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STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
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20

21

Girls

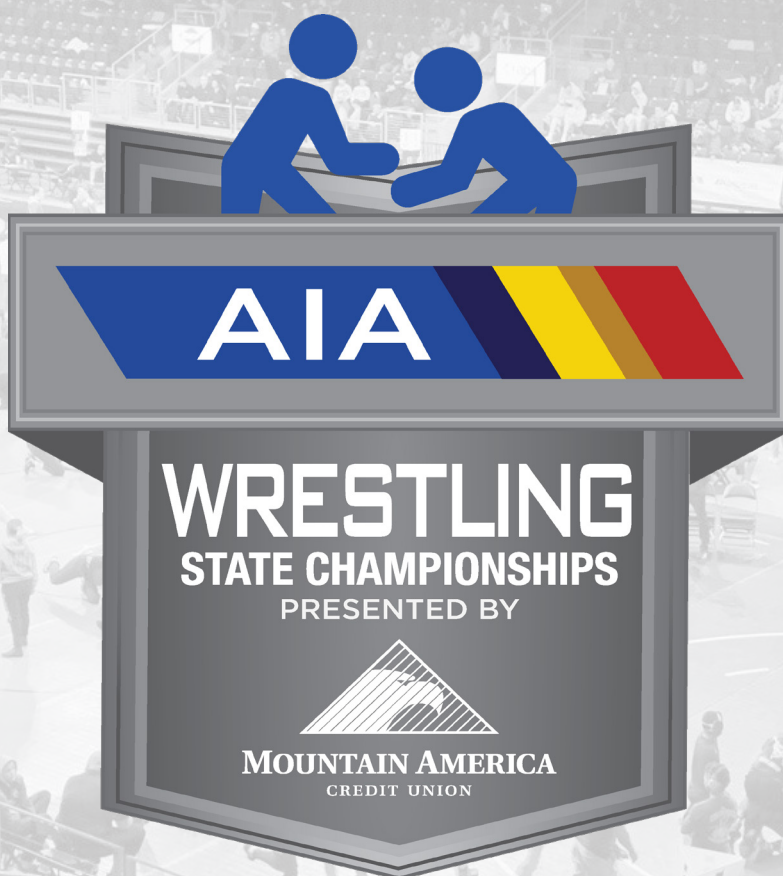


2020-21 AIA GIRLS WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESENTED BY MOUNTAIN AMERICA CREDIT UNION

Friday, March 5 - Saturday, March 6

Mesquite High School • Gilbert, AZ



The AIA would like to thank Principal Rod Huston, Athletic Director Rudy Alvarez, Gilbert Public School Athletic Director Stephen McDowell and all the folks at Mesquite High School for hosting the AIA State Championships.

Wrestling administrator: Dean Visser

Program design and content: Seth Polansky, Andy Morales

Cover photo: Steve Paynter/Paynter's Pics • www.paynterpics.com

Inside cover photo: Andy Morales/AZPreps365

AIA

ARIZONA
INTERSCHOLASTIC
ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the State Championships



On behalf of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, I would like to welcome all the participants, coaches, family and friends to our state championships. It is our pleasure to create an event that fans will enjoy and think about for years to come.

The AIA recognizes the hard work strength it took to get here, as well as the sacrifices made along the way. The membership continues to grow, opening more avenues for participation. And for that, we say thank you. The student-athletes, administrators, coaches and families have all earned our gratitude. You are what drives us.

While attending this championship, we hope that it is an enjoyable experience for all. The lessons learned regarding sportsmanship and fair play are elevated here. Athletics are an extension of the classroom, which is why we accentuate the “student” in student-athlete.

With the challenges we face this year it is even more important to adhere to guidelines and respect rules that are in place for the safety and well-being of our participants. With your help we can show all those involved with the championships that we can overcome external difficulties by coming together as an AIA community. These championships are only possible because of you.

