



# SPORTS

DECEMBER 1, 2021

PAGE 6

TIDELAND NEWS

## Bucs cruise through 'Bird'

### Swansboro wrestlers claim eight first-place finishes

By Zack Nally

The Swansboro wrestling team captured the Dirty Bird Invitational in its home gym on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

The Pirates crushed the six-team competition with 228 total points on the strength of eight weight class wins and 12 total podium finishes.

Isaac Gawronski won at 126 pounds, Ayden Goodman at 132 pounds, Aiden Russell at 138, Theodore Yager at 152, Chase Petty at 170, Sean Kelly at 182, Jace Wilkens at 195 and Zander Riley at 220.

Gawronski (6-1) only wrestled once for his victory, pinning Richlands' Logan Parker in 1:07 before winning by forfeit over Landon Horne of Southwest Onslow in the finals.

Goodman (2-0) captured back-to-back pins for his win, putting down Southwest Onslow's Jensen Miller in 4:43 and Ryan McManus of Richlands in 2:27.

Russell (5-1) took care of business quickly in his weight division, pinning Aleksander Dojnia of Southwest Onslow in 40 seconds and pinning South Lenoir's Hayden

Zeagler in 1:23.

Yager (6-1) won his bracket with an 18-8 major decision over Southwest Onslow's Jeremiah Jones after pinning South Lenoir's Eli Day in 4:48.

Petty (2-0) made quick work of his two opponents, pinning Bruce Rivera of Richlands in 1:21 and putting Jacksonville's Caleb China's shoulders to the mat in 1:20.

Kelly (2-0) had the quickest finals victory on the team with a 2-second pin of Moctezuma Ayala of South Lenoir. He reached the finals with a 1:20 pin of Southwest Onslow's Tanner Whitehead.

Wilkens (5-2) barely spent any time on the mat with two pins in under 25 seconds. He defeated Erik Geronimo of Lejeune in 16 seconds and Jacksonville's Johnathan Hunter in 23 seconds.

Riley (4-1) had no competition with byes in all three rounds to win his weight division.

Other podium finishes came from Paul Vaught (5-2) placing second at 106 pounds, Seamus Sullivan (2-1) placing second at 113, Mason Cooper (3-2) second at 120 and Brayden Cline (2-1) third at 285.



The Pirates had eight wrestlers capture victory in the program's annual Dirty Bird Invitational. (Contributed photo)

In dual team play, the Pirates also went 1-1 in a tri-meet with Ayden-Grifton and D.H. Conley. The Bucs beat Ayden-Grifton 53-24 and lost to Conley 45-29. They are 4-1 in dual team play so far this season.

Email Zack Nally at [zack@thenewstimes.com](mailto:zack@thenewstimes.com).