

MEET: Battle of the Border

DATE: April 5th, 2014

LOCATION: Currituck High School, Currituck North Carolina

MEET DIRECTOR: Paul Bossi

The Battle of the Border is one of those meets you have to love. It's push pull only, which means that despite a lot of lifters and a lot of big lifts, the day is short. Our daughter was able to get her trophy early which allowed her to compete AND still play at her 2PM soccer game. As a bonus, the awards were FANTASTIC; swords, daggers, and even maces. Yes, maces.

NOTE: As with all 100% RAW meets, there are a multitude of divisions and there are many lifters who took first place. When I say someone is a Border Champion or they finished second, it means the lifter had the highest or second highest total in their weight class regardless of what category/age group they entered.

The meet started with the 114 and under class and it was Russel Gayle's meet record 336 total that would take the first Border Title. I was very impressed with runner up Sean Miller's 254 total as Sean only weighed 88 pounds and he was in the 11 and under category. Also impressive was Samantha Brickhouse, Samantha was the top pound per pound lifter in the women's division.

This was only Tatiana Kendzulak's second meet, but her 270 total earned her the 123 Border Title.

At 148, AJ Sykes uses a 254 pound bench to take an early lead. Unfortunately for AJ, Robert Melton never loses at 148. Robert pulled a 402 dead-lift to total a meet record 645 and win his third strait Border Title. Robert is the ONLY three time defending Border champion. AJ looked very strong and he could be the future at 148. The biggest dead-lift in the class was 413 by teen lifter Bryce Cartwright and I'm telling you now...watch out for a very strong young man named Cherokee Widner.

In 2013 Nasir Nantambu finished in second place, in 2014 Nasir came back larger and stronger than ever. Nasir's 788 total was easily enough to nab him his first Border title and it also served notice that the path to being #1 at 165 goes through Raleigh...that's where Nasir lives. The lifter to watch out for is teen lifter Dylan Aaron who totaled 639. Another lifter to watch out for is master lifter Bill Rehl who won the 148 Border title in 2012. Bill has been battling some injuries, but looked like he hit his groove at the Border and also found time to coach a lot of the young lifters.

Defending 165 Border champion Brandon Petit moved up to 181 and his lifts are just getting ridiculous. Brandon easily pulled a 573 dead-lift and darn near locked out a world record 601 on his way to winning his second Border title with a meet record 838 total. How good is Brandon? Brandon's total was higher than all of the lifters in the two weight classes above him.

One of my favorite lifters isn't from North Carolina, but Virginia. I've watched Brian McIntyre

compete in North Carolina four times...and all four times Brian has been the top lifter in his weight class. In 2013 Brian won the 181 Border title, in 2014 Brian added a Border title at 198.

Last year Ronnie Biggs dropped from 308 to 220, but skipped the Border meet as his body was having a hard time adjusting to the new weight class. This year he was ready. Ronnie smiled all the way to a 794 total and the 220 Border title. Ronnie has to be careful as teen lifter Mason Parker pulled a huge 524 dead-lift to finish in second and he's a serious threat in the future.

Defending 220 Border champ, Ray Berry, moved up to 242 and posted strong numbers, but it didn't matter. Nobody, and I mean nobody, is beating Tra Farrington at 242. Tra started off with a 452 bench and ended with a 766 dead-lift for a 1,218 total..biggest total of the meet and a meet record. Tra made a GREAT attempt at pulling 805. Soon Tra, soon!!!

With all the big lifting by Tra, it would be easy to over look the 275 class; don't. Dallas Daniels pulled a 606 dead-lift for a 965 total to earn his first Border title. Dallas had to stay sharp as he had Gene Berry in his weight class. Gene was ranked #2 in the world (masters 50-59) last year and he's ranked #1 this year (50-59). Gene ended up in second with a 854 total.

The day ended with Cameron Trotman winning the Border title at 308 and Norman Hamm winning the Border title at SHW. It was the first title for both lifters.

Perhaps the most impressive statistic was in the team category. The Jarvisburg Church of Christ won the team title for the fourth consecutive year.

In 2015 I look forward to seeing who can defend their Border titles, who can reclaim their titles, and who will win their first titles.

Thank you Paul Bossi for holding such a fantastic meet, thank you Nasir Nantambu for all the work you put into promoting this meet (and all the work you do behind the scenes) and thank you Gene Berry for coaching so many of the lifters that competed.

OVER ALL STANDINGS PUSH/PULL

(M)=Meet record

114 CLASS

(152.5) Russell Gayle (M) (2014 champion)

(115.0) Sean Miller

(110.0) Samantha Brickhouse

(80) Chris Miller

(58) Anna Zak

(55) Dylan Cooper

123 CLASS

(122.5) Tatiana Kendzulak (2014 champion)

148

(292.5) Robert Melton (M) (2012, 2013, 2014 champion)

(275.0) AJ Sykes

(262.5) Bryce Cartwright

(262.5) Ben Zak

(247.5) Cherokee Widner

(172.5) Gabby Choates

165

(357.5) Nasir Nantambu (2014 champion)

(290.0) Dylan Aaron

(275.0) Bill Rehl (2012 champion)

(217.5) Jerred Midyette

181

(380.0) Brandon Petitt (M) (2013, 2014 champion)

198

(372.5) Brian McIntyre (2013, 2014 champion)

220

(360.0) Ronnie Biggs (2014 champion)

(335.0) Mason Parker

(300.0) Jeremy Bovee

(270.0) Ira Brooks

(217.5) Brandi Sneed

242

(552.5) Tra Farrington (M) (2014 champion)

(325.0) Ray Berry (2013 champion)

275

(437.5) Dallas Daniels (2014 champion)

(387.5) Gene Berry

(325.0) David Faulhaber

308

(312.5) Cameron Trotman (2014 champion)

(202.5) Joe Garza

SHW

(272.5) Norman Hamm (2014 champion)

TEAM CHAMPIONS:

2011: The Jarvisburg Church of Christ

2012: The Jarvisburg Church of Christ
2013: The Jarvisburg Church of Christ
2014: The Jarvisburg Church of Christ
2015: ? ? ?