State championships are just a springboard to the success these student-athletes will achieve when the competition is over. In the process of deriving enjoyment from participation in athletics, our student-athletes are learning lifelong skills that will help them develop into healthy adults and productive citizens.

National research continues to validate that students involved in extracurricular activities attend more days of school, perform better in the classroom and have less behavioral issues. This also includes lower dropout, alcohol and drug abuse rates as compared to those who do not participate. The benefits of participation are extensive.

Since the AIA’s inception in 1913, the association vigorously defends and promotes the positive developments of athletics, creates a culture that fosters self-governance and ethical behavior, and teaches, enforces, advocates and models the principles of the Arizona Accord and “Pursuing Victory With Honor.” Today, over 130,000 student-athletes statewide benefit from the leadership of our Board, administrators and hard-working coaches on an annual basis as we are “building character now ... for the future.”

As you enjoy all the championship contests, please show respect to those around you. Displays of good sportsmanship will place you in high regard along with your school and your community, and remind us all that, sports are meant to be fun and enjoyed by not only those participating, but those in attendance.

The AIA hopes this championship, as well as any others you may attend, achieves the level of excellence our student-athletes deserve. Remember that these are “our students, our teams ... our future.”

DAVID HINES
AIA Executive Director

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2020-21 Executive Board



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GIRLS WRESTLING GAINING POPULARITY, MOMENTUM

by Andy Morales, AZPreps365

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Executive Board voted to make Girls Wrestling a team sport in April of 2020, moving the state competition from an “emerging sport” to a recognition of the hard work and dedication put in by the athletes, not just as individuals, but as teammates.

The growing numbers were cited as the main reason for taking the next logical step. In 2019, 224 wrestlers competed at the various sectionals to decide which wrestlers would compete for an individual state title in the ten weight classes. That number jumped to 435 in 2020 but COVID concerns might have slowed that upwards trend down this winter with 248 wrestlers competing at state. The weight classes also expanded from 10 to 14.

“This is huge for the girls and the wrestling community overall,” said Pueblo assistant coach Ticia Mia Valenzuela Smith.

“It is the perfect time for Arizona to sanction girls high school wrestling because of the significant growth of participants over the last two years and the showcase of talent currently in middle school. As a state, we have the talent to compete at the next level. Now these girls will have the opportunity to sharpen their skills during the entire year to work towards goals of wrestling in college or internationally. Wrestling is such a great sport, it’s exciting to see AIA make this happen for the girls. This will actually be great to help the overall growth of wrestling for some programs. Now we just need to get passed this pandemic and back in the wrestling room.”

Kofa standout Carolina Moreno will be competing for her third individual title and the senior enters state competition with a perfect 8-0 record in the 126-pound division.

In all, there will be three returning state champions and three returning second place finishers from last year.

Championship rounds one and two will take place Friday starting at 2 p.m. at Mesquite High School along with two consolation rounds. The semifinals of the championship bracket will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Parade of Champions is slated for later in the day.

TWO-TIME STATE CHAMPIONS

Sierrah Thrun, Corona del Sol
Carolina Moreno, Kofa
Mia Didur, Centennial

RETURNING STATE CHAMPIONS

106: Emily Porras (Ironwood) Jr. (7-1)
126: Carolina Moreno (Kofa) Sr. (8-0)
132: Bree Garcia (Barry Goldwater) Jr. (9-0)

RETURNING RUNNER-UPS

126: Isabelle Munoz (Casteel) So. (9-2)
132: Mylei Seigla (Canyon Del Oro) Jr. (6-1)
145: Sara Schmoker (Liberty) Sr. (10-0)

