**SectionIXWrestling.com  
NYS Championships Tournament Preview (152 through 285)**

**152 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| Brian Realbuto, a 2X state champion from Somers (S1), is the wrestler to beat at 152. The Cornell bound Realbuto, currently ranked 7th in the nation by Intermat, has only one blemish on his record this year; an 8-5 loss to in the ESC finals to Long Beach’s Dylan Palacio. Palacio decided to bump up to 160 for the state tourney so there will be no rematch. To put into perspective just how dominating Realbuto has been this year, consider the fact that he pinned the 2nd seeded wrestler in this weight class, Nicky Hall (Longwood, S11) in 1:48 of their ESC semifinal bout. John Keck (SWR, S11), Steven Maier (Spencerport, S5), and Ryan Bedross (Warwick, S9) are also very solid wrestlers. On paper, the title is Realbuto’s to lose. Fortunately, matches are not wrestled on paper. | Three wrestlers stand out at 152 D2. Appropriately, they are the top three seeds. Ben Haas (Salamanca, S6) is a returning state champion from 145 and he is the #1 seed. He is 38-1 this year and his only loss is to the #3 seed in this bracket, Tristan Hamner of Medina. Haas avenged that loss beating Hamner 14-11 in the S6 finals. Hamner finished 3rd in NYS last year at 152. The #2 seed is also no stranger to the state championship tourney. Derek Pfluger (Sandy Creek, S3) will be making his 5th trip to the big dance. He finished 3rd in 2008 @ 103, 3rd in 2009 @ 119, 1st in 2010 @ 135, and 2nd in 2011 @ 140. He is 40-0 this year with 35 pins, 1 tech fall, 2 majors, and 2 forfeits….bonus points in every match! This weight will be fun to watch! |

**160 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| Dylan Palacio from Long Beach (S8) is having a magical season. He is 37-0 with 18 pins and 11 techs. His season, up to this point, has been highlighted by an upset victory over Bryan Realbuto in the 152 lb. final of the ESC. After the ESC, Palacio decided to move up to 160 for the remainder of the season. For Palacio to finish the season undefeated, though, he’ll have to beat some tough customers. Connor Sutton (LaSalle, S2) was a state champ at 140 last year and is in the same side of the bracket as Palacio. In the bottom half of the draw, Long Islanders Tyler Grimaldi (HHHW, S11) and Joe Cataldo (MacArthur, S8) will make strong runs at the finals. Other wrestlers to watch are Frank Affronti (Wayne, S5) and Jorje Jimenez (GSC, P). Affronti’s only loss this season has been at 170 to Burke Paddock and was this year’s ESC champ. Jimenez’s only loss was a medical default at the ESC. | Chris Nevinger is a defending state champ, he is nationally ranked, and he has won over 130 consecutive high school matches. The Buffalo bound senior is clearly the #1 seed and favorite at 160 lbs. That said…there are some very good wrestlers who stand in his way. The #2 and #4 seeds both come from S3 and are both formidable. Jared Soule (Sandy Creek) has a 35-2 record this year and Tyler Silverthorn (General Brown) is 44-2 with both of his losses coming to Soule. Aaron Dudley of Hudson Falls is seeded 3rd and he sports an impressive 43-1 record with his only loss coming to Affronti in the ESC final. Mike Beckwith of Greene (S4) grabbed the #5 seed and he has yet to lose this year in 19 matches. |

