

Early predictions by the Numbers

4A SC Wrestling 2020-2021

SCMAT Guest Columnist "M. Murray"

Apologies in advance if I miscalculated points at the state tournament or missed a move of classification. Just want to provide some content as the season gets closer

Is 4A the toughest division in South Carolina Wrestling?

Every year the 4A conversation starts with Eastside and never goes far from them, however the reclassification in the 4A division will make for a great conversation as we approach the year. Eastside has been in control of this division since 2016. The last team to beat Eastside in the Dual State Tournament was South Pointe in 2015. Will this year be any different? The numbers say no. Eastside graduated four state champs and 1 runner up but still return the most points from the individual tournament with 96.5. That is seven returners with experience in both duals as well as the individual tournament. Coach Kosimicki has a dynasty going over there and now it is next man up. I am not sure that this year will be as dominant as the years past but I have learned that you don't bet against a winner until they prove you wrong. Side note, Kosmicki is only two state titles short of tying Jim Barns for most state titles in the history of South Carolina.

Contenders

Here is where the party starts! Indian Land has enjoyed a run of state titles in 3A for the past two years and looks to add another one as they move up to challenge Eastside. With the departure of Coach Boulware to Northwestern the Warriors have the winningest high school coach in the country Scot Davis taking over the program. Coach Davis will walk into a room led by returning state champs Drew Enders, Dylan Layton and Grant Witherspoon along with three other returners/placers. Not a bad situation to walk into! We will find out real fast with new region foe South Pointe just how legit Indian Land will be in 4A. Let's take a trip to the low country for our next contender. May River also makes the jump up to 4A this year and will do so bringing eight wrestlers with trips to the state tournament already under their belts. That includes returning state champs Isham Peace and Eli Hall. Coach Powell has been able to build some successful programs. He started at Westwood and had some deep runs in the state dual tournament and has continued the same culture at a young May River program. The two returning state champs will be joined by six other returning state placers/qualifiers which will put May River with the most returners (and 85 tournament points) in 4A. Travelers Rest returns a state champ (Kodie Houghes) and 50 points, York brings back two state champs (Luke Rumpfelt and Kaleem Heard) and 58.5 points and Beaufort brings back six placers/qualifiers for 41 points but I do not think any of them can fill the holes and make a run at the top spot.

Sleepers

I can't believe I am saying this but South Pointe is an underdog this season. Coach Cook has a lot to replace after graduation this past season but like I said earlier, this has been the only group to challenge Eastside the past six years. They return 26 points and 2018 state camp in Spencer Cox. The Rock Hill school district is rich in athletic talent across the board for any sport! The big question will be can Coach Cook fill those spots and jump back in the deep end of this 4A pool full of talent! What is even more crazy is that we are not even talking about Lugoff-Elgin or Greenwood! 4A will be so much fun to watch this season!

Side Note

I am already picking the 4A/3A North to win the Best Western All-Star Classic in March!

Schools Coming Up; Indian Land, May River and Catawba Ridge

Schools Coming Down; Greenwood, Lugoff-Elgin, Easley, Westside and Laurens
District 55 High School

Schools	Returning individual State Points	Returning State Champs, Placers and Qualifiers
Eastside	96.5	0-7-0
Indian Land	92	3-2-1
May River	85	2-4-2
York	58.5	2-1-1
Travelers Rest	50	1-2-2
Beaufort	41	0-3-3
North Myrtle Beach	38	0-3-2
Hartsville	29.5	1-1-2
South Pointe	26	0-2-1
Greenwood	18	1-0-1