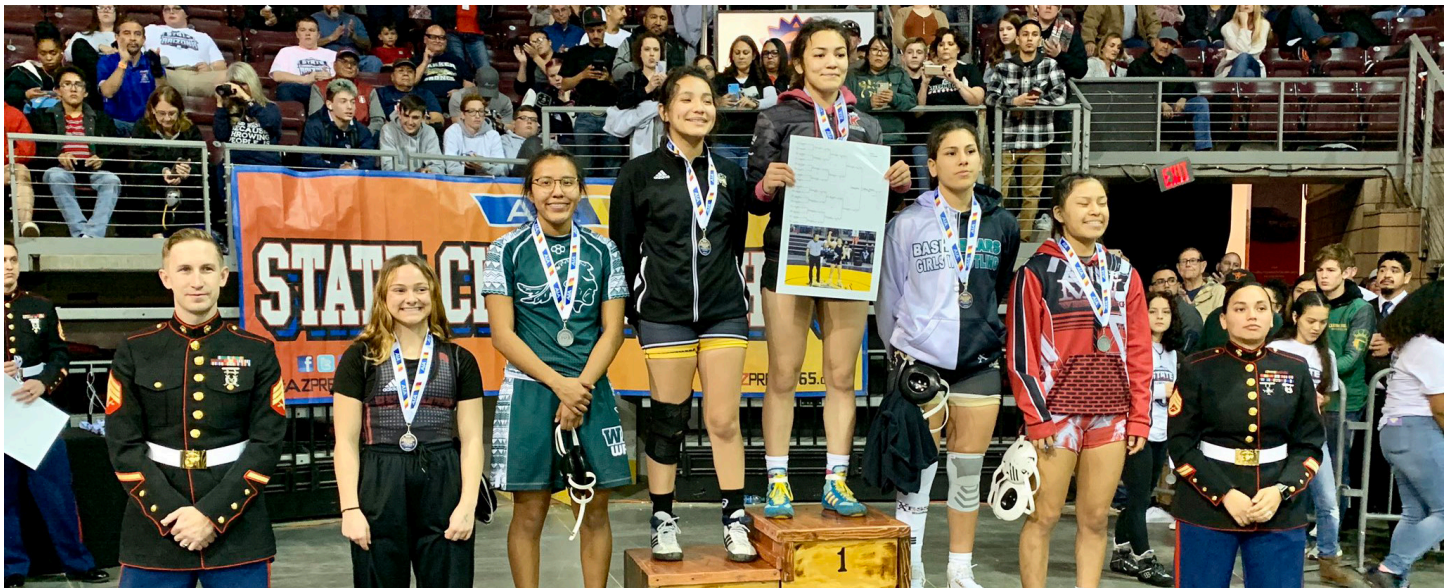
2019 INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS

101: Lexi Borunda of Shadow Ridge
110: Sierrah Thrun of Corona del Sol
118: Stefana Jelacic of Chandler

125: Julia Chambers of Skyline
130: Carolina Moreno of Kofa
135: Julia Lundberg of North Canyon
145: Jessie McCurry of Deer Valley
160: Jennifer Curry of Hamilton
185: Mia Didur of Centennial
225: Danni Schulz of Mingus Union

