



# Forge Wrestling Report

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#FORGESTRONG

ISSUE 18-3

## ETR/Ultimate Challenge

By. Mark Fontana

Over the past two weekends the boys of Colonial Forge wrestling team have wrestled at Escape the Rock hosted by Council Rock South HS, Pa and hosted its annual Ultimate Challenge wrestling competition.

Before the recap we want to thank all of those who helped with the Ultimate Challenge. The support again has been tremendous! A big thank you to Bojangles, Cici's Pizza, the Few alum Tony Neis, Chuck Murphy, Marco Mason and The FEW (Friends of Eagle Wrestling). Especially to our parents who took pictures, bought food, kept the hospitality room and concessions going, worked tables, and supported our wrestlers!

**Escape the Rock** featured 4 of the nation's top 20 teams. Along with top teams from PA, NJ, and VA. This is the Eagles 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance in the tournament

**Day 1** Forge Wrestlers Joe Vastano (138) and Brandson Jones (195) were able to get victories by pinfall and decision on the day. Seniors Levi Englman and Eze Chukwuezi made it to the quarterfinals. Englman lost to the 4 seed by a 6-4 decision

and Eze lost to the top seed and eventual champ 1-0. After an opening round loss Jerrod Hunziker won three wrestleback matches. Highlighted by a last second escape to advance to day 2. Sophomore Alex Smith closed out his day 1 by beating a tough freshmen from St. Christopher's Va by way of 4-2 decision.

**Day 2** Was a tough one for the Forge boys. The Forge lost 3 of the 4 bouts by a total of 6 points. Alex Smith fell 3-0 to a tough senior from Northampton HS. Levi Englman lost in overtime 6-4 against Cincinatti Lasalle, Oh HS. Jerrod Hunziker fell in the final seconds 3-2 against Scranton High Schools 145 lbs. Eze Chukwuezi stopped the bleeding winning by a 5-1 decision and placing for the first time at this ETR. Eze won his next match by a 3-2 score against Beast place finisher Delbarton stud AJ Lonski. Eze was winning his next match against 2x Powerade finalist Steve Joll before coming up on the short end of a scramble and losing by pinfall. A close loss in the 5<sup>th</sup> place match saw Eze finish 6<sup>th</sup>. A great effort by the senior leading us into the Ultimate Challenge.



Seniors Recognized at Ultimate Challenge

We would like to thank our senior class John McCready, Levi Englman, Jerrod Hunziker, Matthew Warren, Eze Chukwuezi, Ronzelle Green, and Alex Watson as their HS careers come to a close we hope for a strong finish and great beginning as they embark on the next step of their young lives.

### Growing the Sport

Big thank you to Forge Coach Cam Houston for running our free youth clinic before the Ultimate Challenge. Over 25 youth attended!



### Ultimate Challenge lives up to the name

The name lived up to the billing. The eight team Ultimate Challenge had some of the top teams in VA. Great action, close bouts, and a team race that was close throughout the tournament.

**106** Austin Long made his Green debut. Long went 2-2 on the day winning by fall against opponents from Lake Braddock and Fauquier. The future is promising for Long!

**113** Daniel Merida won his first match by fall. In a back and forth battle a nose bleed hurt Daniel's chance at a comeback against Brooke Point's Justis Bell. After a workman like decision. Merida moved into the 3<sup>rd</sup> place match falling victim to 5 point move late losing 12-9 stopping his chance at bronze.



**120** Ethan Nielsen was called into action and went 1-3 on the day. Point scorer Jonah Diaz after losing two early bouts closed out the day with two wins. One being by third period pin against his foe from Lake Braddock to go 2-2 on the day

**126** Alex Smith wrestled in dominating fashion throughout the tournament. Alex had an 8-2 lead before injuring his arm. For safety purposes the Forge coaching staff decided to injury default the match.

**138** Joe Vastano won his first two matches by fall. In the semis he earned a 9-2 decision over his opponent from Lee-Davis. The finals saw Vastano fall by 5-0 decision finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day



**145** Winning by fall in his first match Jerrod Hunziker earned his 100<sup>th</sup> win in the next match. A 6-0 semifinal win saw Hunziker get a rematch against #2 ranked VA 145lbs Joe Del Gallo of Fauquier. After an early onslaught Hunziker closed the gap but Del Gallo's defense was held up as Hunziker fell short by 4-2 decision. Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day



**152** Garrett Swope's steady improvement this season continued. Swope pinned his first two opponents finishing 3-1 on the day to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Swope is becoming a fan favorite with his never say die attitude.



**160** John Gonzalez battled throughout the day. While finishing 1-3 his effort this tournament was improved. The coaches are hoping to see this effort level rise over the next several weeks



**170** Eze Chukwuezi won his first two matches by fall. He was paired against returning 5A state champ Andy Aldridge. A questionable call in the first period saw Eze trailing 4-2. Aldridge built his lead to 7-2 putting Eze on the comeback trail. What looked to be the go ahead takedown and back points, was awarded as just a takedown. Trailing 9-8 Eze had what should have been the winning

takedown. Except to one person in the gym. Eze lost the match but won the respect of the fans. In his final home match Eze won by fall finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> on the day



**182** Ronzelle Green had a weight class with 3 potential state champions. Ronzelle finished the day 1-3.

**195** Brandson Jones battled through the day. The sophomore 195 future is bright. On this day though he would finish 1-3.

**220** Alex Watson won by pinfall and decision entering the finals. In a tight match Tyler Raymond was able to get the match winning takedown and rideout late to win by 4-3 decision.



**285** Forge entered three wrestlers at this weight. Quavon Gillespe finished the day 1-3. Logan Nieves showed heart winning two ultimate tiebreaker matches to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zach Lynch muscled his way into the finals by way of a decision and two pinfalls. Lynch lost to the #3 ranked Heayweight in VA to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Forge will be in action this Saturday. At our first ever Forging the Future JV Tournament.