**170 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| 170 is another wide-open weight class in D1. Only a few of the contestants at this weight are returning state qualifiers and none have ever placed. Some of the names to watch for here are Dan Spurgeon (Plainedge, S8), Rrok Ndokaj (Farrell, C), Shayne Brady (Carthage, S3), Dylan Seybolt (Longwood, S11), and Stephen Lumley (South Glens Falls, S2). Spurgeon has been dominating his opponents this year. He is 46-0 with 26 pins. Ndokaj and Seybolt both placed at the ESC. Brady is 35-1 with his only loss coming to Burke Paddock. Lumley hasn’t lost since his 8-7 defeat at the hands of Mike Beckwith in the Clyde Cole finals. Also look out for Collin Casey (Washingtonville, S9) and Mike Hewitt (Queensbury, S2). Both are very tough wrestlers who are looking to make a statement in Albany. | Arguably the toughest weight in either division, 170 D2 is stacked! When Burke Paddock (Warsaw, S5) is the #4 seed, you know that your weight class is loaded. Top seeded Nick Mitchell (Frewsburg, S6) has beaten Paddock and second seeded Marcus Dwaileebe (Olean, S6) this year. Third seeded Zack Zupan is 39-1 this year with his only loss happening at the ESC finals, a 4-0 decision to Eric Morris, one of the best 170 pounders in the country. The aforementioned Paddock, only a sophomore and a state runner-up at 160 last year, is the #4 seed. The depth doesn’t end there….seeded 5th is Troy Seymour of Peru (S7). Seymour is undefeated and has posted impressive victories over D1 state qualifiers Mike Hewitt and Bilal Hasan. Just for good measure, 6th seeded Ryan Walcott (Waverly, S6) is 32-6 with 5 of hiss losses coming at either 182 or 195. This weight class will be worth the price of admission. |

**182 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| We could possibly see history made at 182 this weekend. If top-seeded McZiggy Richards from Wingate is able to win this weight class, he would be the first ever PSAL wrestler to be crowned as a state champion. To accomplish this, he is going to have to navigate his way through a very tough field of wrestlers. Second seeded Matt Lashway (Queensbury, S2) was a state finalist last year and has only lost on the mat once this year, a 3-2 loss to Richards at the ESC before he was forced to medical forfeit out of the tournament. Jacob Berkowitz (Scarsdale, S1) is 48-2 this year and placed 4th at the ESC. This weight is littered with tough wrestlers who all have a chance stepping on the podium including James Benjamin (Vestal, S4), Andrew Jones (Plainedge, S8), Gio Santiago (Sachem North, S11), Nick Bellanza (John Glenn, S11) and Bilal Hasan (VC) and Anthony Sannella (MV) from S9. | The top 3 seeds at 182 D2 are very good; however the top seed really stands apart from the rest of the pack…and for very good reason. Tony Lock (Pioneer, S6) is the #1 seed and rightfully so. He is 47-0 including a dominating performance in the ESC where he teched McZiggy Richards in the finals 15-0. Richards is the #1 seed at 182 for D1. The 2nd seed here is Keegan Cerwinski from Greene (S4); he is 32-3 with one of his losses coming to Richards. 3rd seeded Tim Schaefer from Warsaw (S5) is 43-4 with one of his losses coming to Cerwinski. Bill Koemel from Immaculate Heart Central (S3) is the #4 seed. He has had a very nice season going 39-2 with both of his losses coming at 170 not 182. |

**195 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| Top seeded Tony Fusco (Shenedehowa, S2) is a solid favorite in the 195 lb. weight class. He is 33-0 and has defeated the 2nd seeded wrestler, Reggie Williams (Johnson City, S4) twice this season. Fusco is a 2X qualifier and placed 4th last year at 189. William's only two losses this year have been to Fusco. Some other wrestlers to watch at 195 are Mike Spinelli (Mahopac, S1), Deon Edmund (Kingston, S9), and Zac Conner (Islip, S11). Spinelli only has two losses to D1 opponents this year….both to Williams. Edmund’s only loss of the entire season was a dq at the ESC to D2 stud Austyn Hayes, while Conner is undefeated at 29-0 this year. Jesse Kozub (Brockport, S5), Jake Kelly (Niagara Wheatfield, S6), and Pavel Gorelov (Warwick, S9) should also not be overlooked. All three are previous state qualifiers and Kozub finished 5th at 215 last year. | Many anticipated 195 D2 being a 4-wrestler showdown between Austyn Hayes (Phoenix, S3) and Zack Diekel (Whitehall, S2), Bryce Mazurowski (Avon, S5), and John Nickerson (Maple Grove, S6) ….then came Ryan Todd. Todd from S4 Lansing has finished 2nd in NYS the past two years. He wrestled at 182 for half of the year but has decided to compete at 195 for the states. Todd, who is the #1 seed, is 28-1 this year with his only loss coming to Keegan Cerwinski from Green at 182. Hayes is 38-1 having only lost in the ESC finals to Fusco from Shenedehowa. During the Classic, he majored Diekel 10-1. Diekel is a 2X state place winner and is 36-2 for the season. His only losses are to Fusco and Hayes. Mazurowski and Nickerson cannot be overlooked. Both only have 1 loss this year …. Both losses have been to Tony Lock. |

