



Snapshots of the season



Photo courtesy of Jason Hannah

▲ Commonwealth Catholic States Wrestling Champions

Roanoke Catholic School won four dual matches against Seton School, Benedictine, Bishop Sullivan and Peninsula Catholic to claim the school title in late January. Every Celtic wrestler placed in individual state competition, including first-place winners **'Nghia Pham, Armando Herrera Dois Reis, Nick Nester, Sean Bower and Andrew Nolen**; second-place winners **Brian Sakalas, Jacob Patrick and Sean Deer**; third-place winners **Alex Sakalas, Matt Gwin, Nick Ruble and Tommy Perini**; and fourth-place winner **Jack Pilgreen**. All five of the school's seniors placed either first or second in individual competition and Nolen received the Zach Burns Outstanding Wrestler award for the upper weights. The Celtics are coached by **Dave Burns and Robin Leonard**.



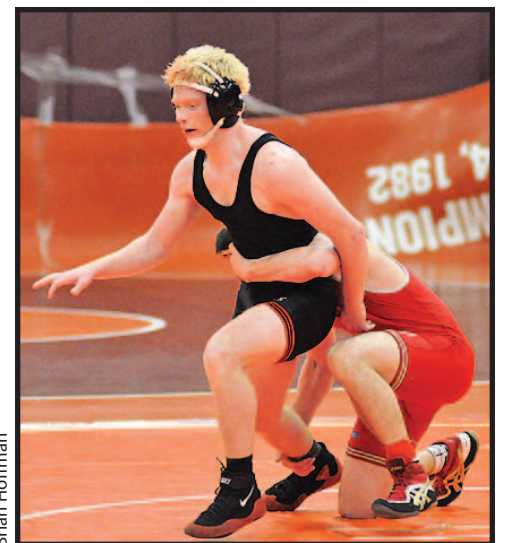
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▲ 21st Annual Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet

This year's inductees included (above, from left) **Mark Sweeney, Ron Shockley, Dave Christianson** and (far right) **Fred Corbett**. The Jan. 26 keynote speaker was Salem native **Billy Sample** (second from right), who played nine years in the majors and posted a lifetime batting average of .272. Sample was a member of the inaugural Hall of Fame class honored in 1992. He also played in the "Remember the Titans" state championship football game for Andrew Lewis in 1971. *Play by Play* columnist **Mike Stevens** served as this year's HOF master of ceremonies. The community room of the Salem Civic Center was filled to capacity (right). Nearest the camera is **Sam Lazzaro**, who holds the unique distinction of helping found both the Hall of Fame and *Play by Play*.



Brian Hoffman



Brian Hoffman

▲ Big Orange Action

Cave Spring's **Coty Love** (above) attempts to escape the grasp of Lord Botetourt's **Trey Markvart** in a quarterfinal match in the 145-pound class of the Big Orange Classic wrestling championship held at William Byrd High School Jan. 27-28. Love ultimately placed fourth in their weight class; Markvart was fifth. Brookville emerged as the team champion, besting 17 other schools.



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▲ Sports Club Honors Cave Spring, North Cross

The Cave Spring volleyball team (above) and the North Cross football team (below) were recognized for their respective state championships at the Jan. 16 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club. Representing Cave Spring were (left to right) players **Lauren Sledd and Morgan Shannon** and coaches **Tamalyn and Mark Tanis**. From North Cross (below) were defensive coordinator **Shannon Taylor**, head coach **Stephen Alexander**, and players **Paul Ross, Chris Shelton and Thomas Weaver**. Taylor, a former NFL player, was the program's guest speaker.



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