14, 28-9 and 38-9). Dorian's 116 career wins ranks him sixth among Newport wrestlers in total varsity match wins. Older brother Darius ('19) was a section runner-up, seventh in the district, a Christmas tournament champion, with an overall record of 20-12, his sophomore season.

Ethan Rode ('20) placed fourth at states; was a regional champion and fourth place finisher; won two district titles and placed fifth; won two section titles and was runner-up once; was a three-time Christmas tournament finalist, winning two championships; won the Carlisle invitational; was a two-time Bedford tournament runner-up; and was named to the Patriot-News Big 15 first team his senior season. His career dual meet record was 68-8 (including undefeated campaigns as a junior and senior and a 59-1 record in his final three seasons) and an overall record of 121-31 (including final two seasons of 41-5 and 42-5). Ethan had a total of 73 career falls, 45 of which were in dual meets, and led the team in dual meet team points, dual meet falls and overall falls as a junior and senior. His 121 career victories is second on the Newport all-time win list and his 73 career falls is second on the all-time pin list based on available records. Younger brother Nathan ('22) has earned third and sixth place medals at districts and has a dual meet record of 29-8 and an overall record of 56-26 with another year of eligibility. As of the end of the 2021-21 season, the Rode brothers have a dual meet record of 97-16.

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*One brother with a postseason title*

Bill Fleisher ('66) was section champ his senior season with a dual meet record of 11-2-1 and an overall record of 15-4-1. His younger brother Dan ('69) was 7-1 in dual meets. Older cousin Luther Fleisher ('62) was section champ his senior campaign. He was 11-1 in duals and 14-2 overall that season and had a career dual meet record of 16-2 and overall record of 20-4.

Craig Lowe ('67) was a section champ and section runner-up and won the Clearfield Christmas tournament, going 20-2-1 in dual meets and 29-5-2 overall his final two seasons, including an undefeated dual meet senior year. Younger brother Jim ('70) was a section runner-up his senior season.

Eugene Jones ('70) was a section champion his senior campaign with a dual meet record of 12-1-1 and an overall record of 15-4-1. Younger brother Brian ('87) logged varsity matches in all four of his high school years, placing second at the Christmas tournament as a junior.

Brian Bixler ('77) was a section champ and runner-up and runner-up at the Bermudian Springs holiday tournament as a senior. Older brother Tom ('75) had wrestled varsity matches as a senior.

Steve Barlup ('80) was a section champion and runner-up, as well as a finalist in four holiday tournaments, winning titles at Bermudian Springs twice and Carlisle once. He graduated with a 35-12 dual meet record and a 54-21 overall record (27-6 and 37-11 respectively his junior and senior years). Older brother Don ('77) had logged varsity matches as a junior and senior.

Scott Maxwell ('80) placed third at regions/district, won sections and the Carlisle Christmas tournament his senior season, finishing with a record of 18-7. Older brothers Chuck ('74) and Tony ('75) both logged varsity matches in two varsity seasons.

Rick Weller ('80) won a third place region/district medal, appearing in the region/district semi-finals three times; was a section champion and runner-up; won the Bermudian Springs and Carlisle holiday tournaments; and was a member of the Harrisburg Patriot-News Big 12 all-star team his senior year, when he advanced to the state quarter-finals. He finished with a dual meet record of 42-2-1 (including an undefeated 15-0 season his senior year to go along with 11-1 and 16-1-1 records the prior two seasons); and an overall record of 64-11-1 (with 37 falls). Younger brother Randy ('84) capped his career with a senior dual meet record of 12-4 and an overall record of 19-6, placing second at the Juniata holiday tournament.

Harry Dietz ('81) took a third place at regions/districts; was a section champ and runner-up; won the Bermudian Springs holiday and the Montgomery tournaments; and had an overall record of 55-19 (including a 21-6 senior season) and a dual meet record of 35-12 (including

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sophomore and senior year records of 7-1 and 11-2 respectively). Older brother Pat Curry ('79) was a section runner-up and Bermudian Springs holiday tournament champion with a career dual meet record of 20-4-1 (13-1-1 has senior campaign) and an overall record of 27-8-1 (18-3-1 his senior year).

