**SectionIXWrestling.com  
NYS Championships Tournament Preview (99 through 145)**

**99 lbs**.

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| For good reason, many fans are hoping for a finals showdown between defending state champion Kyle Kelly from Chenango Forks (S4) and ESC champ Jose Rodriguez from Wantagh (S8). Both wrestlers are undefeated and have been absolutely dominating this year. This weight class, however, is not a two-horse race. Section 11 has three legit contenders with Alex Tanzman (S11 champ, Westhampton Beach), Joe Calderone (A3, Walt Whitman), and Steven Lee (A4, West Babylon) all being in the hunt for a title. S5 champ Jonathan Haas (Spencerport), S5 wildcard Bryan Lantry (Wayne), and S9 champ Gerard Daly (Minisink Valley) are also wrestlers who could on top of the podium. | This will be an interesting weight to watch because very few of the contestants have wrestled each other. Oxford Academy’s Joe Nelson will definitely be in the hunt. He has only one loss this season and that was at 106 to a state qualifier from S3. Some other wrestlers to watch are Luis Weirebach (Hoosick Falls, S2), Alex Herringshaw (Holland Patent, S3), Tony Recco (Lyndonville, S5), Nick Casella (Locust Valley, S8), and Andrew Flanagan (Holley, S5). Nearly every loss that each of them has suffered this year has been either to another state qualifier, at 106, or both. A Nelson-Casella final could be a highlight reel match! |

**106 lbs.**

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| Nick Piccininni of Ward Melville (S11) has been dominating this year. He is 41-0 and has scored bonus points in 37 of those matches. Interestingly, though, he has not wrestled any of the other state qualifiers at 106. This weight is one of the deepest in the tournament sporting wrestlers with both incredible records as well as previous state tourney experience. Mike Parise (Brewster, S1), Corey Ali (Shen, S2), Jimmy Overhiser (Corning, S4), Barton Peters (Brockport, S5), Anthony Orefice (Lockport, S6), Justin Cooksey (MacArthur, S8), Johnny Stramiello (Pine Bush, S9), Nathan Marshall (Massena, S10), Freddy Dunau (St. Anthony’s, C), Krishna Sewkumar (Long Beach, 8), Bryan Ruggeri (Fairport, S5), Dominic Inzana (Saratoga, S2), Mike Raccioppi (Minisink Valley, S9)….need I say more. This weight is stacked and any one of the aforementioned wrestlers could end up on the top step of the podium on Saturday night! | Does Ryan Snow (General Brown, S3) get another shot at Lucas Malmberg (Marathon, S4)? These two grapplers met in the state finals last year and it was all Malmberg with a 12-2 major decision. Both of Malmberg’s losses this year came to top notch kids at the ESC where he placed 4th. Snow has yet to lose at 106 this year, and both of his losses at 113 were to state qualifiers. However, in order for Malmberg vs. Snow II to take place, both wrestlers have some major competition to fight through. Cody Carberry (Chittenango, S3) took Snow to his limit losing 3-1 in their sectional final. He was also a state qualifier last year placing 6th at 96 lbs. Corey Hollister (Perry, S5), Kyler Agoney (Peru, S7), Michael Menzer (Center Moriches, S11), and Cheik Ndiaye (Brooklyn International, P) are also returning state qualifiers. Drew Marra (Olean, S6) could fly under the radar and make some noise at this weight as well. |

**113 lbs.**

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| 113 is another absolutely loaded weight class at D1. Mark Raghunandan (Long Beach, S8) and Dylan Realbuto (Somers, S1) are defending state runner ups. The two also met in the finals of this year’s ESC won by Raghunandan. Vincent Deprez (Hilton, S5) is undefeated and has been impressive; however he has not wrestled any other qualifiers at this weight. Brandon Lapi (Amsterdam, S2), Thomas Hill (Fulton, S3), Jacob Green (Chenango Forks S4), TJ Kreider (Cornwall, S9), Pat Skinner (Kellenberg, C), Santo Caratolo (Tottenville, P), and Robert Person (Bellmore JFK, S8) have all been to the states before. Huntington’s Corey Jamison (S11) has not, however he does have victories this year over Lapi, Green, and 2011 D2 Champ William Koll. Oh yeah, did I mention that Realbuto is heading to Albany via wildcard….he was pinned in the S1 tournament by Alex DeLaCruz of Ossining. 113 will be a war! | 4 of the top 5 finishers from 2011 @ 103 are in this year’s tournament at 113. Throw in last year’s #3 and #4 @ 96, the #4 @ 112 and you have an absolutely stacked weight class! William Koll (Lansing, S4) beat John Aslanian (Edgemont, S1) in last year’s final at 103. Dylan Stowell (Gouverneur, S10) came in 3rd and Laken Cook finished 5th. Sean Peacock (Midlakes, S5) finished 3rd and Cody MacGregor (Tonawanda, S6) 4th at 96 last year. Warsaw’s Austin Keough (S5) finished 4th at 112 last year. Two other wrestlers to watch are Jack Leguelaff (Oyster Bay, S8), Kyler Harrington (Hudson Falls, S2), and Ryan Kromer (Lewiston Porter, S6). Leguelaff has lost to D1 studs Raghunandan 7-4 and Cooksey 3-0…he’s for real. All of Harrington’s losses have been to D1 state qualifiers, and Kromer beat MacGregor en route to winning the S6 title. |

