

CHOCTAW (Ft Walton Beach)

Coach: Josh Carroll, 1st year.

2021-22: 22-15 in duals. 5th at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 6th at Gator Brawl, 9th at 3rd Annual George Mulligan Memorial.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 7th, region 18th, T-66th at states. 2021 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 6th, 25th at region. 2020 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 7th, 29th at region.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Jacob Johns (senior, 26-29 at 126/132, did not compete in post-season traditional); Antonio Daquep (sophomore, 21-25 at 132, 1-2 at District 1); Lamar Rivera (5-16 at 132, did not compete in post-season traditional); Gavin Henegar (junior, 15-14 at 138, District 1 5th); Bohdin Fernandez (junior, 10-13 at 145, 0-2 at District 1); Garrett Younghanse (senior, 16-26 at 145, did not compete in post-season traditional); Bradack Carroll (sophomore, 39-17 at 152, District 1 5th); Teerachood Mahawongnan (sophomore, 10-29 at 160, 0-2 at District 1); Chris Bularon (senior, 23-22 at 170/182, did not compete in post-season traditional); Caden McKinney (junior, 45-17 at 195, District 1 6th); Roman Jackson (junior, 17-6 at 285, did not compete in post-season traditional).

Key losses (graduation): Deagan Kilpatrick (52-12 at 113, District 1 runnerup, Region 1 4th, 1 match from state medal); Eli Devoid (16-5 at 160, did not compete in post-season traditional); Samuel Santos (20-16 at 170, 0-2 at District 1); Jesse Sarver (24-15 at 182, District 1 6th); Chase Pelfrey (29-12 at 285, District 1 3rd, 2-2 at Region 1).

Matmen's take: Indians revamped their lineup a year ago, and the team results were somewhat predictable, although there were some wins to be found along the way. At the same time, though, Choctaw had its first individual boys state qualifier since 2018, so that was a positive. If they put in offseason work, they could move up ladder.

CRESTVIEW

Coach: Robby Gaines, 1st year.

2021-22: 5-7 in duals. 14th at Border Wars IX, 7th at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 4th at Gator Brawl, 10th at 3rd Annual George Mulligan Memorial, 14th at Big Bend Invitational.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 6th, T-29th at region. 2021 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 5th, 26th at region. 2020 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 6th, T-26th at region.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Logan Sims (junior, 13-25 at 113, 0-2 at District 1); James Metcalf (sophomore, 21-23 at 120, District 1 5th#, 0-2 at Region 1); Gary Gessendoff (junior, 22-24 at 126, District 1 4th, 0-2 at Region 1); Landon Brown (junior, 17-17 at 132, District 1 3rd, 2-2 at Region 1); Jacob Brokschmidt (senior, 11-12 at 138, District 1 6th); Marc Beurivage (senior, 16-25 at 145, District 1 5th); Christian Brito (senior, 4-14 at 152, 0-2 at District 1); Lance Sanders (senior, 4-18 at 152, did not compete in post-season traditional); Landon Davis (senior, 10-21 at 160, District 1 6th); Chris Greene (junior, 6-8 at 195, 0-2 at District 1); Anthony Boyer (senior, 9-20 at 285, did not compete in post-season traditional).

Key losses (graduation): Layne Franks (29-8 at 170, District 1 5th); Salvador Gallegos (27-18 at 182, District 1 5th); Caleb Sims (23-19 at 220, District 1 4th, did not compete at regions).

-- region qualifier per FHSAA schematic

Matmen's take: Bulldogs have a big group back, but only one of them has a win at last year's region tournament. Fortunately, graduation losses didn't put too big a dent into their chances, but the group needed much more preseason and offseason work in order to get the most of the big numbers they have a chance to return.

FT WALTON BEACH

Coach: Tobi Marez, 17th year.