**220 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| With no single wrestler standing out from the rest of the pack, 220 could wind up being one of the more hotly contested weights in Albany this year. The top two seeds hail from the western part of NY with John Lackey (Fairport, S5) grabbing the #1 slot and Max Antone (Niagara Wheatfield, S6) at #2. Lackey sports a 36-1 record with his only loss coming to Fusco. Antone has only tasted defeat 3 times this year, twice to Lackey and once to Kozub (195 qualifier). Several other wrestlers have had outstanding season and are looking for the top step of the podium. Dom DeVita (Somers, S1), Jon Babson (LaSalle, S2), Derrek Dalton (Indian River, S3), Andrew Auriemma (St. Anthony’s, C), and Patryk Kopczynak (Brooklyn Tech, P) are just a few of the wrestlers at 220 with genuine chances of winning the title. It is truly a wide-open weight. | Kyle Stanton from Greene (S4) is the clear favorite at 220 D2. He is 33-2 this year and both of his losses are to AJ Vizcorrando, a nationally ranked wrestler from Wyoming Seminary. Stanton placed 4th in NYS @ 215 last year. He has had some big wins this year over quality opponents including Patryk Kopczynak, Dom DeVita and Nick Talcott (Tioga, S4). The second seeded Talcott, who is 33-4 for the year, lost to Stanton by a narrow 3-2 decision in the S4 finals. Zack Bacon (Hornell, S5), who is seeded 3rd, is having a great year as well. He is 28-1 with his only loss coming at the hands of Bryce Mazurowski. |

**285 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| Last year’s 285 lb. D1 state final was one of the more exciting heavyweight bouts in recent memory. This year’s heavyweight bracket is filled with wrestlers who are both strong athletic so we may be in for another exciting finale in Albany this year. Top seeded Ethan Stanley (Saugerties, S9) placed third at this year’s ESC and only lost 1-0 to eventual champ Michael Johnson from Wyoming Seminary. Other wrestlers with state-title talent from the top half of this bracket include Tyler Bayer (Union Endicott, S4), Evan Kappatos (Syosset, S8), Dante Salkey (Uniondale, S8), and Seth Stauble (Kingston, S9). With Cole Lampmann (Shenedehowa), Corey Quintana (Mohonosen), and El Shadder Gilmore (Columbia), S2 has three legit title contenders all in the bottom half of the bracket. David Varian (Yorktown, S1), Pat Carroll-Marsh (Liverpool, S3), and Brandon Lanthrop (Kenmore West, S6) will also make some noise at 285 this weekend! | Although perhaps not as deep as the D1 field of heavyweights, the top few wrestlers at D2 285 class are awesome. Top seeded Kacee Sauer of Holly (S5) is on a mission. Sauer has been to the states for the past 3 seasons at this weight and has finished 2nd the past two seasons. He is undefeated on the mat this year although his record shows three losses due to medical forfeit at the ESC. Second seeded Hayden Head (Beekmantown, S7) has been equally impressive this year. His only two losses of the season have been to S9 wresters Ethan Stanley and Seth Stauble. Head, a 2X state qualifier, also has a victory over Stauble. A few other names to throw out there at this weight are Brandon Fayle (Lowville, S3), Brian Ervin (Verona Sherrill, S3), James Merritt (Owego, S4), and Dan Ognibene (Alexander, S5). |