**120 lbs.**

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| Long Island versus the rest of the state. LI has four wrestlers with legit shots at the crown. John Lanzillotti (Roslyn, S8) has only one loss…a loss he avenged twice including the county finals. Matt Leshinger (Sayville, S11) had an incredible state qualifier defeating Sean McCabe (Connetquot), Mark West (Hauppauge), and TJ Fabian (Shoreham Wading River). McCabe and Fabian received wildcards while West, a 2010 state champ, did not. Off the “island” there was also a few other 120 pound grapplers laying groundwork for a trip to Albany. Derrick Gray (Indian River, S3), Rocco Russo (Frontier, S6), Brady Baron (Pittsford, S5), Justin Corradino (Warwick, S9), and Steve Michel (Lancaster, S6) all have state-level experience and they can all wrestle with the best LI has to offer. | Few would be surprised if the D2 state final at 120 was a re-match of the Section 5 D2 super sectional final Sam Recco (Lyndonville) and Jeff O’Lena (East Rochester). Recco won the match 3-0 and also beat O’Lena earlier in the year by a 1-0 margin. Actually the only match Recco lost all year was in the finals of the ESC to Wyoming Seminary’s Evan Botwin. In the ESC, Recco beat S11 D1 champ Matt Leshinger as well as S2 D1 champ Zack Joseph. Other wrestlers to watch here are Zach Marcel (Corinth, S2), Pat Webster (Adirondack, S3), Scott Stafford (Sidney, S4), and Dakota Gardner (Fredonia, S6). Eric Januszkiewicz of New Paltz (S9) has flown under the radar most of the year. He only has two losses and has a real chance to open some eyes in Albany this year. |

**126 lbs.**

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| Although there are quite a few top notch wrestlers here, the four wrestlers that everyone wants to see in the semis are Sam Speno (Fox Lane, S1) and Alec Dierna (Webster Schroeder, S5) coming through the top half of the bracket with Travis Passaro (Eastport South Manor, S11) and Dylan Caruana (Kenmore West, S6) down below. These four will have no free pass to the finals…Giovanni Sanchez (Central Islip, S11), Sam Melikian (Fordham Prep, C), Tom Murphy (Monroe Woodbury, S9), and Antonio DeLuco (Rome Free Academy, S3) have all had great years and have their sights set on that top step of the podium at the Times Union Center. | There are some really good wrestlers in this weight class. Corey Dake (Lansing, S4), Noah Valastro (Hudson Falls, S2), Drew Longo (Ardsley, S1), Ryan Arnel (Oyster Bay, S8), and Renaldo Rodriguez (Cheektowoga, S6)…all top notch wrestlers. This weight class, however, has two wrestlers that stand out from the rest. Nick Tighe (Phoenix, S3) and Tristan Rifanburg (Norwich, S4) are on a crash-course for a finals match-up that will bring down the house. Tighe is the 2011 NYS Champ at 119 and he placed 5th in 2010. Rifanburg was 2nd at 112 last year and was the NYS Champion at 96 pounds in 2010….as a 7th grader. |

