



## **INAUGURAL COLLEGE WRESTLING COMBINE (SEPT. 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2012)**

### **TOP 10 COMBINE RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS**

- 1. Dakota DesLauriers (Burrell) – Sr.; 182 lbs.; 3.4 GPA; 3x PIAA AA State Placewinner (6<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>);**

**Measurables:** 63 Pushups/Minute; 23 Pull-ups; 19 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Dakota showed why he's one of the top-recruited Wrestlers in the Country, displaying a blue-collar approach to the workout and pushing himself hard through the intense workout agenda. He is a very coachable young man who is very respectable and receptive to critique. Technically strong on his feet, displaying good shot power and an ability to redirect his position when necessary. Needs to improve on the depth of his penetration steps a bit, but displays aggressive hand-fighting skills and is good at getting opponents off balance. Solid hips defense, could improve on tightening up his technique from front-headlock position. He is a definite Division I or II candidate with the ability to make an immediate impact on most College programs.

- 2. Dustin Conti (Jefferson-Morgan) – Sr.; 170 lbs.; 3.0 GPA; 2012 PIAA AA State Placewinner (5<sup>th</sup>);**

**Measurables:** 63 Pushups/Minute; 19 Pull-ups; 14 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Dustin dispelled a lot of the rumors on him regarding his work ethic at the Combine. Previous knock was that he didn't have the gas tank to be a solid 7-minute wrestler at the next level. After watching him workout with DesLauriers and go toe to toe with him in an intense College-like workout, I feel he has the capacity to work hard for a whole match. I think his High School coaching may be breeding a culture of taking injury time when fatigued. He is very hard to score on in the neutral position and has the perfect body type for a successful College Wrestler.

- 3. Tyler Smith (Franklin Regional) – Jr.; 120 lbs.; 3.7 GPA; 2012 PIAA AAA State Placewinner (5<sup>th</sup>);**

**Measurables:** 70 Pushups/Minute; 21 Pull-ups; 19 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Coming off a shoulder injury, Tyler showed mental toughness and an ability to push himself beyond the ceiling of his potential. He too is a very coachable young man and demonstrates the capacity for grasping concepts and techniques very quickly. He was, by far, one of the best scramblers in the room, never stopping and relinquishing points in any position. He is an absolute beast on top, tilting and riding legs against some notable competition. Only a Junior, he will be someone to pay close attention to over the next two seasons as a potential D. I level wrestler.

- 4. Jason Nolf (Kittanning) – Jr.; 135 lbs.; 4.0 GPA; 2x PIAA AA State Placewinner (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>);**

**Measurables:** 101 Pushups/Minute; 28 Pull-ups; 19 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Jason, being a Junior, is surely going to be a highly-sought after recruit come his Senior year. He was hampered a bit in the workout after having his wisdom teeth pulled the night before, but still pushed himself through every segment of the Combine. He is a gritty competitor and willing to scrap for every single point. He is very good at counter-attacking, using his opponent's offensive opportunity to score. He also demonstrates good scrambling skills. Couple this with his riding ability and there's no wonder why he won a State Title and will most likely follow up that performance in his final two years.

**5. Zack Kelly (Kiski Prep) – Prep Soph.; 138/145 lbs.; 3.8 GPA; 2012 Cadet Freestyle All-American (5<sup>th</sup>) 2012 Prep Nationals Placewinner (4<sup>th</sup>);**

**Measurables:** 65 Pushups/Minute; 31 Pull-ups; 14 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** By regular high school standards, Zack is a Junior, but is debating on using his 5<sup>th</sup> year at Kiski Prep. He is a good young man with a strong desire to win which drives him in the practice room regularly. He displays good movement on his feet and creates a lot of offense with his movement. Has a diverse skill set, whether it is taking solid shots or going upper body. He is a scrambler as well from a defensive standpoint, but could improve his defensive fundamentals. He knows how to find a way to win in big matches, and this too was on display at Fargo this Summer as he battled his way to an All-American finish in the Cadet Freestyle division.

**6. Tanner Sutton (Char-Houston) – Sr.; 145/152 lbs.; 3.8 GPA; 2x PIAA AA State Qualifier;**

**Measurables:** 71 Pushups/Minute; 28 Pull-ups; 16 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Tanner is another young man who comes in with good credentials, but hasn't achieved his goals of getting onto the podium at Hershey yet. This should be his break out year. He had a strong showing at the Combine, demonstrating good conditioning and looked physically strong. His father is his High School coach and that implies how coachable he is. He, like a lot of the participants at the Combine, relies a lot on scrambling to defend against leg attacks and could improve on fundamental defense. The knock on Tanner has been mental toughness and how he responds to adversity in a tough match. This lack of mental toughness was not on display at the Combine, with him and Zack Kelly battling hard in the Live Situation segment of the Combine. My thinking is that in year's past, it was simply a lack of maturity that he seems to have outgrown.

