



FORGE WRESTLING REPORT

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#FORGESTRONG

2017 Top Ten Moments

By. Mark Fontana

As the 2017 calendar year came to a close so did has first half of the Colonial Forge Wrestling team's season. Entering 2018 here are the top ten moments so far.

10. Alumni presence at Mountain View

The Forge wrestling team took fourth place at the Stephen Altorfer tournament hosted by Mountain View HS. Mountain View being down the road former Forge wrestlers and parents came to show their support to this year's squad. With over 30 alumni present, it showed how big an impact the Wrestling community at Forge has had.

9. Garrett Swope and Matt Warren place

Two unseeded wrestlers at Mountain View did not disappoint. Both Matt Warren and Garrett Swope were unseeded entering the tournament, but with bonus points and hard fought victories helped get these two onto the medal stand. Swope took 4th and Warren 5th.

8. Merida sparks big wrestle back round at Beast

The Forge had a tough first two rounds at the Beast of the East tournament. Ninth grader Daniel Merida had a foe from returning catholic school state champions Depaul HS (NJ). In a back and forth bout Merida finished

the match by taking the lead late and pinning his opponent in the closing seconds. The Momentum built and Forge went 8-2 on the round.

7. Mitchell surpasses win total

Austin Mitchell weighed 96lbs wrestling 106lbs last season. Forced into the lineup, Austin often fell short winning 6 matches total in his freshman campaign. Fast forward one year add 10lbs of muscle, Mitchell has 8 wins on the season with hopes of qualifying for the VHSL 6A State tournament

6. Chukwuezi makes 170 opponents pay

Senior Eze Chukwuezi my vote for Student of the Month every month. The returning state 3rd at 182lbs made a decision to benefit himself and the team by wrestling down a weight class. Eze made his 170lbs debut at the Hanover Duals as a late Xmas present to the Forge Coaching staff. Eze went 4-0 on the day registering 3 pins and 1 forfeit win.

5. Forge puts 5 in finals of Mountain View

Starting off with pins by Alex Smith and Levi Englman. Junior Joe Vastano was down 3-2 with 30 seconds left in his bout. Joey V with a slick takedown and backpoints won by a 6-3 decision. Hunziker and Chukwuezi followed with pinfalls of their own as Forge went 5 for 5 in the semis.

4. Hunziker wrestles back to day 2 of Beast

Jerrold Hunziker lost his first match to a game opponent from Waynesburg (PA). Hunziker in workman like fashion won four matches against athletes from four different states advancing to Day 2 of the tournament.

3. Team effort in Hanover

Upsets happen in sports. The Forge squad while not at full force took a surprising second round loss in the Hanover Duals. Losses like that have broken lesser men. The Eagles stepped up and won its next three bouts in a total team effort to finish 3-1 on the day. The power of momentum showed in the team's first practice of 2018

2. Alex Smith breaks familiar foe

In January Alex Smith lost a 19-4 technical fall to Fauquier's Paul Budd. First tournament of this season sophomore Alex Smith wrestling up a weight class runs into Budd again with a different result. Smith losing 8-5 in the final period ties up the score 8-8 and in overtime gets the winning takedown for a 10-8 victory!

1. Englman's senior campaign

Senior Levi Englman has been a man on fire this season. His only two losses coming at the prestigious Beast of the East tournament. He has marquee wins over several state finalists. His defining moment up to this point came in the finals of Mountain View. Down 3-1 with 15 seconds left Englman gets an escape and a takedown in the closing seconds to win his bout 4-3 and earn OW. The Eagles will be home for the first time this season (Jan 6) as they host the annual Battlefield Duals.