2021-22: 8-9 in duals. 4th at Cam Brown Seminole Classic, 4th at Spartan (AL) Invitational, 5th at Scott Rohrer/Hoover (AL) Invitational, 1st at 3rd Annual George Mulligan Memorial, 4th at Big Bend Invitational, 10th at Spearfish Tournament.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District 4th; Traditional: District champ, region 4th, state T-16th. 2021 — Duals: District runnerup, region quarterfinalist; Traditional: District champ, region 8th, T-31st at states. 2020 — Duals: District runnerup, region quarterfinalist; Traditional: District runnerup, region 5th, T-28th at states.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Landon Burbidge (sophomore, 29-26 at 106, District 1 4th, Region 1 4th, 0-2 at states); Zak Vosburgh (junior, 34-13 at 113, District 1 champ, 1 match from states); Santiago Mayic (senior, 19-24 at 120, District 1 4th, did not compete at regions); Layne Lutz (junior, 9-24 at 126, District 1 6th); Patrick Casey (junior, 9-18 at 126/132, did not compete in post-season traditional); Caden Lutz (senior, 16-18 at 132, District 1 4th, 1-2 at Region 1); Matthew Sinclair (sophomore, 20-15 at 138, District 1 3rd, 0-2 at Region 1); Braxton Beard (sophomore, 11-24 at 138, did not compete in post-season traditional); Steven Banfield (senior, 36-19 at 145, District 1 3rd, 1 match from states); Alexander Davidson (senior, 40-11 at 152, District 1 runnerup, 2-2 at Region 1); Darius Brundidge (senior, 33-17 at 170, District 1 4th, 2-2 at Region 1); Connor Roberts (senior, 21-14 at 182, District 1 4th, 2-2 at Region 1); Carter Tobik (senior, 30-16 at 195, District 1 runnerup, 1 match from states).

Key losses (graduation): Marquis Muniz (31-15 at 160, District 1 champ, 2-2 at Region 1); Cedric Fairrow (44-0 at 220, District 1 champ, Region 1 champ, state CHAMPION); Spencer Mackenzie (40-10 at 285, District 1 champ, Region 1 3rd, 0-2 at states).

Matmen's take: It's always a loss to lose a state champion, but the loss of leadership up top will also be difficult to replace as well. Level of competition is well-established, though, and there's a lot in the cupboard coming back for the Vikings. The highlights may not be as high, but there will be solid team finishes.

GULF BREEZE

Coach: Dave Daily, 7th year.

2021-22: 15-6 in duals. 7th at Border Wars IX, 2nd at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 2nd at Joe Bees Memorial Battle of the Border, 5th at Big Bend Invitational, 7th at Braves Invitational.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District runnerup, region quarterfinalist; Traditional: District runnerup, region 8th, T-55th at states. 2021 — Duals: District semifinalist; Traditional: District runnerup, region 7th, T-49th at states. 2020 — Duals: District semifinalist; Traditional: District 3rd, region 12th, T-51st at states.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Alec Poole (junior, 13-17 at 106, District 1 3rd, 1 match from states); Colin Mastaw (sophomore, 5-12 at 106, did not compete in post-season traditional); Mashall Hobbs (sophomore, 10-14 at 113, District 1 3rd, 1-2 at Region 1); Coby Shields (junior, 40-15 at 120, District 1 runnerup, 1 match from states); Michael Mancuso (junior, 39-19 at 126, District 1 runnerup, Region 1 4th, 1 match from state medal); Colson Elliott (senior, 37-5 at 132, District 1 champ, 1 match from states); Garret Rudick (senior, 33-11 at 145, District 1 runnerup, 2-2 at Region 1); Brennden Nita (senior, 23-21 at 152, District 1 6th); Major White (senior, 5-21 at 160, 0-2 at District 1); Isaac Land (sophomore, 17-18 at 195, District 1 4th, 0-2 at Region 1); Kayden Sweeten (sophomore, 5-12 at 220, District 1 6th); Nikolai Johnson (junior, 4-20 at 220, did not compete in post-season traditional); Phillip Dillard (sophomore, 19-12 at 285, District 1 runnerup, 1 match from states).

