

Early predictions by the Numbers

5A SC Wrestling 2020-2021

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Apologies in advance if I miscalculated points at the state tournament or missed a move of classification. Just want to provide some content as the season gets closer

The Ghost Town that is 5A Wrestling

Realignment took from 5A but gave nothing back. With the departure of five schools the field thins out just a bit. Couple that with graduation and you have only 51 of the 112 wrestlers from the 2020 state tournament coming back. So who is the team to beat? The numbers point to J. F. Byrnes High School. They return state champions Chris Compton and David Hunsberger as well as two other placer/qualifiers for a total of 59 points. River Bluff is the only other team to return four with experience from the 2020 state tournament. Coach Howard has been creating quite a solid group in Duncan, SC and if he can reload in the right places he will be poised for another run at the allusive state title the Rebels have been hunting for the past two years.

Contenders

I really do not know. Very little returners meaning very little data...which means I have to guess. With a new coach in Anthony Esposito and a couple of returning state champs (Thomas Snipes and Eyan McKnight) Hillcrest will continue to be in the way of Byrnes for that title. Hillcrest graduated a ton of kids and bring back 45.5 points from the 2020 and four Carolina Open JV champs. River Bluff also with a new coach (Joe Cummings) returns 27 points in four wrestlers but the ceiling is high for this group to score big points this year. Keep an eye on Summerville also. Coach Tucker has been bringing the Green Wave back to the dominant form they have been in the past. They bring back three wrestlers and 26 points. Heck, let's go down the rabbit hole; Ft. Dorchester has two returning champs, Matteo Vargo and Chandler Amaker, Fort Mill has a pair of placers from 2020 coming back as well. Don't forget about Coach (Kimrey) and White Knoll. They wrestled their brains out in the dual tournament last year and bring back three from the individual tournament. Can they match the improbable run from last year again?

Sleepers

EVERYBODY! The 5A state title will come down to a second year wrestler that a coach drug out from the hallways or bus rider line to complete his line-up. Who can put 14 wrestlers on the mat in the best position to win? I guess when I say it like that Cain Beard and Rock Hill come to mind first. He does a good job at bumping and finding the best match ups in his favor. They do only return one wrestler from the state tournament

but, as per the status quo, place in top 2 of the Carolina Open so Coach Beard has wrestlers to reload those empty weight classes.

School	Returning Individual State Points	Returning State Champions, Placers, Qualifiers
Byrnes	59	2-1-1
Hillcrest	45.5	2-0-1
Fort Dorchester	42	2-0-0
River Bluff	27	0-2-2
Summerville	26	0-2-1
Fort Mill	22	0-2-0
Sumter	18	0-1-1
Chapin	17.5	0-1-0
Rock Hill	16	0-1-0
White Knoll	11	0-1-2