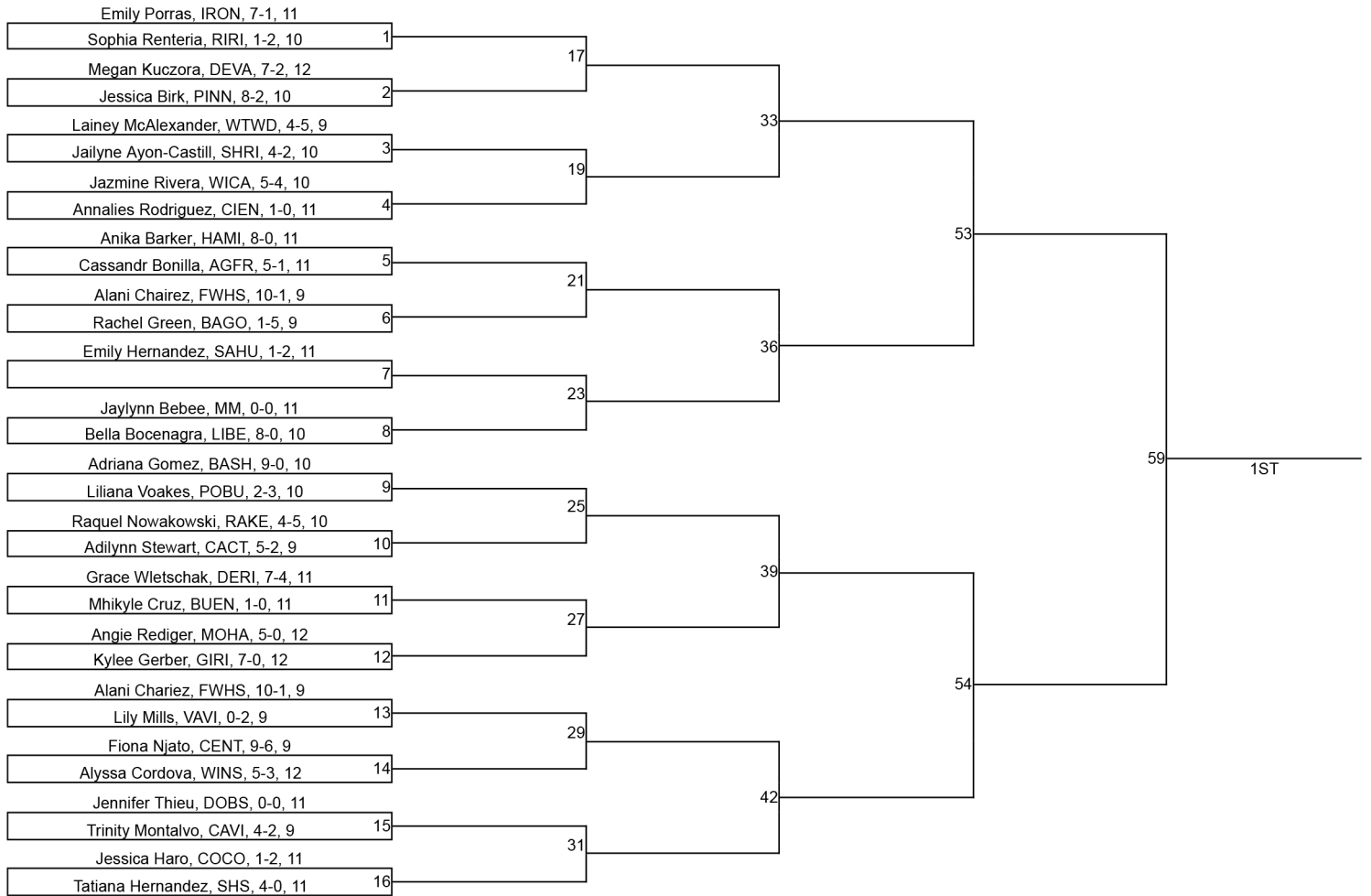
2020 INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS

101: Emily Porras of Ironwood
110: Sierrah Thrun of Corona del Sol
118: Adacelli Noriega of Bisbee
125: Carolina Moreno of Kofa
130: Bree Garcia of Barry Goldwater
135: Genesis Higuera of Odessey Institute
145: Taliyah Armstrong of Westwood
160: Angie Ochoa of Maryvale
185: Mia Didur of Centennial
225: Naomi Norton of Arizona Lutheran