Key losses (graduation): Logan Merritt (31-17 at 138, District 1 runnerup, 2-2 at Region 1); Riley Scanlon (4-7 at 145/152, did not compete in post-season traditional); Micah Barker (39-19 at 170, District 1 3rd, 1 match from states); Blake Fluck (32-7 at 182, District 1 champ, 1 match from states).

Matmen's take: Dolphins were the most consistent team in the district last year, finishing second in both genres. Team has enough depth that every weight will surely be covered without question, and probably several will go two-deep. Team now expects to be in the district title mix every year, and every year they are.

MILTON

Coach: Alex Alvarado, 1st year as HC.

2021-22: 2-12 in duals. 16th at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 14th at Gator Brawl.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District T-9th; Traditional: District 10th, T-32nd at region. 2021 — Duals: District quarterfinalist; Traditional: District 8th. 2020 — Duals: District quarterfinalist; Traditional: District 8th, 21st at region.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Dayton Williams (sophomore, 10-14 at 120, District 1 6th); Ryan Jackson (sophomore, 11-14 at 138, 0-2 at District 1); Zander Jordan (sophomore, 8-16 at 138/145, did not compete in post-season traditional); Kyle Flores (senior, 19-11 at 285, District 1 4th, 0-2 at Region 1).

Key losses (graduation): None.

Matmen's take: After serving as assistant coach last year, Alvarado takes over as head coach this year and will get a chance to put his own stamp on the program. It'll take time, with four returners back this year in a district where double-digit returners are the norm. But his energy should be a welcome presence in the room.

NICEVILLE

Coach: Tommy Bierly, 5th year.

2021-22: 22-10 in duals. 8th at Border Wars IX, 6th at Capital City Classic, 2nd at 3rd Annual George Mulligan Memorial, 1st at Spearfish Invitational.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District 3rd; Traditional: District 4th, region 9th, T-25th at states. 2021 — Duals: District T-3rd; Traditional: District 4th, region 15th, T-26th at states. 2020 — Duals: District T-3rd; Traditional: District 4th, region 16th, 61st at states.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Chris Mardis (senior, 10-23 at 113, District 1 4th, 0-2 at Region 1); Garrett Jarvis (sophomore, 43-21 at 120, District 1 3rd, 2-2 at Region 1-injured); Ethan Pinto (senior, 40-17 at 126, District 1 champ, 2-2 at Region 1); Noah Jarvis (junior, 25-26 at 132, District 1 5th); Michael Davis (junior, 6-15 at 132/138, did not compete in post-season traditional); Andres Maldonado-Negron (senior, 14-22 at 138, District 1 4th, 1-2 at Region 1); Colt Dannenmueller (senior, 23-11 at 138, did not compete in post-season traditional); JJ Martinez (junior, 43-22 at 145, District 1 champ, Region 1 3rd, 1 match from state medal); Tristen Lionberger (junior, 11-16 at 145/152, did not compete in post-season traditional); James Opitz (sophomore, 14-36 at 220, 0-2 at District 1); Asa Adams (junior, 36-19 at 285, District 1 5th).

Key losses (graduation): Tim Dwyer (25-14 at 145, did not compete in post-season traditional); Aidan Kyllonen (51-10 at 152, District 1 4th, 1 match from states); Bryce Travis (42-13 at 160, District 1 3rd, 1-2 at Region 1); Ty Hawkins (34-12 at 160, did not compete in post-season traditional); Martin Black (48-9 at 170, District 1 runnerup, Region 1 4th, 1 match from state medal); Harrisen Wall (54-11 at 182, District 1 runnerup, Region 1 runnerup, state 5th).

Matmen's take: Eagles may have a hard time replacing the 2022 senior class, which rolled up 254 wins from six graduates. But one thing they've usually been able to do is reload enough to make themselves

fourth in the district, which has usually been good enough for top-10 in region. This year's group will be younger than usual.

