

LANDLORD BOB'S DISTRICT III CLASS AA TEAM TOURNAMENT PREDICTIONS

It's that time of year again when all the work comes full circle and the prizes for the efforts are rewarded. I think this is Boiling Spring's tournament to lose. They are the only undefeated team in the field and have beaten some of the top contenders.

Bermudian Springs would be a perfect finals match-up versus the Bubblers. They have the depth and experience to travel. Not two many teams can lose two stars in the middle and then just pick it back up like nothing happened.

Brandywine is the wild card. Their losses are two very well rounded teams even though Hamburg has lost some of their luster in the past few weeks. They also pounded a quality Hanover squad at the same time Boiling Springs slipped by – by 6.

Is there a sleeper in the field? Maybe, Hanover wrestled Boiling Springs tough but wasn't really in the Brandywine or Bermudian matches. I think Biglerville is a year away from being not just good - but great again.

The first round and quarterfinal matches are at the higher seeded teams gym. The semis and finals are at Milton Hershey.

The excitement begins.....

FIRST ROUND (TUESDAY, JANUARY 30th, 7pm)

#1 BOILING SPRINGS (15-0) VS. #16 WYOMISSING (6-8)

You almost have to yell "no contest" when looking at this match. The Bubs field a very balanced and strong lineup anchored by tough lightweights and solid heavyweights. No offense to the Spartans but this is a gimmie for the Bubs.

Prediction: Boiling Springs 70-6

#9 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY (17-6) VS. #8 MILTON HERSHEY (17-2)

This is definitely a compare and contrast of two teams with two different styles. This one will probably come down to forfeits versus bonus and as the nature of the seeds will most likely be a tight match. I'm going with the home team in this one.

Prediction: Milton Hershey 36-35

#5 HANOVER (25-6) VS. #12 CAMP HILL (16-4)

The Hawks have been hot and cold the last few weeks but this is usually the time of year that they step it up a notch. Camp Hill has had one of their finest dual seasons in the history of the program. You have to go with the Hawks here – history versus the newcomer.

Prediction: Hanover 43-18

#4 BIGLERVILLE (20-3) VS. #13 ELCO (18-5)

The first rematch for the Canners, this time at the Canner Dome. The score was a relative not so close 40-28 victory in the finals of the ELCO duals. This time I'm calling for a closer match, but not enough for an upset.

Prediction: Biglerville 35-27

Bottom Bracket:

#3 BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS (19-2) VS. #14 LITTLESTOWN (14-9)

A return trip and carbon copy for the Bolts as they lost in the opening round to Brandywine last year. The Bullets are fresh off a BCIAA Team Championship while the Bolts got in with a 4th place finish in the York-2. I doubt the Bolts can get enough matches to make this an interesting match.

Prediction: Brandywine 65-9

#11 DONEGAL (16-3) VS. #6 JUNIATA (31-3)

Honestly a weird match up that I didn't count on but it primarily occurred based on Hanover's tight victory over Juniata at Daniel Boone. This one could shock a lot of people depending on the matchups, including yours truly. I'm sticking with the tribe on this one – the tribe from Mifflintown.

Prediction: Juniata 36-20

#10 UPPER DAUPHIN (12-2) VS. #7 HAMBURG (17-6)

Both teams have limped into the post season. Upper Dauphin won 8 bouts against Line Mountain but gave up 35 in 6 bouts. Hamburg doesn't seem to be wrestling at the same level they were in December. This one is a tough call but my gut says Hamburg.

Prediction: Hamburg 31-20

#15 PEQUEA VALLEY (9-2) VS. #2 BERMUDIAN SPRINGS (13-2)

There have been some pretty big upsets in the D3AA wrestling world – this won't be one of them.

Prediction: Bermudian 67-6

QUARTERFINALS (THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7pm)

#1 BOILING SPRINGS (16-0) VS. #8 MILTON HERSHEY (18-2)

Both teams met in conference and it was quite a difference in star quality. The Spartans would need a number of upsets to make this thing an issue. Boiling Springs wants a high scoring affair as that benefits them.

Prediction: Boiling Springs 45-22

#5 HANOVER (26-6) VS. #4 BIGLERVILLE (21-3)

The last time they met Biglerville was coming off a loss that threw the York-2 in a mixer for about a day and a half. While not a huge surprise it was a shock to some that the Cannons won the match especially on the Hawks turf. This one will be in Cannerland and the crowd will be a major player. I just can't see the Cannons pulling the wool over Conover's head twice. I think if they do win another one of the underclassmen will have to play a major role.

Prediction: Hanover 29-21

3 BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS (20-2) VS. #6 JUNIATA (32-3)

This one looks like it will be a war when you look at the two names. With Brandywine being at home I think they hold a little bigger of an advantage than one would think.

Prediction: Brandywine 37-15

#7 HAMBURG (18-6) VS. #2 BERMUDIAN SPRINGS (14-2)

Bermudian is currently on a mission to match back up against Boiling Springs. Hamburg has some very good wrestlers; however I don't feel they match up versus the Eagles especially on the road. Bermudian will take control of this match and move onto Hershey.

Prediction: Bermudian 37-20

SEMIFINALS – MILTON HERSHEY (SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, NOON)

#1 BOILING SPRINGS (17-0) VS. #5 HANOVER (27-6)

They met once earlier in the year, in Hanover, in a highly contested match. This is also a rematch of last year's final. This won't be easy for Boiling Springs. I think in the end the Bubs prevail, however by this point Hanover will be in "Return to Glory" mode. I take the Bubs by a slim margin.

Prediction: Boiling Springs 34-33

#2 Bermudian Springs (15-2) VS. #3 Brandywine Heights (21-2)

Another doozie...

Two teams who don't have a lot of history wrestling each other but are mentioned in the same breath year in and year out. This match will be tight. Brandywine holds an obvious advantage in the lightweights up until 130. In the middle Bermudian should win most of the matches but needs bonus. They should split the 6 heaviest weight classes 3 to 3.

The keys for Bermudian are simple, get Marshall away from anybody named Yocco, win the middle and score bonus, and get your weakest 189 pounder away from Stoudt.

The keys for Brandywine are much simple to understand, win 7 matches and get bonus while you don't give bonus in the middle.

Prediction: Brandywine Heights 28-26

THE FINAL 6:30PM SATURDAY – MILTON HERSHEY

#1 BOILING SPRINGS (18-0) VS. #3 BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS (22-2)

This is so tough to call but this is the way it could materialize. Of all the teams Boiling Springs could wrestle, this is the one they don't match up well. The Yocco's down low takes away a lot of Boiling Spring's normal points. Gerhart and Stoudt up top will be tough to beat. I just can't see the Bubs getting any rhythm going and a lot of disruption from Bullets.

The Bullets bring 11 quality wrestlers to the mat; I'd say Boiling Springs brings 9 of the same caliber. It's a toss up that the Bullets will even be in the final, but if I run the numbers now...

Brandywine Heights 28
Boiling Springs 27