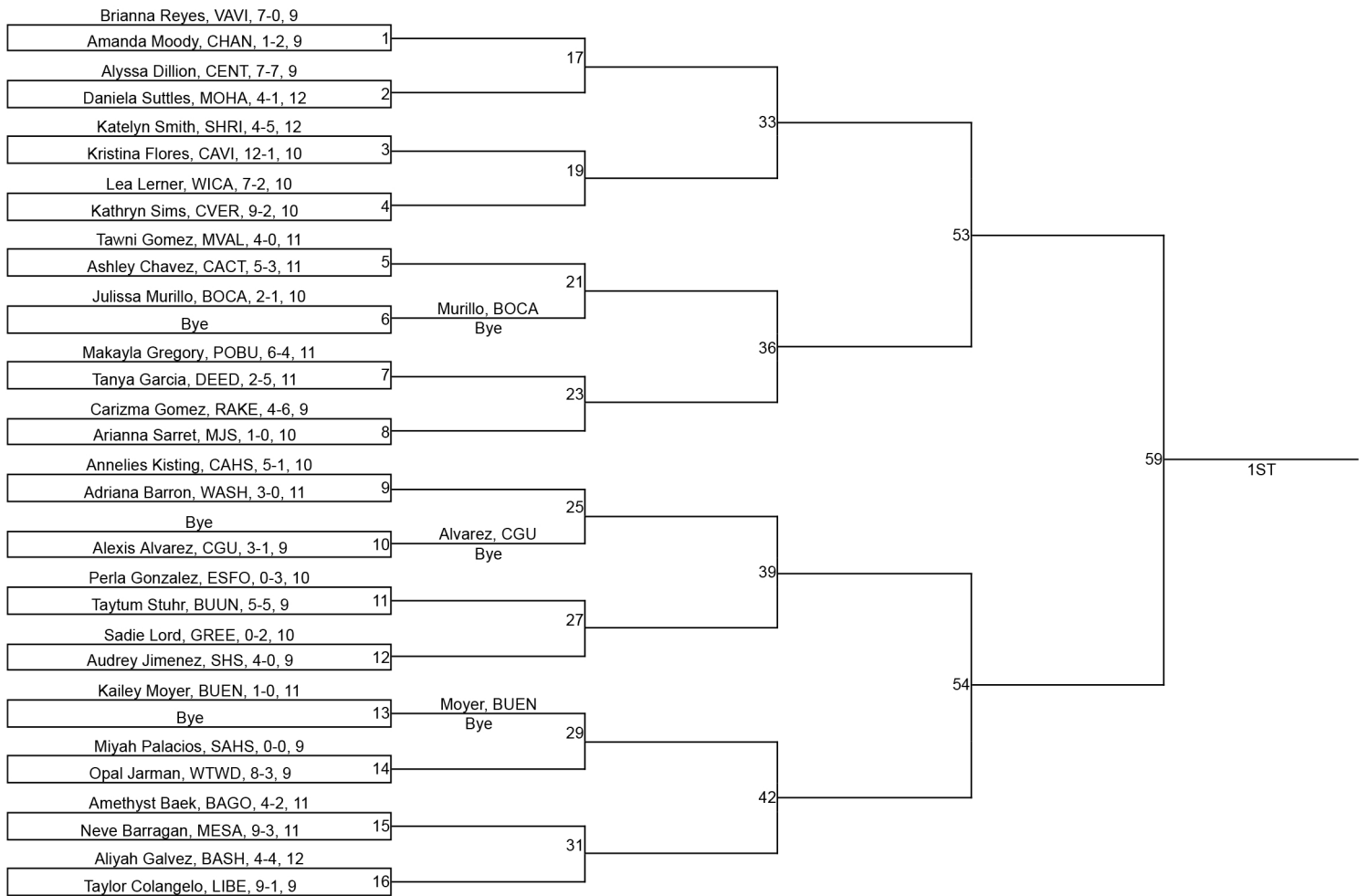


Carolina Moreno won her second championship in 2020. (Andy Morales photo/AZPrpes365)