**7. Tyler Reinhart (Greensburg-Salem) – Sr.; 145/152 lbs.; N/A GPA; 4<sup>th</sup> Place 2012 WPIAL AAA Regional Tournament;**

**Measurables:** 77 Pushups/Minute; 25 Pull-ups; 20 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Tyler is a 'steal' as a recruit, largely due to the fact that the Southwest Regional (WPIAL) AAA tournament is such a 'meat-grinder', he missed an opportunity to get on the big stage at Hershey and push for a medal at the State tournament. His assets include a workmanlike attitude in the practice room. His measurables were among the best of a strong group of High School athletes, his 20 Tractor Tire Flips was one of the best totals among the 18 participants. He shows good fundamentals from the neutral position, including good hand-fighting skills and solid defense. I am unsure as to his ability to wrestle at the Division I level, but he could develop into a solid Division II or III prospect.

**8. Tom Sleigh (Dubois) – Sr.; 170 lbs.; 3.62 GPA; 2011 NHSCA Sophomore Nationals 4<sup>th</sup> Place; 2x PIAA AAA State Qualifier;**

**Measurables:** 55 Pushups/Minute; 25 Pull-ups; 18 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Tom is another participant who has made a couple of trips to Hershey and is destined to breakthrough and find his way to claiming a medal at Hershey this season. He demonstrates a lot of the physical toughness that you find from the wrestlers out of his area of the State. Despite not having the exposure to a lot of the System that our club teaches to instill fundamental techniques and situations, he was very receptive and quick to pick up on the expectations on him in the various drills the Combine participants were involved in. He is a 'plugger', a wrestler who stays on the offensive and can follow-up with multiple leg attacks until he scores.

**9. Steve Edwards (Burrell) – Jr.; 138 lbs.; 3.0 GPA; 2012 PIAA AA State Qualifier;**

**Measurables:** 71 Pushups/Minute; 27 Pull-ups; 18 Tractor Tire (150 lbs.) Flips/Minute

**Overview:** Steve is one of the most improved wrestlers in such a short duration of his High School career. I have had the opportunity to coach him through his High School career thus far and he went from relative obscurity to making it to the Big Show (The State tournament) in just one year. He has a tremendous work ethic. He wants to be a Navy

SEAL when his wrestling career is over. This is how this kid thinks. He's physically tough and has a true blue collar approach to his training regimen. He is a real brawler on his feet and has very heavy hands when hand-fighting. He could improve a little with fundamental defense, primarily hip defense when his opponent gets to his legs. His Achilles Heel is getting off the bottom. If he can improve holding a solid position and exploding off the bottom, he can compete for a high medal at the State Tournament in this upcoming season and his Senior year.

**10. Cole Landowski (Kiski Area) – Sr.; 138 lbs.; 3.65 GPA; 2012 PIAA AAA State Qualifier;**

**Measurables:** Did Not Participate (Recovering from Shoulder Surgery)

**Overview:** Cole demonstrated that he is quickly recovering from Labrum surgery over the Summer and has been chomping at the bit to get back on the mat. He went through the entire 2-hour workout, which was about College level intensity, unscathed and with a solid performance. His technique is very sound and understands how to keep a continual flow when drilling. He is a scrappy hand-fighter and once he gets his opponents reacting, he transitions to his shots fluidly. Based on my experiences, he is very atypical for a Kiski Area wrestler, a lot of whom rely on their strength and the edge of the mat to counter and score. He is always on the offense, moving forward and keeping constant pressure on his opponents to score. Assuming he makes a full recovery from his injury, Cole should find his way onto the Podium at the AAA State Tournament in his final year.

**FINAL NOTES:** There was not one participant of the 18 athletes that showed they could not handle that level of a workout, albeit, some were a bit out of their element from their normal High School rooms. 12 different schools were represented by this first of our College Wrestling Combines, with 12 participants who have previously qualified for the Pennsylvania State tournament, 8 of those collecting State Medals, 2 being Finalists and one winning a State Championship. You need to make sure you have representation from your coaching staffs at the next hosted Combine. You cannot find a better environment to evaluate the 'intangibles' that can make or break a Wrestler at the Collegiate level. Top level kids in one of the richest areas of High School wrestling are more than willing to showcase their skills for College coaches to show they can make a difference for your respective programs. Best of all, it's at no cost to your program. All the coaches in attendance were impressed with the level of organization, the intensity of the workout and the skill level of the participants.