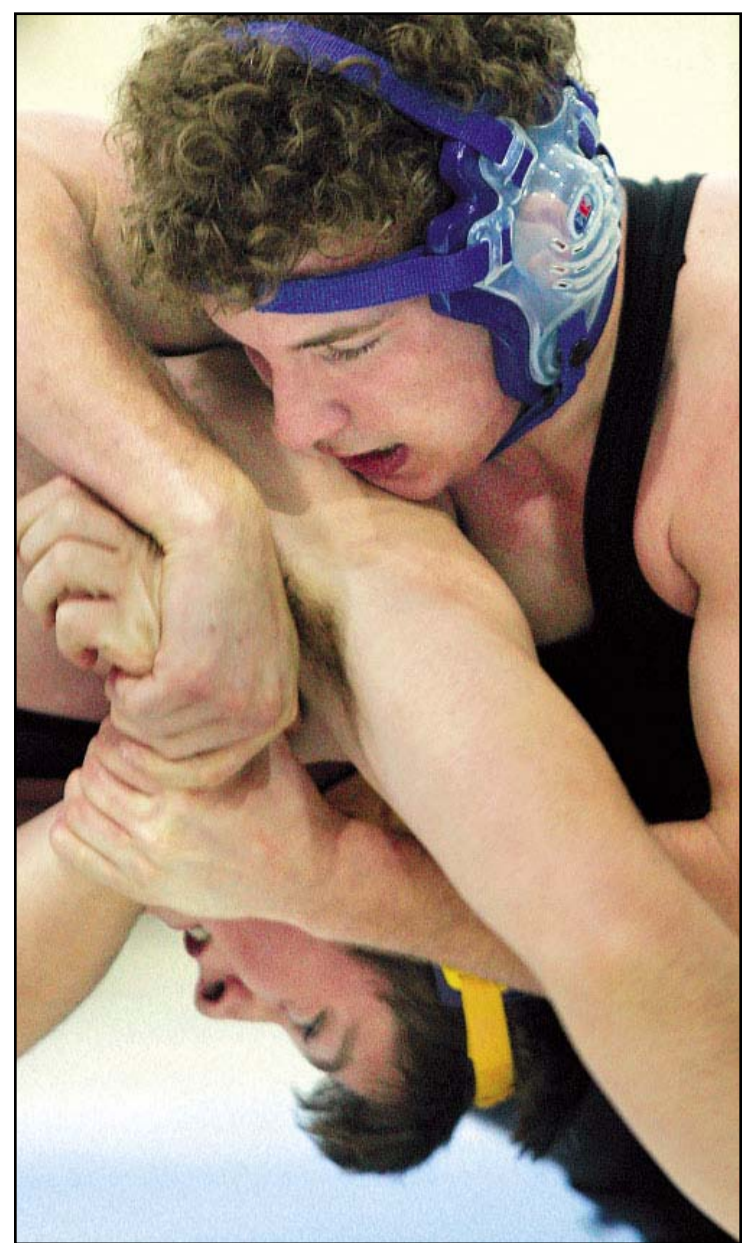


Settling mat matters

The state's fledgling high school wrestling programs met Saturday at Brinkley High School for the Arkansas Wrestling Association's first tournament

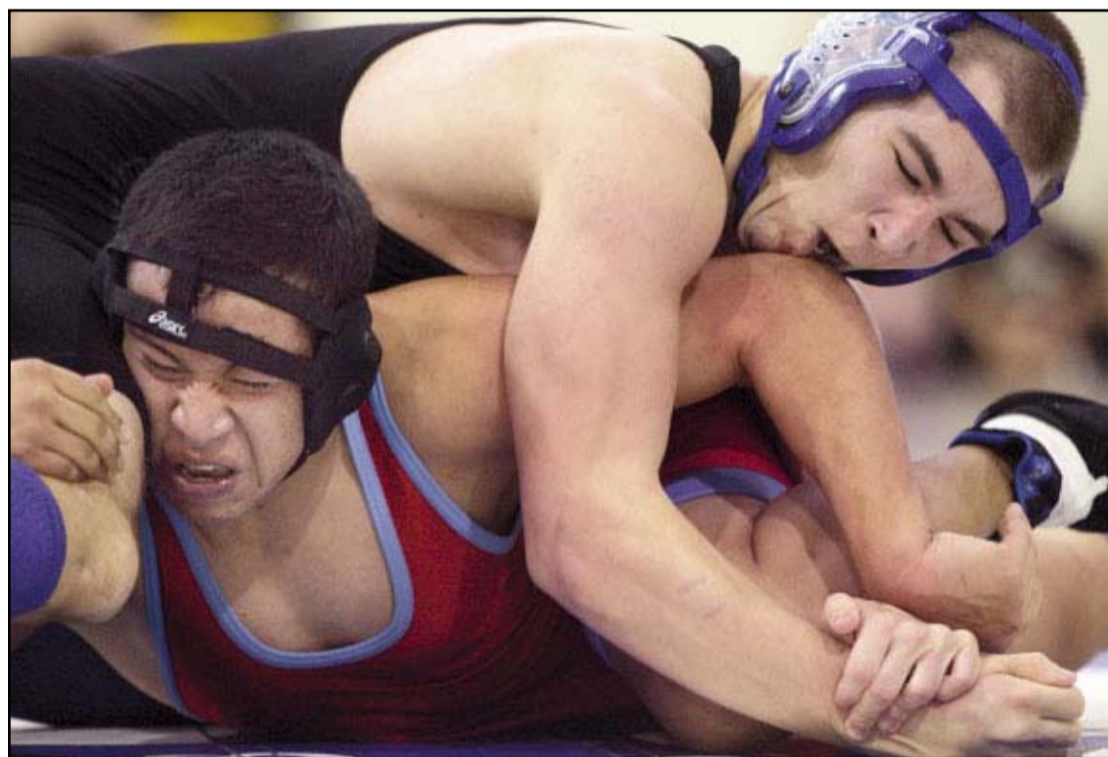


A referee watches for a pin during a match at the Arkansas Wrestling Association tournament Saturday at Brinkley High School. Hunter Butler (top) of Academics Plus Charter School attempts to pin Des Arc's Richard Farrish.