AIA Girls State Championships

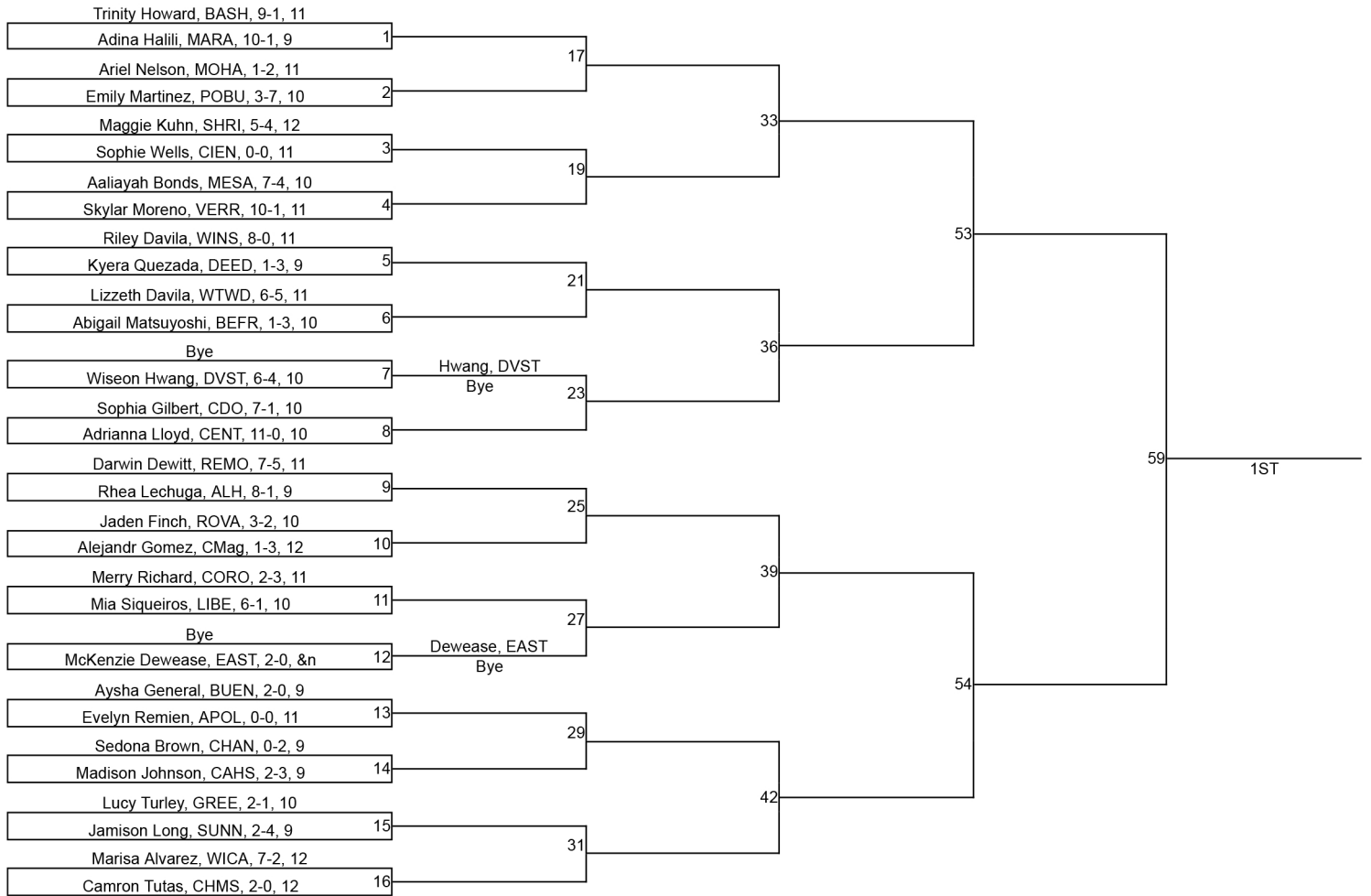