Al Kline ('81) gained two fourth place finishes at regions/districts; was a section champ and runner-up; and has a dual meet record of 43-11-2 (including an undefeated 15-0 season his senior year) and an overall record of 64-23-1. Younger brother Mike ('87) was a three-time section runner-up with a dual meet record of 42-17-5 (including a final campaign of 13-2-3 and a tally of 37-9-3 as a tenth, eleven and twelfth grader) and an overall record of 59-32-5 (51-20-3 his final three seasons).

Alan Sweger ('85) won a third place region/district medal; was a section champ and runner-up; and finished with a dual meet record of 31-15 (25-8 his junior and senior seasons) and an overall record of 49-27 (40-17 his final two years). Older brother Steve ('75) had logged varsity matches in two seasons, going 3-1-1 in dual meets as a junior.

Luke Benner ('05) placed third at the District 3 tournament; was a section champion and runner-up; and had a career record of 88-32+ (the number of losses his sophomore season is unknown), including dual meet and overall records of 11-2 and 29-9 his senior campaign. Younger brother Justin ('06) also logged varsity matches.

Michael Capozzoli ('18) took a sixth place at regions; two fourth places at districts; won a section title and was a runner-up; was a Christmas tournament champion; and ended with a career dual meet record of 54-12 (including records of 18-3, 10-2 and 13-1 his final three seasons) and an overall record of 93-43 (including 31 wins his senior year). He had 36 dual meet falls and 56 overall falls in his career, leading the team in both his sophomore campaign; and was a three-time Tri-Valley League all star. Younger brother Danny ('21) placed fourth at regions and third and seventh at districts with a dual meet record of 9-2 and an overall record of 18-9 his senior season.

Walker Klinger ('18) earned a fourth place medal at regions, two third-place medals at districts, a section championship, a Christmas tournament title, and two runner-ups at the Bedford tournament and one at Carlisle. He led the team in dual meet falls and overall falls his final two seasons and in dual meet team points as a junior. Walker finished with a 107-45 overall record (including 32-11 and 33-7 marks his last two) and a dual meet record of 58-15 (going undefeated at 16-0 as a senior and 15-3 and 14-4 in two prior years). Walker had 40 career dual meet falls and 76 overall falls. His 107 career wins places him eighth on the current Newport career win list; and his 76 career falls tops that list. Older brother Dalton ('16) was a Christmas tournament champion who finished his tenure with a dual meet record of 66-7 (including an undefeated sophomore campaign of 17-0 to go along with freshman, junior and senior seasons of 14-4, 15-2 and 20-1 respectively). He led the team in dual meet team points three seasons, dual

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meet falls twice and total falls once. Dalton had an overall record of 83-24 that included 35 dual meet and 45 total pins. The Klinger brothers had a combined dual meet record of 124-22.

Mason Huggins ('21) placed fifth at regions and fifth and seventh at districts; was a section champion; had dual meet records of 20-1 and 9-2 as a junior and senior; led the team in overall falls as a senior; and was 33-9 as a junior with 25 total falls. Older brother Matt ('12) was a three-year varsity starter with a 17-5 dual meet and 24-12 overall record his senior season.

*One brother a district runner-up*

Paul Britcher ('69) was a district runner-up and a section runner-up with an overall record of 26-8-1 and a dual meet record of 17-6-1. Younger brother Larry ('75) logged varsity matches during three seasons.

Eric Kemble ('11) was a district runner-up; took a fifth place at regions; was a two-time section runner-up; won the Christmas tournament twice and was runner-up twice; placed fifth and sixth at the Bedford tournament; and led the team in dual meet team points and falls as a senior. His career dual meet record was 68-23 (44-4 his final two years with records of 22-2 both seasons) and his overall record 102-48 (64-18 his final two seasons with records of 30-7 and 34-11). Eric's 102 wins place him tenth on the all-time Newport win list. Older brother Glenn ('08) took a fourth place at the district tournament; was a section runner-up; a Christmas tournament champion; a third place finisher at the Bedford tournament; and led the team in dual meet team points as a junior and dual meet and total falls as a junior and senior. In his final two seasons Glenn had a dual meet record of 34-10, including 22 falls. Eric and Glenn's great uncle, Karl Kemble, was a three-time District 3 champion for Hershey from 1958 through 1960.