PACE

Coach: Reggie Allen, 5th year at school.

2021-22: 10-5 in duals. 9th at Gardendale (AL) Invitational, 11th at Murder Creek (AL) Melee, 3rd at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 8th at Trey Culotta (LA) Invitational, 9th at Scott Rohrer/Hoover (AL) Invitational.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District champ, region semifinalist; Traditional: District 3rd, region 5th, T-45th at states. 2021 — Duals: District champ, region runnerup; Traditional: District 3rd, region 9th, T-49th at states. 2020 — Duals: District champ, region semifinalist; Traditional: District champ, region 3rd, 11th at states.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Alexander Mendez (sophomore, 24-12 at 106, District 1 runnerup, did not compete at regions); James Spicer (sophomore, 8-21 at 113, District 1 6th); Hazen Esary (junior, 20-8 at 126, District 1 3rd, 2-2 at Region 1); Todd Pace (sophomore, 12-8 at 132, District 1 6th); Maeson Otwell (sophomore, 40-10 at 138, District 1 champ, Region 1 runnerup, 1 match from state medal); Lucas Herder (sophomore, 9-11 at 145, 0-2 at District 1); Conner Guzouskis (sophomore, 4-16 at 145, did not compete in post-season traditional); Jordan Baxter (senior, 40-12 at 152, District 1 3rd, 1-2 at Region 1); Ty Morgan (senior, 33-12 at 170, District 1 champ, 1 match from states); Isaac Waters (junior, 26-15 at 182, District 1 3rd, Region 1 4th, 1 match from state medal); Brandon Mohring (sophomore, 5-10 at 195, did not compete in post-season traditional).

Key losses (graduation): Atticus Waters (44-6 at 160, District 1 champ, Region 1 runnerup, state 8th); Aidan Bryan (33-8 at 195, District 1 champ, Region 1 3rd, 1 match from state medal); Hale Wood (31-10 at 220, District 1 3rd, 1 match from states).

Matmen's take: Whether Patriots lose half their team or just three starters, they seem to be able to push through and win at least half of the titles on offer in the district. They'll need big ups top, but should be pretty solid through the middle of the lineup. Team insists on excellence, and usually gets there.

TATE (Cantonment)

Coach: Aaron Telatovich, 5th year (10th overall).

2021-22: 6-14 in duals. 18th at Border Wars IX, 10th at Ryan Blackwell Invitational, 5th at Spearfish Tournament.

Post-season stats (last 3 years): 2022 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 8th, T-32nd at region. 2021 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 7th, T-29th at region. 2020 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 5th, 30th at region. 2019 — Duals: District T-5th; Traditional: District 7th, region 19th, T-50th at states.

Projected key returners (15+ matches or post-season experience last year, with 2021-22 weights):

Julian Agosto (sophomore, 24-19 at 113, District 1 5th); Zackary Rogers (sophomore, 6-25 at 126, 0-2 at District 1); Elijah Aviles (sophomore, 1-17 at 132, 0-2 at District 1); Caden Graham (junior, 8-12 at 138, 1-2 at District 1); Roman Sison (junior, 11-10 at 138, did not compete in post-season traditional); Caiden Stone (senior, 28-20 at 145, District 1 4th, 0-2 at Region 1); Carson White (sophomore, 14-24 at 152, 0-2 at District 1); Landon Hutto (junior, 20-16 at 160, District 1 5th); Owen Joyner (junior, 9-22 at 170, 0-2 at District 1); Kaden McDonald (senior, 11-17 at 170, did not compete in post-season traditional); Jacob Turner (senior, 13-5 at 195, District 1 5th); Landen George (senior, 29-14 at 220, District 1 5th).

Key losses (graduation): None.

Matmen's take: Aggies could return a big group for 2022-23, something that hasn't happened in several prior seasons. Of that group, just one has 2021-22 region tournament experience, but there's something to be said in favor of having big numbers back. It's a good sign, if everyone takes steps forward in improvement.