

Ballston Spa's Tyler Barnes looking for school's first state wrestling title

Ballston Spa wrestler going for state crown; father was 2nd in '95

By Jess Koehler

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- Ballston Spa wrestler [Tyler Barnes](#) was introduced to the sport by his father, Terry Barnes, at the age of 4.
- Terry was a standout on the mats at Ballston Spa in the mid-1990s and was a state runner-up in 1995.
- This weekend, Tyler will make his second state tournament appearance at Times Union Center, and he said he has to go out and try to better his father's result.
- "It would be good because it would be the first state champion from Ballston Spa," he said, "and I'd beat my dad."
- Preliminary matches begin at 10 a.m. Friday. Semifinals start at 10 a.m. Saturday and finals are slated for 6:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Barnes enters the tournament as the No. 2 seed with a 39-3 record. He earned an automatic bid with a 3-2 win over Schenectady's Collin Derboghossian in the Section II Division I 170-pound championship match on Feb. 14 at [Glens Falls Civic Center](#).
- Barnes, a two-time sectional title winner, has wins over three grapplers in his bracket, including a 3-1 decision in overtime over the No. 4 seed [Nunzio Crowley](#) (Section I-Eastchester) back on Jan. 15 at Eastern States.
- "It's good to know I've beaten them before," he said. "It helps with nerves."
- Terry will be in the stands to provide his son support this weekend, and as far as advice goes, Tyler said Terry told him, "Not to think ahead of matches and take it one at a time."
- Barnes knows what to expect Friday and Saturday since he experienced the big stage last season as a freshman, and that could certainly benefit him on the mats in Albany.
- "I think it will help because I'll be much more comfortable and I won't be nervous," he said.
- Terry and Tyler aren't the only members of the Barnes family to sport a Ballston Spa singlet. Tyler's older cousin Toby also competed for the Scotties.
- "It's good because (Toby will) come and work out with me if I need someone to work out with and I don't have to do it alone," Tyler said.

- In addition to his family, Barnes will have another familiar face with him at states, his teammate [Garreck Golish](#) (220 pounds), who earned an at-large bid to the tournament.
- "It will be good because I'll have someone there with me," Barnes said. "It was just me last year."
- Barnes can't predict what will happen this weekend, or if he'll best his father's second-place finish, but one thing is certain for the sophomore.
- "I always know my dad is there," he said. "He's watching."
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- **More Information**

- State meet

- When: Friday and Saturday

- Where: Times Union Center

- Schedule: Preliminaries, 10 a.m. Friday; Semifinals, 10 a.m. Saturday; Finals, 6:30 p.m. Sunday