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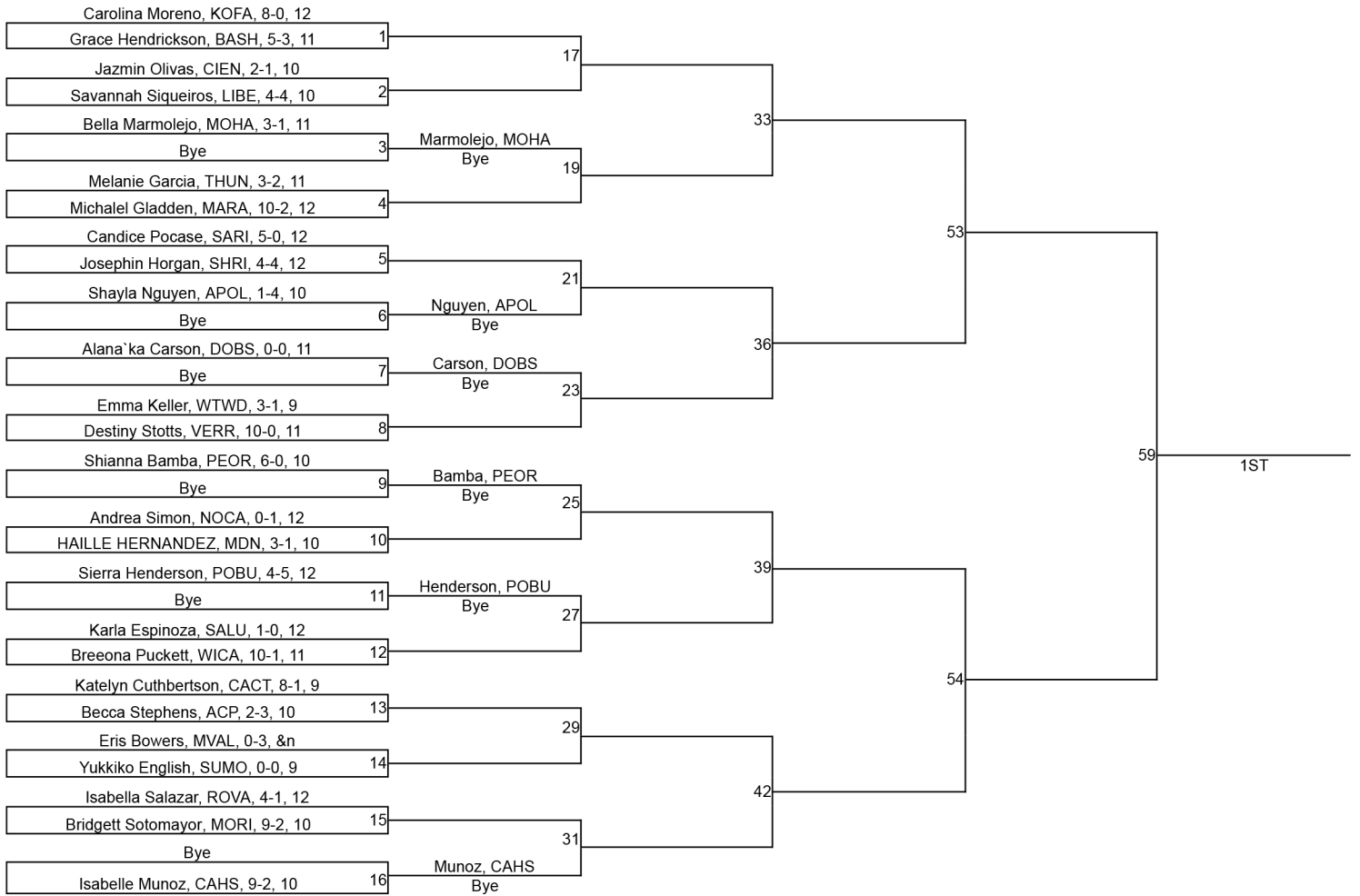


