

ESCAPE THE ROCK FIELD SET FOR 2014

“ETR WRESTLING” is proud to present the 9th annual Escape the Rock Wrestling Tournament (the 8th as an individual event) which will bring together 33 teams on Saturday & Sunday, January 18 & 19, 2014 at Council Rock South High School in Holland, PA. Some top teams and individuals from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia will be looking to take top honors. The 2013 Escape the Rock Tournament proved to be the best to date. The competition was absolutely stellar and featured TWENTY-ONE 2013 State Champions, 72 state place winners, 126 state qualifiers and 8 National Prep Tournament place winners! Team post season accolades included eight teams that finished in the top 16 at the 2013 PIAA State Tournaments (Solanco, Norristown, Parkland, Chambersburg, Bald Eagle Area, Council Rock North, Northampton and Saucon Valley), the Delaware State Champion (Smyrna) and Runner-up (Caesar Rodney), plus the three teams that were in the top six at the Virginia State Tournaments (Forest Park, Hanover and Brentsville). There were seven teams that qualified for the PA and NJ state dual tournaments (Parkland, Owen J Roberts, Delaware Valley, Saucon Valley, Chambersburg, LaSalle and Paulsboro). Malvern Prep had a strong 5th place showing at the National Prep tourney.

2013 ETR highlights: the 182 pound final featured a preview of the PIAA state final between BEA’s Jake Taylor and Norristown’s Brett Harner, where Taylor prevailed in an epic overtime battle to earn the OW award. Solanco’s Thomas Haines became the second 3-time ETR champion and set himself up to make a run next year to become the first ETR 4-timer (as well as a potential 4-time PIAA state champion). Parkland stepped to the forefront in the team race and put seven wrestlers on the podium on their way to their first ETR team crown.

Another positive element of ETR is the incorporation of a charity component into the event, which we have done since 2009. We were very happy to donate the 2013 proceeds from the sale of ETR t-shirts to Coaches vs Cancer, becoming the first wrestling organization to support that effort!

The 2014 field looks to be another big step up in the level and depth of competition. Returning wrestlers expected to compete at ETR include TWELVE 2013 state champs, FIFTY-FIVE state place winners, THREE 2013 National Prep Champions and SIXTEEN prep place winners. The event will feature 9 teams that finished in the top 16 at the 2013 PIAA State Tournaments, including the PIAA AA State Tournament Champion, the Delaware State Champion and Runner-up, plus the Virginia AAA State Tournament Champion and four additional VA teams that were in the top 6 at the Virginia State Tournaments (3 in AAA, 1 in AA). Also in the field will be 3 of the top 7 teams from the National Prep Tournament, which includes ETR newcomer and national power Blair Academy, who have won 33 consecutive National Prep Tournament Championships. Also making their first appearance at ETR will be 2013 Virginia AAA State Champion JW Robinson. Returning after a one year hiatus are two time ETR team champion (and 3-time defending PIAA State Champion) Bethlehem Catholic and 4-time Virginia State Champion Colonial Forge. Other first time entrants include PA teams Pennridge, Bishop McDevitt, Southern Columbia and Kiski Prep; John Carroll from Maryland and Virginia’s New Kent.

Our final newcomer is Central High School out of Philadelphia. Central is being sponsored at ETR by “Beat the Streets Philadelphia”, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose goal is to expand opportunities for urban children in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area to participate in the sport of wrestling and to provide additional supports to ensure that the individual student-athletes succeed academically. They currently provide full sponsorship for 20 programs with over 900 participants, ranging from age 4 through 18 and provide supplemental support for the vast majority of public high school programs in the city. BTS Philadelphia Executive Director, Chris Hanlon, sums up the opportunity in saying “Although we are aware that it will take a consistent effort over many years to effectively compete on a consistent basis with the top programs in the area, our kids are committed to putting forth a year round effort to improve, both on the mat and in the classroom. Despite all of these efforts, there is no way to replace wrestling against top level competition on the road to improvement.” BTS has teamed up with ETR Wrestling for this very purpose – to make that opportunity available – and both organizations are thrilled to come together and make it

happen. Our mission at “ETR Wrestling” is not only to run a quality event, but also to promote the sport of wrestling at all levels. Helping to grow wrestling within the City of Philadelphia is a great chance for us to do that. By coming together with BTS, we can help their efforts in taking the wrestling environment of the city schools to a new level. Central returns nearly their full lineup from the 2013 PIAA Section 8 Champion squad that produced five PIAA Northeast Regional Qualifiers. Hanlon concluded “Beat the Streets Philadelphia and Central High School are eager to test themselves at the 2014 ETR tournament and we are extremely grateful for this opportunity.”

All information for ESCAPE THE ROCK can be found on our website at:
<http://www.crsd.org/page/5613>

Team List for the 2014 Escape the Rock Tournament

Council Rock South (PA District 1)
Council Rock North (PA District 1)
Norristown (PA District 1)
Owen J. Roberts (PA District 1)
Pennridge (PA District 1)
Delaware Valley (PA District 2)
Big Spring (PA District 3)
Bishop McDevitt (PA District 3 AA)
Chambersburg (PA District 3)
Dallastown (PA District 3)
Manheim Township (PA District 3)
Solanco (PA District 3)
Southern Columbia (PA District 4 AA)
Bald Eagle Area (PA District 6)
Central Mountain (PA District 6)
Bethlehem Catholic (PA District 11 AA)
Northampton (PA District 11)
Parkland (PA District 11)
Saucon Valley (PA District 11)
Central (PA District 12)
Father Judge (PA District 12)
John Carroll (MD Prep)
Blair Academy (NJ Prep)
Hill School (PA Prep)
Kiski Prep (PA Prep)
Caesar Rodney (Delaware)
Smyrna (Delaware)
Paulsboro (New Jersey)
Colonial Forge (Virginia)
Forest Park (Virginia)
Hanover (Virginia)
JW Robinson (Virginia)
New Kent (Virginia)