

Updated: Battery Creek wins Class 2-A/1- - Beaufort Gazette, The (SC) - February 14, 2015 - page 1 February 14, 2015 | Beaufort Gazette, The (SC) | STEPHEN FASTENAU, sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

Porter Mahan attacked another challenge.

Seth Priester surprised another would-be bully.

Omar Daniels waited for the right moment.

Liam Payne held his own for two crucial minutes.

Throughout the **Battery Creek** High School **wrestling** lineup were instances that led to the final result. The Dolphins defeated **Liberty** 36-31 to win the Class 2-A/1-A duals championship at Dreher High School on Saturday.

Battery Creek (46-10) won its sixth state title, sixth for coach Nathan Day and second straight, both over the Red Devils. The Dolphins finished with the second-highest win total in state history.

Liberty was wrestling in its third consecutive state final, with the same result.

Mahan's decision at 170 pounds, a 9-3 result over the heavier Lucas Bates, delivered the title.

"I just used the fact that I'm more elusive than him, take advantage of every mistake he makes," said Mahan, who broke his hand the day before the 2014 championship and lost a decision.

The junior Mahan normally wrestles at 152 and Bates at 182.

But Mahan weighed in a little heavier Saturday and met Bates in the middle.

Day wanted one of his toughest competitors in the final spot. That meant scrapping with a much bigger wrestler.

Battery Creek's Seth Priester also took down a heavier – and higher-ranked – opponent. He pinned DeAndre Mansell in the final minute of the second period. Priester said Mansell, ranked fifth in Class 3-A to Priester's No. 8 ranking, tried to overpower him early on and then conceded.

"I wrestle a lot of people like that who think they're bigger than me and they can out-do me," Priester said. "I shocked him."

Daniels, wrestling Liberty's Tristan Oglesby at 132, won in the final 15 seconds with a reversal and near fall.

The senior Oglesby was third in the state individually the previous year, but Daniels felt he had the edge on bottom.

"So I just figured I would sit there for a minute to run the time out and turn him at the last second and get the reversal points," Daniels said. And then Payne used his legs to control Dylan Riddle for the final two minutes and preserve his meager 2-1 decision.

Everyone counted Saturday, Payne said. The Dolphins had to win without senior Alex Nelson, one of the top wrestlers in Class 2-A/1-A who missed the final two duals with a fractured back and hurt disk.

Ahman Smalls, another ranked wrestler, hurt his knee at the Lower State tournament.

Battery Creek persevered for its second state title since Day returned as head coach in 2012.

Some of the younger wrestlers, like freshman Joseph Sanchez and sophomores Cooper Kaminsky and Payne,

are hoping for a sustained run.

Battery Creek won three straight when the duals tournament began in 1994 to go with a points championship from 1991.

"We're going for four," Payne said. "Two more for my senior year and hopefully they can continue on."

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2-A/1-A state duals championship

Battery Creek 36, Liberty 31

Note: Match started at 182

106: Joseph Sanchez (BC) wins by forfeit

113: Devin Johnson (L) pinned Romeo Sepulveva, second period

120: Jacob Rogers (L) pinned Jimmy Kearse, third period

126: Matt Frey (L) pinned Tyrus Singlton, second period

132: Omar Daniels (BC) dec. Tristan Oglesby, 14-9

138: Cole Murphy (L) major dec. Desmon Mullen, 14-5

145: Kyle Chrzanowski (L) dec. Caleb Weaver, 9-7

152: Liam Payne (BC) dec. Dylan Riddle, 2-1

160: Sammy Vidal (L) pinned Khalil Chisolm, third period

170: Porter Mahan (BC) dec. Lucas Bates, 9-3

182: Craig Truett (BC) pinned John McGahn, second period

195: Cooper Kaminsky (BC) pinned Breck Dismukes, third period

220: Zack McPeek (BC) dec. Seth Scruggs, 7-6

285: Seth Priester (BC) pinned Deandre Mansell, second period

For more from the championship match, visit Live from Columbia: Tweets from the statewrestling finals

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