Bismarck's Shannon West (top) locks down on Jarod Thomas of Central Arkansas Christian in the 189-pound weight class.

Photos by Benjamin Krain



Michael Bailey of Bismarck (right) tries to gain advantage against Springdale's John Bautista on Saturday. Bailey won the match and earned top honors in the 171-pound weight class. Approximately 100 high school wrestlers participated in the tournament for the Arkansas Wrestling Association.

BRINKLEY INVITATIONAL

Tournament held Saturday at Brinkley High School:

- 103 POUNDS**
 1. Sean Sullivan, Bentonville
 2. Eric Yarberr, Ark. School for the Blind
 3. Kyle Fields, Bentonville
 4. Ethan Castleberry, Des Arc
 - 112 POUNDS**
 1. Jeremy Pilcher, Bismarck
 2. Dakota Smith, Bentonville
 3. Deondre Morman, Brinkley
 - 119 POUNDS**
 1. Taylor Weathers, Springdale
 2. Tylor Cox, Des Arc
 3. Jimmy Godwin, Bismarck
 - 125 POUNDS**
 1. Jody Brawdy, Ark. School for Blind
 2. Adam Irons, Bentonville
 3. Antonio Del-Rio, Ark. School for Blind
 4. Zephan Burg, Bentonville
 - 130 POUNDS**
 1. Kyle Coatney, Bentonville
 2. Nick Hopkins, Springdale
 3. Taylor Klackering, Bentonville
 4. T.J. Yarbrough, Brinkley
 - 135 POUNDS**
 1. Adam Cline, Little Rock Central
 2. Nickolas Hollaway, Des Arc
 3. Dillon Tillman, Bentonville
 4. Jonathon Nunez, Springdale
 - 140 POUNDS**
 1. Cotten Steen, Bentonville
 2. Gattin York, Springdale Har-Ber
 3. Gerrett Stebbin, Central Ark. Christian
 4. Brandon Hurst, Bentonville
 - 145 POUNDS**
 1. Mario Ramos, Bentonville
 - 152 POUNDS**
 1. Cody Conklin, Bentonville
 2. Justin Carnahan, Bismarck
 3. Chris Robe, Springdale Har-Ber
 4. Ricky Tatum, Brinkley
 - 160 POUNDS**
 1. Blake McCullum, Bentonville
 2. Tyler Edwards, Springdale
 3. Aaron Butler, Little Rock Central
 4. Ben Nichols, Bentonville
 - 171 POUNDS**
 1. Michael Bailey, Bismarck
 2. Zeke Tanner, Pulaski Academy
 3. Nick Rynders, Central Ark. Christian
 4. Trent Allen, Bismarck
 - 189 POUNDS**
 1. Eric Wilson, Ark. School for Blind
 2. Jarod Thomas, Central Ark. Christian
 3. Shannon West, Bismarck
 4. Alex Robinson, Bismarck
 - 215 POUNDS**
 1. Scott Hovious, Bentonville
 2. Kevin Sullivan, Central Ark. Christian
 3. Zeid Khalf, Bentonville
 4. Trip Guess, Des Arc
 - 285 POUNDS**
 1. Matt Holiday, Springdale
 2. Josh Anderson, Bentonville
 3. Kelvin Walker, Des Arc
 4. Todd Bono, Bismarck
- OUTSTANDING WRESTLER**
Cody Conklin, Bentonville, 152 pounds

High school wrestlers get things going at Association's inaugural tournament

BRINKLEY — Approximately 100 wrestlers participated in the first Arkansas Wrestling Association tournament Saturday at Brinkley High School.

The Brinkley Invitational awarded 56 medals in all 14 weight classes on Saturday. Bentonville's Cody Conklin took home the outstanding wrestler award in addition to winning the 152-pound weight class.

"It went a lot more smoothly than I anticipated," Brinkley Athletic Director Aaron O'Brien said. "We had a

lot of people working hard to make this a success."

O'Brien estimated that there were 150 people in attendance at the event.

There were wrestlers from Bentonville, Brinkley, Bismarck, Des Arc, the Arkansas School for the Blind, Springdale, Pulaski Academy, Central Arkansas Christian, Little Rock Central and Academics Plus Charter School in Maumelle.

"It's been a crazy day," O'Brien said. "But it was worth it."

AWA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	TOURNAMENT	SITE
Jan. 6	Russellville Invitational	Russellville
Jan. 13	Bentonville Invitational	Bentonville
Jan. 27	Arkansas School for Blind	Little Rock
Feb. 10	Central Arkansas Christian	Central Ark. Christian
Feb. 17	Fayetteville Invitational	Fayetteville
March 17	State tournament	Bentonville

SOURCE Arkansas Wrestling Association

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