**132 lbs.**

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| **DIVISION 1** | **DIVISION 2** |
| One of the most anticipated matches of the year could take place at 132….surprisingly; the match would take place in the semifinals though. Due to their seeds, undefeated Nick Kelley of Shenedehowa (S2) and Jamel Hudson of St. Anthony’s (C) could possibly have a semifinal showdown that will have all eyes on their mat. Neither wrestler, however, will have an easy trip as Hudson will likely meet Lancaster’s Eric Lewandowski (S6) in the quarters while Kelley would have to battle Hauppauge’s Nick Mauriello (S11). Whoever gets through the brutal bottom half of this bracket will probably have to contend with either Danny Ventura (Fox Lane, S1) or James Porteus (Brockport, S5). The six wrestlers standing on the podium at 132 will all be Division 1 college wrestling prospects. | Not to be outdone by their D1 counterparts, D2 at 132 is loaded with talent. The bottom half of the bracket may shape up as a rematch of the Section 6 finals if Kevin Strong (Frewsburg) and Tom Page (Eden) are able to make through. Page is 46-1 this year with his only loss being a 1-0 loss to Strong back in December. Page avenged that loss in the S6 finals. Top-seeded Wes Blanding (Chittenango, S3) could possible lock horns with 2009 NYS Champ Jacob Goddeau of Peru (S7) in a day 1 quarterfinal match-up that will turn some heads. Curt Rowley (Duanesburg, S2), David Occhipinti (Croton Harmon, S1), Collin Dimler (Rondout Valley, S9) and Connor Lapresi (Lansing, S4) should not be overlooked as all have had outstanding seasons. |

**138 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| The 138 pound weight class in D1 is perhaps the most wide open weight class in the tournament. There are at least 8 wrestlers with legitimate shots at winning the weight and at least another two or three who would I would consider “slight” underdogs if they were to win. The top four seeds at 138 hail from Long Island starting with Wantagh’s Dan McDevitt (S8) and followed by three S11 wrestlers namely Malik Rasheed (Longwood), Alexis Blanco (Brentwood), and James Dekrone (John Glenn). There is not much of a drop off in seeds 5-8 with David Almaviva (Shen, S2), Mike Feeney (Lockport, S6), Shane Connolly (Warwick, S9), and Angelo D’Angelis (Spencerport, S5). Aaron Benedict (Jamesville Dewitt, S3), Adam Wallace (Fulton, S3), and Tom Grippi (Fox Lane, S1) can also make some waves in this weight. | Quinton Murphy (Holley, S5) has been to the state finals in each of the last 4 years….he has finished 1,2,1,1. It is going to take an extraordinary effort by one of the other 15 wrestlers in this bracket to prevent him from adding a coveted 4th state title to his resume. Murphy is the 3rd ranked 138 wrestler in the country and has already agreed to wrestle for D1 Indiana next Fall. Barring an upset, the biggest test for Murphy will come in the finals against Anthony Finnocchiaro of Canastota (S3). Finnocchiaro, who finished 3rd NYS in 2011 @ 130, is tough as nails and is not the type of wrestler who will be intimidated by Murphy’s credentials. Another wrestler to watch here is Isaiah Riccio from Beaver River (S3). Riccio only tasted defeat twice this season including a 1-0 loss to Finnocchiaro in the S3 finals. |

**145 lbs.**

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| **Division 1** | **Division 2** |
| The 145 weight class in D1 belongs to Jimmy Kloc of Iroquois (S6) until someone steps up and takes it from him. Kloc is the defending state champion at this weight and is 44-1 this year with his only loss coming at 152 to Tyler Button (Phoenix, S3) back on December 3rd. He won the ESC this year with a hard fought 7-6 victory over Dale White (John Jay EF, S1). White lost his S1 final this year to Mike Caputo (N. Rockland) but was able to get one of the 4 wildcards. Kloc’s biggest obstacle to defending his title may come in the semifinals against Evan Wallace from Columbia (S2). Wallace is 47-0 this year with 31 pins. Longwood’s Corey Rasheed (S11) sports an impressive 32-2 record this year and is always a dangerous opponent. | Do not be surprised if the final match here is a re-match of the Section 3 final pitting Nathan Silverthorn of General brown against Tyler Button of Phoenix. Silverthorn beat Button 4-3 to finish the season 46-0 with 23 pins. Actually, Silverthorn hasn’t lost a match since the 3rd/4th place match at last year’s state tournament when he dropped a 9-3 decision to….you guessed it, Tyler Button! Do not expect the rest of the field to lie down though. Kyle Halliday of Chenango Valley (S4) only has one loss this year and that was at the Clyde Cole to a wrestler from Wyoming Seminary. Another S3 wrestler, Mitch Janes from Port Byron, only has two losses this year…one to Button and one to Silverthorn! Also keep an eye on Letchworth’s Austin Hedges (S5) and Olean’s Jake Baer (S6). |