*Other brothers with varsity matches at Newport*

The following other sets of brothers logged varsity matches for Newport: Ron ('60) and Jack ('62) Meck; Lynn ('60) and Larry ('64) Reigle; Bill ('63) and Al ('64) Lesh; Larry ('66) and Cliff ('68) Howell; Tim ('68) and Rick ('76) Noll; John ('75) and Jim ('81) Stoak; Chris ('78) and Tim ('79) Albright; Dale ('78) and Dave ('84) Clay; Tom ('80) and Tim ('83) Filler; Darwin ('80) and Harvey ('82) Garman; Paul ('86) and Steve ('89) Herr; Shane ('89) and Chris ('89) Davis; Dylan ('93), Jost ('02) and Zach ('08) Ostott; Ben ('93) and Dave ('95) Warner; Gary ('93) and Chris ('95) Stouffer; Andy ('97) and Adam ('00) Troutman; Ryan ('98) and Brandon ('00) Barnes; Nick ('00) and Josh ('09) Huss; Travis ('02) and Cody ('05) Kratzer; Dave ('02) and Mike ('06) Talton; Tyler ('03) and Zach ('06) Harris; Dan ('05) and Jake ('09) Soccio; Zach ('06) and Lance ('08) Newlin; Jared ('08) and Jacob ('09) Seaman; Kelby ('09) and Colton ('12) Ramp; Ian ('12) and Dan ('14) Clay; Kevin ('12) and Jordan ('17) Frey; Patrick ('16) and Dan ('17) O'Toole; Paul ('16) and Mark ('16) Pollock; Mason ('19) and Grant ('21) Kauffman; Matthew ('21) and Caleb ('22) Godbout; and Cameron ('21) and Calvin ('22) Sarver.

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You may have noted two sets of brothers with identical graduation dates. They are the only two known sets of twins that have wrestled varsity matches for Newport: Shane and Chris Davis ('89); and Paul and Mark Pollock ('16).

### *Girls wrestling*

Female wrestling came to Newport during the 5th dimension years. As of 2021 there were five junior high and senior high girls in the program. They generally practice separately under the direction of Adam Smith and Dave Clay on alternating weeknights after the boys senior and junior high programs are done. The boys elementary program practices on the other second shifts. The senior high boys practice in the wrestling room and the junior high in the cafeteria.

In December 2019, Newport held a girl's novice tournament at the high school. Sixty wrestlers from kindergarten to high school age and from as far away as Wyoming Seminary, the Lehigh Valley and Central Mountain High School participated along with girls from Newport.

In October 2021, Newport made a written commitment to build toward a fully operational girls wrestling program, becoming the 16th Pennsylvania high school to announce the approval of a girls program according to the Patriot-News. The PIAA has set a target of 100 such programs to sanction the sport, but is also exploring emerging sport status. The Patriot stated:

Newport has quietly been one of the most supportive districts in Pennsylvania in the push to grow girls wrestling. The school has built a vibrant girls youth program that has been growing for the better part of five years; building towards a girls varsity program is a logical next step.

Coach Capozzoli, who made the pitch to Newport's athletic director and superintendent, recognized Newport's tradition and community support of wrestling in the Patriot article, concluding: "We're definitely excited for the opportunity. I think it's exciting for the girls and for the sport of wrestling." There were five girls on the Newport varsity roster for the 2021-22 season - one senior; three juniors and a freshman.

As of February 2020, only nine Pennsylvania schools had sanctioned girls programs, including Annville-Cleona, Brandywine Heights, Gettysburg, Governor Mifflin and J.P. McCaskey of District 3. In mid-November 2021, Big Spring became the 25th school to sanction a program - the tenth since October 2021. This was significant because 25 programs is the number needed to apply to the PIAA for emerging sport status; and a group called Sanction PA intends to do so.

