

Wrestling

Burgettstown quintet a historic combination



Burgettstown’s Fab 5: From left, Joseph Baronick, Dylan Slovic, Parker Sentipal, Gaven Suica and Rudy Brown. By the end of this weekend, all could have 100 career wins.

Five seniors at or near 100 career victories

By Ken Wunderley
Tri-State Sports & News Service

Gaven Suica and five of his Burgettstown High School wrestling teammates began wrestling in grade school for Burgettstown’s youth program. “We’ve been wrestling since first or second grade,” said Suica, a senior and four-year starter for Burgettstown. “We all decided to try wrestling. It was cool. And the more we won, the more we liked it.”

Suica and his five classmates have done a lot of winning since breaking into the Blue Devils starting lineup as promising freshmen in 2020. The six seniors have since combined to win more than 600 bouts for the Blue Devils.

Now, five of those seniors are about to make WPIAL history.

Suica and teammates Parker Sentipal, Rudy Brown and Joseph Barnick have all won more than 100 matches in their careers. Dylan Slovic has 97 and is likely to become the fifth member of the century club at Saturday’s Sharon Duals.

Only one other team in the history of WPIAL wrestling has had five seniors with 100 or more wins. That was Hampton’s class of 2013.

Burgettstown indeed has a Fab 5 this season.

“We knew when they were young that they would be hammers,” said Burgettstown coach Joey Vigliotti of his talented senior class. “It’s amazing to see what they have accomplished — and what they can accomplish in the final months of the season.”

Sentipal ranks first among the seniors in wins with 132.

“As we were coming up through the youth program and junior high, we saw it coming,” Sentipal said. “We saw that we could make an impact. Reaching 100 wins was something we were all capable of doing.”

The seniors have also helped Burgettstown enjoy team success. The Blue Devils have finished second, third and first in the WPIAL Class 2A team tournament the past three years and made three PIAA team tournament appearances.

“It’s an amazing achievement,” said Vergiotti. “I wish we could get Eric (Kovach) up to 100, but that will not be possible. He would have made it if it wasn’t for the COVID season.”

Schedules were cut significantly during the 2020-21 season because of COVID. Kovach, another senior, has 82 wins.

“Each of us missed out on approximately 20 bouts during our freshman year due to COVID,” Sentipal said. “My brother (Joey Sentipal) and I and maybe a few others would have shattered the school record if we would have had a full schedule that year.”

Burgettstown’s career wins leader is 2015 graduate Austin McDermitt, who had



Parker Sentipal, top, has the most wins among Burgettstown’s fabled senior class with 132.

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Parker Sentipal

a 153-32 record. With 132 career wins, Sentipal needs 22 to break the school record, which will be a tall task so late in the season.

Here is a quick look at Burgettstown’s six seniors with their career records in parentheses:

- Parker Sentipal (132-24) — Ranked No. 1 by the Post-Gazette at 133 pounds with a 21-4 record. He won a WPIAL title in 2022 and is a three-time PIAA qualifier and one-time medalist.
- Gaven Suica (119-36) — Ranked No. 2 at 139 pounds with a 21-4 mark. He is a three-time PIAA qualifier and one-time medalist.
- Rudy Brown (107-36) — Ranked No. 3 at 152 pounds with a 24-4 record. He has placed fourth in the WPIAL twice and made one appearance at Hershey for the PIAA tournament.
- Joseph Baronick (107-42) — Ranked No. 2 at 285 with a 20-4 mark. He is a two-time WPIAL finalist, a one-time champ and a two-time PIAA qualifier.
- Dylan Slovic (97-51) — Has a 15-11 record while competing at 127. He has been a top-six finisher in the WPIAL three times.
- Eric Kovach (82-51) — He is 16-10 while competing at 160. He is a two-time top-six finisher in the WPIAL.

