

# Blood, sweat and cheers: Eureka wins H-DN Championships, Hoopa 2nd

Ray Aspuria/The Times-Standard

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McKINLEYVILLE -- Joey Peper's upset, pinfall victory over McKinleyville's Nicolas Lockhart in the 103-pound weight class got the Humboldt-Del Norte Wrestling Championships finals off to a rocking start on Saturday.

Peper -- a Eureka High grappler -- pinned Lockhart's shoulders to the mat with 17.8 seconds left in the first period. The victory set the tone as the Loggers went on to win the championships with a team score of 188.5.

Second place went to Hoopa Valley (174.5) and third went to McKinleyville (139.5). Last year's H-DN champ, Del Norte, finished in fourth with a total of 130.5

Eureka earned the most first-place finishes with a total of five while Hoopa and Mack were tied with three.

H-DN wrestlers will learn where they will stand come the North Coast Section Wrestling Championships today when the seeds are announced. They will be posted on the NCS web site at [www.cifncs.org](http://www.cifncs.org).

Listed below is the weight class, participants and eventual champion.

103

Nicolas Lockhart (McK) vs. Joey Peper (Eur)

Winner: Joey Peper

It was the battle of the No. 1 and 2 seeds in the opening championship match. Lockhart got two points early with a takedown but Peper answered right back to get two of his own. With Peper getting the leverage on top, Lockhart struggled to keep his shoulders off the mat. Blood came trickling down Lockhart's nose, however, the match continued and Peper was able to get the pinfall

win with 17.8 seconds left in the first period.

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Ty Stevenson (McK) vs. Joe Yale (Hpa)

Winner: Stevenson

Stevenson, the No. 1 seed appeared not to even break a sweat against Yale, the No. 3 seed. Stevenson put on a clinic, gaining a 12-1 advantage before finally picking up the 17-2 technical fall victory. Stevenson was named the lower-weight MVP.

119

Merk Robbins (Hpa) vs. Jordan Lacey (DN)

Winner: Robbins

Early into the match, Robbins looked Lacey in a grapevine-like hold and took a 5-0 lead. Robbins continued to remain on top and used his legs to wrap Lacey's upper body in a vice-grip before finally getting the pin in the second period with one minute and 14 seconds left on the clock.

125

Gabe Miclette (SF) vs. Greg Kirby (DN)

Winner: Miclette

Kirby got things going with a takedown early and Miclette answered with a down of his own. The score was tied 4-4 in the second period before Miclette trapped Kirby's shoulders to the mat for the pinfall victory with 1:37 left on the clock.

130

Shane Endemano (DN) vs. Louis Coscoe (Hpa)

Winner: Endemano

Coscoe got the crowd pumped when he did a front flip with Endemano hanging on to his waist which turned into a headlock and a near pinfall. However, Endemano used his strength to take a 7-3 victory at the end of the third period.

135

Lloyd Poston (McK) vs. Chad Bond (DN)

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Winner: Poston

Poston was the aggressor in this match from the get-go and got the pin with 57.8 seconds left in the first period.

140

Jon Joiner (Eur) vs. Chance Carpenter (Hpa)

Winner: Joiner

Two evenly matched wrestlers went the distance in this one. Carpenter hurt his right shoulder at the end of the second period with the score 6-5 in favor of Joiner. Joiner was able to finally get the pin with score tied at 8 with 27.6 seconds left in the third and final period.

145

Jake Cruz (Eur) vs. Orion Cosce (Hpa)

Winner: Cruz

Cruz took his time, getting points and staying patient to take the victory in the third period.

152

Steven Yale (Hpa) vs. Kyle Christiansen (Eur)

Winner: Yale

With a 0-0 stalemate in the first period, this appeared to be anyone's matchup. That is, until Yale flipped Christiansen over in the second period, wrapped up the Loggers' legs and secured the pinfall win with 1:24 left in the second period.

160

David Kelly (Hpa) vs. Nate Cady (McK)

Winner: Kelly

Another match that went the distance. Kelly was able to wrap up Cady with 59.3 seconds left in the final period to get the pinfall win.

171

Brennen Powell (Eur) vs. Kai Lemrise (DN)

Winner: Lemrise

The score was tied 5-5 at the end of one period and Powell held a 9-5 lead in the second. Lemrise, the eventual upper-weight MVP, didn't panic. He was able to get Powell on his back for the pinfall with 24.5 seconds left in the second period.

189

Morgan Greer (McK) vs. Cory Thornton (Eur)

Winner: Thornton

Another upset. Thornton, the No. 3 seed beat the top-seeded Morgan at the end of three periods 4-1. The victory sealed the team title for Eureka. If Thornton had lost this match, and Hoopa had won out, the Warriors would be the team champ by half-a-point.

215

Eric Snipes (Eur) vs. Jacob Ford (Hpa)

Winner: Snipes

Ford battled tough, but was unable to get any holds or takedowns on Snipes. Snipes got two near pinfalls but eventually won after three periods 12-0.

285

Matt Buckman (Eur) vs. Chris Valley (McK)

Winner: Valley

The battle of the big men went the distance. With this one being the rubber match (the record between the two was 1-1), Valley used escapes and a takedown to walk away a 4-2 winner.