

Alton, Granite City wrestlers compete in tough Granite City Holiday Wrestling Tournament

by Brent Feeney, Sports Writer
January 1 2017 11:16 AM





GRANITE CITY – The spirit of the late **William “Red” Schmitt** was present at the 56th edition of the **Granite City Holiday Wrestling Tournament** that Schmitt, who was the long-time **Warrior wrestling coach and Alton High School wrestler** that started the tournament in 1961, Thursday and Friday.

Schmitt died in August.

“Schmitt was a great man,” said **GCHS coach George Kirgan**. “He got Granite City's program to where it is today.”

The host Warriors had three podium finishes, a second, third and fifth as the Warriors finished 14th with 175 points; Alton finished 19th at 128 points with a fifth, two sixths and a seventh among their podium finishes.

“It's a tough tournament here,” Kirgan said. “There's a lot of competition here and we have a lot of work to do before we get to the (IHSA Class 3A) regional in February (which the Warriors will host Feb. 4), A lot of our kids, especially the younger kids, were able to get a lot of good matches in; that's going to help them down the road.”

Kansas City, Mo., area school Staley took the team championship with 371 points, ahead of Chicago Heights Marion Catholic (356.5), Neosho, Mo. (321), Whitfield of St. Louis (320) and Lafayette of St. Louis County (313.5); the second five included CBC (256.5), Christian Brothers of Memphis, Tenn. (250), Chicago Marist (221), Plainfield South of the Chicago area (210.5) and Huntley of the Chicago area (201.5). Other area teams included Collinsville (16th with 161), Triad (21st with 68) and Mascoutah (24th with 51); the Granite City junior varsity also took part, but JV scores were not kept.

Redbird wrestlers who had podium finishes included **Courteney Wilson** at 145, who took the seventh-place bout at 145 by defeating Derrick Ashford of Chicago Marist 6-5; **Nolan Wosczyński**, who dropped the fifth-place bout at 160 to Huntley's Juan Quiroz in a 7-5 decision; **KeOntay Holmes**, who won the fifth-place bout at 182 over Whitfield's Noah Elmore with a 14-6 decision; and **Keyondrick Russell**, who dropped the fifth-place bout at 195 in a 1-0 decision to Mahomet-Semour's Hunter Crowley.

Warrior wrestlers with podium finishes included **Jared Skaggs**, who lost to Collinsville's Zach Warren at 152 due to a medical forfeit; Reide Wilson, who took the fifth-place bout at 170 over Collinsville's Russell March 5-2; Kyle Thompson, who took the third-place bout at 195 over Neosho's Johnny Meyer with a 4-3 decision; and Korinthian Nabors, who fell in the 285 title bout to Whitfield's Max Darrah 6-1.

The Redbirds host Belleville West in a Southwestern Conference match at 6 p.m. Thursday, then are at the Newbill Invitational in Geneva Jan. 7. The Warriors host

Kirkwood, Whitfield and Washington, Ill., in a quadrangular meet Thursday, Collinsville at 6 p.m. Friday and the Gateway to the Best Duals tournament at CBC Jan. 7.

