



# FULTON WRESTLING



*Proud of the Past - Working for the Future*

February 4, 2013

## Raiders Take Class A Title

*Team Performance In Wrestlebacks Fuels Improbable Win*

Friday morning, Coach Chris Stalker knew his team would have to really step up to beat the favored Indian River team and keep the Section III Class title in Fulton where it has resided for more than a generation. The Warriors had ten top three seeds to Fulton's seven going into Saturday's tournament. By the end of the day Friday, a win seemed even more unlikely as Brennan Roberge injured his ankle in the closing seconds of practice. Stalker's team now had just six wrestlers seeded among the top three and no entry at 285 lbs.

But it was a determined Fulton team that wrestled Saturday and when Saturday's quarter-final round ended, the Raiders and Warriors were tied in the team score. The fight for the Class A title was on. After the semi's, Indian River had seven wrestlers advance to the finals to Fulton's five and they led the Raiders by just 1/2 point. But the Warriors clearly held the advantage in winning the team title with seven finalists.

What happened next shocked Indian River as Fulton went on a run of wins and pins in the wrestle-backs and medal rounds that produced an insurmountable lead for the Raiders before the evening's finals.

All together Fulton sent fifteen wrestlers to the awards stand including first place finishes by Derek Owen, Mitch Woodworth and Brandon Hill. Tom Hill and Mike DeMauro placed second. Taking third were: Joe Abelgore, Jonathon Earl, Tim Holden, Aaron Yablonski, Ryan Hall, and Matt Marshall. Fourth place finishers were Andrew Yablonski, Sam Rios and Todd Oaks. Collin Flynn finished 6th.

Fulton's determination was on display all day long as the team racked up 41 bonus points in pins, tech falls and major decisions for a final score 221 1/2 to 177 1/2.

Coach Stalker was pleased with the team's effort and pointed to sophomore Matt Marshall in particular.

"The kids wrestled well. They faced some adversity again with Brennan getting injured but they didn't let that bother them. They were a determined bunch of kids today," said Stalker. "Matt Marshall had a great tournament. He had arthroscopic surgery on his knee three weeks ago. I didn't think he would even be in the tournament. He was unseeded but fought his way to a third place finish," said Stalker.



Matt Marshall

## Section III Class A Champs



Class A Champ Derek Owen



Class A Champ Mitch Woodworth



Class A Champ Brandon Hill