



Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic

Saturday, March 25, 2023
WPIAL vs Ohio All-Stars at 4:00 PM
PA vs USA All-Stars at 6:00 PM
AHN Arena at Peters Twp. High School
Broadcast live by FloWrestling

For Immediate Release

Ohio All-Stars versus WPIAL All-Stars in 49th Annual Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic on Saturday, March 25, 2023

Pittsburgh, PA – The Ohio All-Stars are returning to compete against the WPIAL All-Stars for the fifth time in the Pittsburgh Wrestling Classics' 49-year history.

Thirteen high school seniors will be selected to represent Ohio in the most prestigious high school all-star wrestling meet in the country on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

The Ohio All-Star Team is undefeated against the WPIAL All-Stars, 3-0-1. The border state rivalry started in Classic II, in 1976, when Ohio defeated the WPIAL 24-21. Joe Galli, 98 lbs., started the dual by pinning his opponent in the 2nd period but Ohio won 7 of the remain 11 matches to win the dual. The winner of the dual was determined at the Hwt. Class with Tim Payne 15-3 victory.

Eight years later the two teams tied 24-24 in an exciting dual meet in Classic X, in 1984. Each team won 6 matches. Dave Rowan, 112 lbs., was named the Outstanding Wrestler for the Ohio Team for his pin. The WPIAL OW was awarded to Chris Mary for his major decision at 126 lbs. The WPIAL tied the dual when Mark Blackstone, Hwt., pinned his Ohio opponent.

Eight years later, in Classic XVIII, with 13 matches in the dual, the Ohio team defeated the WPIAL team 25-18, by winning 7 individual matches. The Ohio team was carried by four wrestlers from Claymont HS who each won their individual bout, Scott McDaniel at 103 lbs., Craig Shaw at 112 lbs., Ryan McDaniel, 140 lbs., and Kirk Henry at 160 lbs. Sean Kiouisis, 125 lbs., was the OW for Ohio and B.C. Cowden, 130 lbs., was OW for the WPIAL team.

Fifteen years later, in 2007, in Classic XXXIII, the Ohio all-stars dominated the WPIAL winning 10 of the 13 bouts, 33-9. Chris Honeycutt, 189 lbs., was awarded the OW for Ohio and Jesse Byerly, 140 lbs., for the WPIAL team.

There have been 56 wrestlers from the Buckeye State represented on the USA All-Star Team. Their record is 37 wins, 17 loses and 2 ties. Two wrestlers were awarded the OW for the USA team, Ohio's first 4X state champion Mark Zimmer, Classic V, in 1979, and Greg Elinsky, from St Edwards HS, Classic VIII, in 1982. Zimmer, from Galena HS, defeated Kraig Nellis 12-7. Elinsky scored a major decision over Chuck Murray, 17-7.

Shawn Andrews, Marysville Head Wrestling Coach and 2022 OHSWCA Girls Coach of the Year, is leading the assembly of the Ohio All-Star Team. *"The Ohio wrestling community is very excited to compete again in this prestigious event. We have a very strong senior class with nationally ranked wrestlers at almost every weight. I'm confident our kids will be ready to challenge the best wrestlers from the WPIAL."*

Tickets for the event will go on sale in January. Tickets can be purchased at a ticket outlet, by mail or online using a credit card. Visit our web site, FaceBook page and Twitter account for more information.

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