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The emerging sports classification was only approved by the PIAA board of directors in October 2021. According to the Patriot-News, the label amounts to formal interest and monitoring from the state's governing body, which could prove to be a big step in defining girls wrestling's future. It is a classification which allow sports with smaller levels of school participation, like rugby, to have a pathway to achieving full sponsorship by the PIAA and was inspired by the NCAA's emerging sport model, which is where women's wrestling is at the collegiate level.

Pennsylvania has a state girls wrestling championship and the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) has a nationwide tournament. The 2021 PA state tournament was held in Manheim in March and the champions were later honored by legislators at the State Capitol. There were 11 weight classes: 101 lbs.; 108, 115, 122, 128, 134, 140, 147, 162, 184 and 222. Gettysburg's Montana DeLawder is a four-time state champion and two-time NHSCA national champ.

The 2022 girls state championship was held at Central Dauphin High School in March and featured a jump to 115 schools and 288 competitors. This was up from around 130 girls in 2021. Regional qualifying was also added for the 2022 tournament. The champions were again honored by the state legislature.

Cumberland Valley officially approved the formation of a girls wrestling team in June, 2022, joining 41 other schools across the state. They were the fifth school to form a team since the start of May; four of which are in District 3. By the beginning of August, 2022, Fort Cherry in western Pennsylvania became the 50th school to approve the start of a girls wrestling program. District 3 is a leader with 18 of the 50 approved teams.

There were five girls rostered on the 2021-22 Newport team. Several also played basketball. Two regularly practiced with the varsity boys - Alexis Ostott and Maggie Peterson. There was no weight-appropriate partner for Addy Smith, who then worked out with the junior high girls. There were 12 girls in the junior high program, coached by Dave Clay, Brooks Miller, Jost Otstott and Adam Smith.

### *Assistant coaches and other wrestling supporters*

A tip of the cap goes to all those who make it possible for the wrestlers and head coach to do their jobs on and off the mats. Some passing comments were made about fans, score table helpers and news reporters in the narrative on what it was like in the beginning of the program. In addition to these categories are the parents, managers, cheerleaders, ticket takers, athletic directors and other school officials, and especially the assistant and youth coaches.

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Fans, score table helpers, parents, managers, cheerleaders and school administrators are generally transitory. They are legion and their participation has been and is very important. However, if a listed was attempted, many would surely be missed. Newspaper reporters over the years are not so abundant and will be noted.

John Alvanitakis covered the wrestling beat for the Patriot-News and News-Sun/Perry County Times since the 1994-95 season - well into his third decade when he passed away in 2022. John's coverage, including annual season recaps with statistics, was extensive and well done. This and his archives which includes additional unpublished information have added considerable depth to this history. Dustin Hockensmith, who once wrote for the News-Sun, has been the main high school wrestling reporter for the Patriot-News since the 2016-17 season, providing good coverage for the entire Harrisburg area. Some predecessors of Dustin on the wrestling beat at the Patriot and Evening News were Charley Frey in the 1960s, Skip Hutter from the late 1960s into the 1980s, Steve Summers from the late 1970s through the 1980s, Rod Frisco from the the mid 1980s through the first decade of the 2000s, Bob Flounders from the early 1990s through the 2010s, and Jeremy Elliott during the early and mid 2010s.

Assistant and youth coaches are also often transitory, but some are longterm. The season statistics that accompany these era narratives include the names of all assistant varsity, junior varsity and junior high coaches of the past. Information on elementary coaches is not included in the sources used to compile the season statistics. Four current, longterm non-head coaches merit special mention.

Bob Folk has been a coach with the team since the 1989-90 season, Coach Capozzoli's second season. He was a junior high coach through the 1992-93 season, when he moved into an assistant coach position. Bob has thus been a coach for over 30 years. Mike Gunkle ('97) has been an assistant coach since the 2007-08 season - now into his fifteenth year. And Bart Campbell ('86) has been a junior high coach since 2004-05 - now into his eighteen year - with the assistance of Dave Clay ('84) since 2015-16.