



# RankWrestlers.com

## Rankings Explained

[WMC Wrestling newspaper articles on Long Valley Patch](#) often refer to RankWrestlers.com (RW) NJ statewide rankings.

[RankWrestlers.com](#) is an objective, algorithm-based ranking system that measures all varsity wrestlers' performance. It pulls from data submitted by coaches at TrackWrestling.com. Wins and losses are adjusted based on the quality of the wins and of the opponent. I've found them the most accurate system.

### RankWrestlers Versus Won-Loss Records

West Morris Central wrestler won-loss records can be deceiving – teams (like us, or like Delbarton) who wrestle very tough schedules have “deflated” records. Teams with easy schedules have inflated won-loss records. Rankings give a better picture of where you are.

### RankWrestlers Versus Other Rankings

RW is different from the subjective ranking systems, which also have their own merits. You can find some at NJ.com, at Full Circle Wrestling, and (less frequently) at FloWrestling. Those are based on informed opinions, but overlook lower-profile wrestlers, and they only rank the very top wrestlers. Subjective rankings have the benefit of including off-season tournaments and youth accomplishments.

### How Ranks Change

Things that **improve** a wrestler's ranking include:

- Defeating a wrestler with a higher rank
- Bonus-point wins
- When previous opponents go up in rank, your rank will increase (as that improves the quality of your wins, or diminishes the impact of your losses).

The opposite of these things will lower your rank (e.g., losing to lower ranked wrestlers, fewer bonus point wins, or previous-opponents declining in rank). Defeating lower-ranked wrestlers, or losing to higher-ranked wrestlers generally have little impact on rank.

### What's a Good Rank?

That's in the eye of the beholder, but many would say a good rank is one that improves over time. Here is some context to understand what the numbers mean, but it's key to note that actual incidents vary widely by weight, team, District and Region.

On **average**:

- about 550-600 wrestlers compete in each weight class
- Those ranked top-400 are generally varsity starters who compete at Districts
- Top-200 would be an average starter
- Top-96 ranked wrestlers are typically Region qualifiers
  - District champs average rank is about #16
  - District silver medalist average rank is about #48
  - District bronze medalist average rank is about #80
- Top-32 ranked wrestlers are typically State qualifiers
  - Region champs average rank is about #4
  - Region silver average rank is about #12
  - Region bronze medalist rank is about #20
  - Region 4th place (state qualifier) is about #28
- Top-8 are predicted to be on the podium as State medalists in Atlantic
- At the end of the season, top-12 ranks are nearly identical to actual NJSIAA placement

But again, there is wide variance by weight, team, District, Region and a myriad of individual circumstances. Mark Montuore sent a top-50 wrestler home from D11's most brutal bracket, while someone ranked #337 advanced from the easiest bracket. A Delbarton back-up can be ranked top-20 in the state with a 1-3 record. More importantly, the main way wrestlers improve their rank is defeating someone they were not expected to beat – which of course happens every day because humans are not algorithms 😊.

### How Predictive are Rank Differences?

- Think about rank differences by percentage, rather than by number
- #10 vs. #9 is a 10% difference and really a coin toss. Same for #300 vs. #270
- But if #30 (or even #10) upset #1, 2 or 3 it would be a HUGE and rare upset
- In between, 20% rank upsets (#20 beats #16, or #200 beats #160) happen regularly (and are often seen as swing matches in a dual). 20% is not a big deal.
- 30-50% upsets (#50 beats #30, or #150 beats #75) are notable upsets, but happen regularly.
- 75-100% upsets (#40 tops #10, #100 tops #25) are extremely rare
- Ranks are more accurate later in the season, with a larger sample size of data



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West Morris Central High School Wolfpack wrestling coverage from the WMC Wrestling Parents Club. Contributing writer David Yaskulka was inspired by his wrestling sons to live out his high school dream of being a sportswriter – and to avoid concession duty when his sons Noah and Ben began wrestling for the Wolfpack in 2012. He is a pet industry executive, passionate sustainability advocate, and also serves as Board Chair of the Pet Sustainability Coalition, and as Board Director at Greater Good Charities.