

2004 Beast of the East

By Skip Parker

The 12th Annual Beast of the East held in the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware lived up to its reputation as the toughest tournament in the regular season. The top high school teams and top individual wrestlers were here en masse. Over 80 teams were represented. Very few wrestlers were safe in any seeding. The fact that only 7 of the 14 top seeded wrestlers went on to

win their weight class is evidence of that. Only a few wrestlers dominated their weight classes, most notably was Parkersburg's Brandon Rader, who allowed no one to go the distance at 135 to cop the title. Connor McDonald (103) and Dustin Schlatter (145) also turned in impressive performances, pinning or winning by technical falls over all opponents until the finals. Each won the champi-

onship match by the identical score of 10-4. The remaining weight classes were hotly contested. In this tournament wrestlers can either bring a reputation or establish one. There were sterling performances by a handful of unheralded wrestlers, who now have undoubtedly established a name for themselves.

As mentioned earlier, Connor McDonald easily won 103. Bishop Lynch