Hampton’s five for 100

While Burgettstown’s quest to have five 100-match winners continues, former Hampton coach Joe Bursick had no idea his 2012-13 Talbotts squad did something no other WPIAL wrestling team had ever done. Five seniors from that Hampton squad eclipsed the 100-win plateau during their career. “That was a very talented team, but I didn’t realize we had five kids with 100 wins,” said Bursick, who led the

Talbots to a 260-137 record in 21 years as coach. “It’s cool to know that we are the only team to accomplish that feat.”

Jake Hart was the most successful of Hampton’s century club fivesome. He won WPIAL and PIAA titles that season and finished his career with a 143-21 record.

“Jake’s WPIAL and state titles were the most memorable moments from that season,” Bursick said. “He’s the second PIAA champ in Hampton history.”

The other four Talbots who reached the 100-win milestone in 2013 were Kevin Synan (126-37), Zach Kocak (106-34), Collin Siford (104-45) and Noah Shulman (100-31). Synan placed third in the WPIAL, Shulman placed fourth and Siford fifth.

They’d have had a sixth 100-win member had Brian Estep not moved to Alderidge for his senior year. Estep had 91 wins while wrestling at Hampton, then added 40 more there to finish with a 131-36 career record.

Century club notes

- There have been five other instances when a school had four century club members in the same graduating class. Those schools are West Allegheny (2001), Hempfield (2009), Burrell (2011) and Belle Vernon twice (2016 and 2017).
- Tom Klingensmith, a 1979 graduate of Penn-Trafford, was the first WPIAL wrestler to record 100 wins when he finished with a 113-8 record.
- The WPIAL century club has increased in size significantly over the years, especially in the past 20. It currently has more than 1,000 members.
- There are 94 WPIAL wrestlers who recorded 150 or more wins, 43 who posted 160 or more and only 16 who finished with 170 or more wins.
- Gerrit Nijenhuis, a 2015 Canon-McMillan graduate, owns the WPIAL record for career wins (181-16) Shady Side Academy graduates Dane Johnson (180-12) and Geoff Alexander (180-22) are tied for second.
- Canon-McMillan has the most century club members with 42 coming into this season. Connellsville is second with 40. Rounding out the top five are Waynesburg (37), Connellsville (33) and Burrell (32).

THURSDAY			MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		NEWS		TALK					
	8 PM		8:30		9 PM		9:30		10 PM		10:30		11 PM		11:30	
2 KDKA	Young Sheldon	Ghosts	So Help Me Todd "Wall of Fire"				SEAL Team "All Bravo Stations" (N) (SF)				News at Eleven (N)		(35) Colbert (N)			
4 WTAE	Press Your Luck "It's Nacho Night!" (N)		Truth and Lies: The Hunted (N)								Action News 4 (N)		(35) J. Kimmel (N)			
6 WJAC	Law "Human Innovation" (N)				Law-SVU "Truth Embargo" (N)				Law & Order (N)				WJAC News		(35) J. Fallon	
7 WTRF	Sheldon	Ghosts	So Help Me "Wall of Fire"				SEAL Team (N) (SF)				7News at (N)		(35) Colbert			
8 WWCP	Hell's Kitchen Brian Malarkey, Curtis Stone (N) (SF)		FOX 8 (N)				FOX 8 News		(05) Puzzler				(35) Puzzler			
9 WTOV	Law "Human Innovation" (N)				Law-SVU "Truth Embargo" (N)				Law & Order (N)				News (N)		(35) J. Fallon	
10 WTAJ	Sheldon	Ghosts	So Help Me "Wall of Fire"				SEAL Team (N) (SF)				News (N)		(35) Colbert			
11 WPXI	Law & Order "Human Innovation" (N)		Law & Order: SVU "Truth Embargo" (N)				Law & Order "Deliver Us From Evil" (N)				News (N) (Live)		(35) Tonight Show (N)			
13 WQED	From Pittsburgh to Poland: Lessons of the Holocaust				Repairing the World: Stories From the Tree of Life				Stories of Survival				Amanpour and Company (N)			
16 WINP	Chicago P.D. "Donde Vives"				Chicago P.D. "Pink Cloud"				Chicago P.D.				Chicago "Into the Deep"			
19 WPKD	Primetime News on KDKA+ (N)				48 Hours "Dark Side of Paradise" (N)				News (N)		(35) Nightly Sports Call		Housewife "Selling Out"		American Housewife	
21 WFMY	Law "Human Innovation" (N)				Law-SVU "Truth Embargo" (N)				Law & Order (N)				News (N)		(35) J. Fallon	
22 WPNT	Son of a Critch (N) (SP)	The Conners	The Conners		Children Ruin (N)		Court Cam		iCRIME - Vargas		The National		Desk (N) (Live)			
27 WKBN	Sheldon	Ghosts	So Help Me "Wall of Fire"				SEAL Team (N) (SF)				First News		(35) Colbert			
33 WYTV	Press Your Luck (N)				Truth and Lies: The Hunted (N)								News Chan.		(35) J. Kimmel	
40 WPCB	Visions of Hope (N) (Live)								Visions of Hope							
43 WUAB	Son of a (SP)	The Conners	The Conners		Children (N)		News (N)		(45) Sports		48 Hours (N)					
53 WPGH	Hell's Kitchen "And Then There Were Two: One Hell of An American Dream" Brian Malarkey, Curtis Stone (N) (SF)								Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)				Seinfeld "The Race"		Seinfeld	
59 WEPA	Frasier	Frasier	Roseanne		Roseanne		Roseanne		Roseanne		The Nanny		The Nanny			

