

Sports

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

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THE TIDEWATER NEWS **B1**



SUBMITTED | JONATHAN SMITH

Franklin High School's wrestling team celebrates with the trophies it earned Saturday, Jan. 15, by winning Pool A and the overall championship of the 2021 Matt Bryant Memorial Duals in Franklin.

Franklin wins Matt Bryant Memorial Duals

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

The Franklin High School wrestling team went 5-0 Saturday, Jan. 15, including defeating Thomas Dale High School in the championship dual to win the 2021 Matt Bryant Memorial Duals, which were held at Franklin High School.

Eleven teams participated in the event, including those from Southampton High School and Windsor High School.

"When people watch wrestling, they see individuals going against other individuals," Broncos Head Coach Daniel "Bull" Johnson said. "They sometimes forget it is very much a team sport. These kids motivate, encourage and celebrate each other, and we've been fortunate enough to bounce back from illnesses and injuries to bring home

the trophy for only the second time in the history of the (Matt Bryant Memorial) tournament."

Franklin Assistant Coach Johnnie McKeller noted that the Broncos came out a little flat to start the event Saturday.

"But as the day went on, we regained our focus and our fire in order to beat Thomas Dale and be the overall tournament champion," McKeller said.

The Broncos won Pool A, and the Thomas Dale Knights won Pool B to set up the overall title showdown.

McKeller stated that Franklin finished 4-0 in its pool, defeating Northumberland High School, Essex High School, Lancaster High School and Southampton before crossing brackets to determine the overall champion.

"I cannot be prouder of the way these young men

and young women have worked to get to this point," McKeller said of the Broncos wrestlers. "They are not only tremendous student-athletes but amazing kids as well. I am truly thankful to be able to coach what had started out as a team but is now a family."

Johnson noted that Franklin is now 20-4 overall on the season, and McKeller later highlighted individual Broncos leaders and their records — Bishop Joyner (24-1), Ayden Banks (23-3) and Sam Harrison (18-4).

The 11 teams participating Saturday included those from Franklin, Southampton, Windsor, Atlantic Shores Christian School, Essex, Hertford County High School, Lancaster, Norfolk Christian High School, Northumberland, Petersburg High School and Thomas Dale.



Franklin High School's Bishop Joyner, right, wrestles during a match against Essex High School. Joyner has a 24-1 record so far this season.



Anthony Brown, of Franklin High School, grabs the leg of an Essex High School wrestler during a match Saturday, Jan. 15.



Franklin High School's Devin Deshields stays on his feet while holding the leg of a wrestler from Essex High School.



Curtis Jordan, of Franklin High School, applies pressure from above against an Essex High School opponent.



Franklin High School's Markelyn Fenner, top, wrestles against a competitor from Southampton High School during the 2021 Matt Bryant Memorial Duals on Saturday, Jan. 15, in Franklin.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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Franklin High School applies tight defense to Southamptom High School senior center Javen Johnson in the final seconds of the game Wednesday, Jan. 26.

FRANK A. DAVIS | THE TIDEWATER NEWS



Franklin High School junior guard Derrick Perry moves the ball in the paint while looking for a shot.



Southamptom High School senior center Javen Johnson flies to the hoop on a shot against host Franklin High School on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Indians win round 2 of 'The Backyard Brawl'

BY FRANK A. DAVIS

The Peggy H. Wilkins Gymnasium at Franklin High School was packed to capacity as the second round of the famous "Backyard Brawl on the Hard Courts" was played on Wednesday, Jan. 26, between the Franklin Broncos and the Southamptom High School varsity boys basketball teams. The home team hoped to seal a second win over the Southamptom Indians for a clean sweep in the 2022 season but found it was an uphill battle the whole game, and they fell 44-40.

The Indians ended the first quarter up 16-8, and after the second quarter, they were still ahead of the Broncos with a score of 24-20. Going into the final quarter of play, the Indians held onto a lead with a score of 34-29. It was a one-point game in the waning moments, 41-40,

but Southamptom was able to protect and build on that advantage for the win.

In scoring, the Broncos were led by junior guard Derrick Perry, with 13 points, followed by junior forward Solomon Moody, with 10 points.

Senior center Javen Johnson was the only Indians player in double figures, with 10 points.

Southamptom Head Coach Sharone Bailey commented after the game, "Hard-fought game and glad to be back playing ball. We've been out for a while with COVID, and this is our first game back this year. It was good to get back in the gym and (play) a hard-fought game.

"Our big men came through for us in the end," Bailey added. "We played some good defense. It's always a good game to come to Franklin. I enjoy it; it is one of my best places to come, and I look forward

to playing against them next year."

Franklin Head Coach Robby Cutchins remarked after the game, "What a basketball game. I really don't know what else to say. These kids left everything they got on the floor. I said it in round one, and I will say it again in round two: I think that the fans got their money's worth to-night.

"Offensively, we did not capitalize on a couple of possessions that we had some great looks at," he continued. "We played good defense to keep us in the game when Southamptom got ahead by eight, I think twice. We battled back, caused a few turnovers. But at the end of the day, we've got to be able to knock some shots down, and we did not do that. But hats off to Southamptom — they got round two, and we split. I am proud of our boys."



Junior forward Kamari Scott, of Southamptom High School, releases a jump shot.



Indians senior guard Semaj Moore was called for an offensive foul on this play against the defense of the host Broncos.

Sports

SOUTHAMPTON LOCAL SCOREBOARD **LAKELAND**
33 QTR 4 TIME 00:00 **22**

Indians triumphant in home opener



Senior quarterback Jayden White, of Southampton High School, runs to the outside with the ball as Lakeland High School defenders pursue.

TITUS MOHLER | THE TIDEWATER NEWS



Sophomore running back Steven McClenny, of Southampton High School, advances up the field with the ball Friday night, Sept. 2.

**BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER**

Southampton High School's varsity football team rebounded from a Week 1 shutout road loss by producing a 33-22 victory in its home opener Friday night, Sept. 2, against Lakeland High School.

"We still have a lot to improve on," Indians Head Coach Travis Parker said, "however, this is a big win for our program and a big positive momentum boost for the rest of the season."

The Indians opened the year with a rough 28-0 loss to host Poquoson High School on Aug. 26, but Parker saw a clear difference in his team this past Friday in Courtland.

"We played a lot better Friday night compared to the previous week because we were in better physical shape," he said. "We found out in the Poquoson game that our conditioning was

very subpar and disappointing."

He noted that both Southampton's players and its coaches worked quite hard to fix this issue in practice sessions between the two games.

"Practices were very tough leading up to this game to get us ready for this win," he said. "Another motivating factor was that we definitely did not want to have to wear another loss for the next two weeks being that we have a bye week coming up."

The Indians (1-1) return to action Friday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. when they visit Colonial Heights High School.

"Looking ahead, over the next two weeks, we will make sure we continue to get in better physical condition and sharpen up what we do in all three phases of the game," Parker said. "God continues to bless the Big Red Machine."



Southampton High School's cheerleading team shows support for the Indians, who went on to win their home opener 33-22 on Friday night, Sept. 2, against Lakeland High School.



The Southampton High School varsity football team's defense, right, is poised to spring into action against visiting Lakeland High School on Friday, Sept. 2.



Southampton High School senior running back Alvin Hicks runs up the middle for a touchdown to put his team up 13-6 in the second quarter Friday, Sept. 2.



Senior linebacker Travian Wilkerson, of Southampton High School, listens to some last-second instructions as he gets set for the next play.