PREMIUM CABLE					
HBO	*** The Flash ('23) Michael Keaton, Sasha Calle, Ezra Miller.			(:25) *** Anna ('19) Luke Evans, Cillian Murphy, Sasha Luss.	
HBO/2	* Time Bomb Y2K ('23)	(:25) ***** Flight ('12) Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly, Denzel Washington.			(:45) *** Focus ('15)
HBO/FAM	(7:00) *** Jurassic World ('15) Chris Pratt.	(:05) *** Teen Spirit ('18) Zlatko Buric, Rebecca Hall, Elle Fanning.	(:40) ** Our Family Wedding ('10) Forest Whitaker, Carlos Mencia, America Ferrera.		
MAX	*** Big Momma's House Nia Long, Paul Giamatti, Martin Lawrence.		(:40) ** Big Momma's House 2 ('06) Nia Long, Emily Procter, Martin Lawrence.		(:20) *** Scary Movie Shawn Wayans.
SHO	(:15) *** Golda ('23) Liev Schreiber, Camille Cottin, Helen Mirren.		The Woman in the Wall "Back to Life"		* The Wrath of Becky ('23) Lulu Wilson.
STARZ	(7:45) ***** Iron Man 3 ('13) Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr..		Power Book III: Raising Kanan "Where All Are Guilty"		(:55) ** Paper Man ('09) Emma Stone, Jeff Daniels.
STARZ-E	Power Book III	(:55) Hightown "Small Craft Warning"	(:45) Hightown "Fool Me Twice"	(:45) ***** The Northman ('22) Nicole Kidman, Claes Bang, Alexander Skarsgård.	
STZENC	Hightown	(:55) Hightown "Fool Me Twice" The whole Great White operation is exposed.		(:55) ** Speed 2: Cruise Control ('97) Jason Patric, Willem Dafoe, Sandra Bullock.	
STZ/ENCL	(7:25) ** Just Married ('03) Ashton Kutcher.	***** Identity ('03) Ray Liotta, Amanda Peet, John Cusack.		** Bulletproof ('96) Adam Sandler, James Caan, Damon Wayans.	
STZ/ENCW	(:55) Lawman "The Shelter" /(:20) * A Cowgirl's Story ('17) Chloe Lukasiak, Pat Boone, Bailee Madison.		*** Gunfight in Abilene ('67) Emily Banks, Leslie Nielsen, Bobby Darin.		***** The Tall T ('57)
STZ/ENSU	(7:30) ***** Linewatch ('08) Cuba Gooding Jr..		***** The Contractor ('07) Elizabeth Bennett, Charles Dance, Wesley Snipes.		(:40) *** Armored ('09) Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne, Matt Dillon.
TMC	**** Blue Velvet ('86) Isabella Rossellini, Dennis Hopper, Kyle MacLachlan.			** Basic Instinct 2 ('06) David Morrissey, Charlotte Rampling, Sharon Stone.	

BASIC, EXPANDED AND DIGITAL CABLE									
A&E	The First 48 "Think Twice" (N)		Taking the Stand "Travis Rudolph" (N)		(:05) Undercover: Caught on Tape "A World of Hurt" (N)		(:05) The First 48 "Truly Lost"		
AMC	**** 300 ('06) Lena Headey, David Wenham, Gerard Butler.					*** Clash of the Titans ('10) Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes, Sam Worthington.			
ANIM	I Was Prey		I Was Prey "Safari Horror"		I Was Prey "Deadly Decision"		I Was Prey		
ATTSP	Fight Sports: World Class Championship Boxing				United CFC Mursa, Part 2		World Poker Tour		
BBC	**** Star Trek Into Darkness ('13) Zachary Quinto, Karl Urban, Chris Pine. (P)				**** Starship Troopers				
BET	(:55) Neighbor	(:25) Neighbor	Tyler Perry's Sistas		The Oval "Dark Secrets"		Martin	Martin	
BRAVO	Southern Hospitality "Cat's Out of the Bag"		Southern Hospitality "A Match Made in Miami" (N)			Southern Hospitality "A Match Made in Miami"		Below Deck "High Steaks"	
CMT	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Mom	Mom	
CNBC	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		
CNN	Cooper 360 (N) (Live)		The Source With (N) (Live)		Laura Coates Live (N) (Live)		Laura Coates Live (N) (Live)		
COM	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	South Park	South Park	
C-SPAN	(5:00) Public Affairs Events								
DEST	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt	Lakefront Bargain Hunt
DFC	Treehouse Masters "Levitating Lighthouse"		Treehouse Masters "Record High Recording Studio"		Treehouse Masters "African Safari Hut"		Treehouse Masters "Sky High Redwood Retreat"		
DIS	Hailey's on It!	Hailey's on It!	Ladybug "The Puppeteer"	Miraculous: Ladybug	Miraculous: Ladybug	Ladybug "Animan"	Jessie	Jessie	
DSC	Caught!	Caught!	Caught! (N)	Caught! "Florida Man"	Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Caught! "Heists"	
DSC/INV	Scary "Jim Jones: Unholy Massacre, Part 2"		Scary "Son of Sam: The Duke of Death (Part 1)"		Very Scary People "Son of Sam: I Am a Monster (Part 2)"		48 Hours on ID "Gabby Petito - The Untold Story"		
E!	**** Old School ('03) Will Ferrell, Luke Wilson.				Botched "Got MILF?" (N)		E! News (N)		Botched
ESPN	Wm. Basketball South Carolina at LSU (N) (Live)				Aust. Open		Australian Open Men's Semifinals (N) (Live)		
ESPN2	(7:00) Basketball Purdue Fort Wayne at Northern Kentucky		College Basketball Western Illinois at Southern Indiana From Screaming Eagles Arena in Evansville, Ind. (N) (Live)				Them Dawgs		
ESPN2	(7:00) College Basketball		College Basketball San Francisco at Gonzaga (N) (Live)				SportsCenter (N) (Live)		
EWTN	The World Over "News" (N)		EWTN News	Rosary	Pro-Life (N)	Catholic	Women of	Battle Ready	
FNC	Jesse Watters (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News at Night (N) (Live)		
FOOD	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	
FREE FRM	(6:00) * Other Woman	**** Instant Family ('18) Rose Byrne, Octavia Spencer, Mark Wahlberg.						The 700 Club (N)	
FS1	NFL Films	Ali Madden			The Perfect 10			TMZ Sports	
FX	**** Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom ('18) Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeff Goldblum, Chris Pratt.								
	**** Zombieland: Double Tap ('19) Woody Harrelson.								