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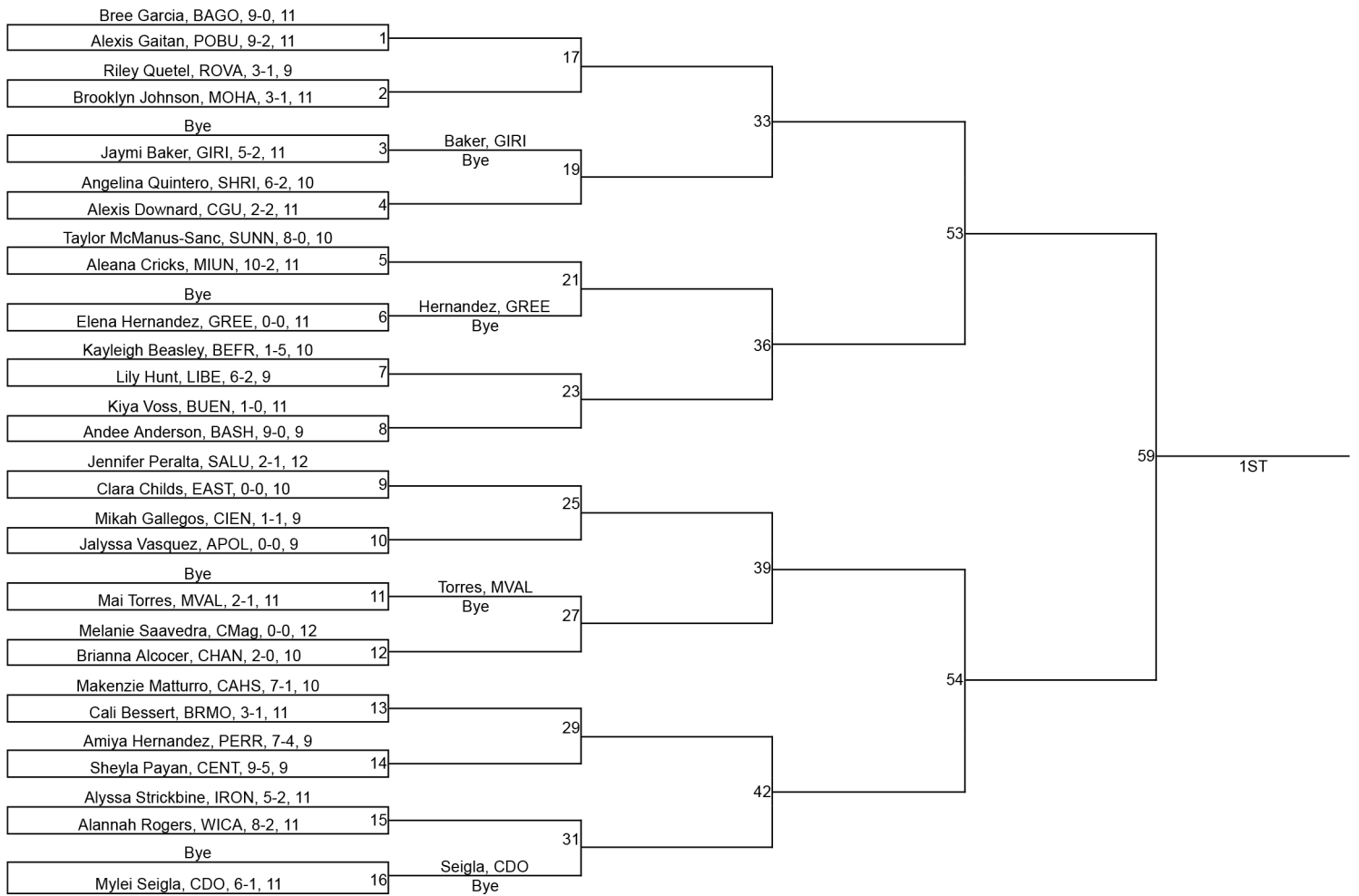


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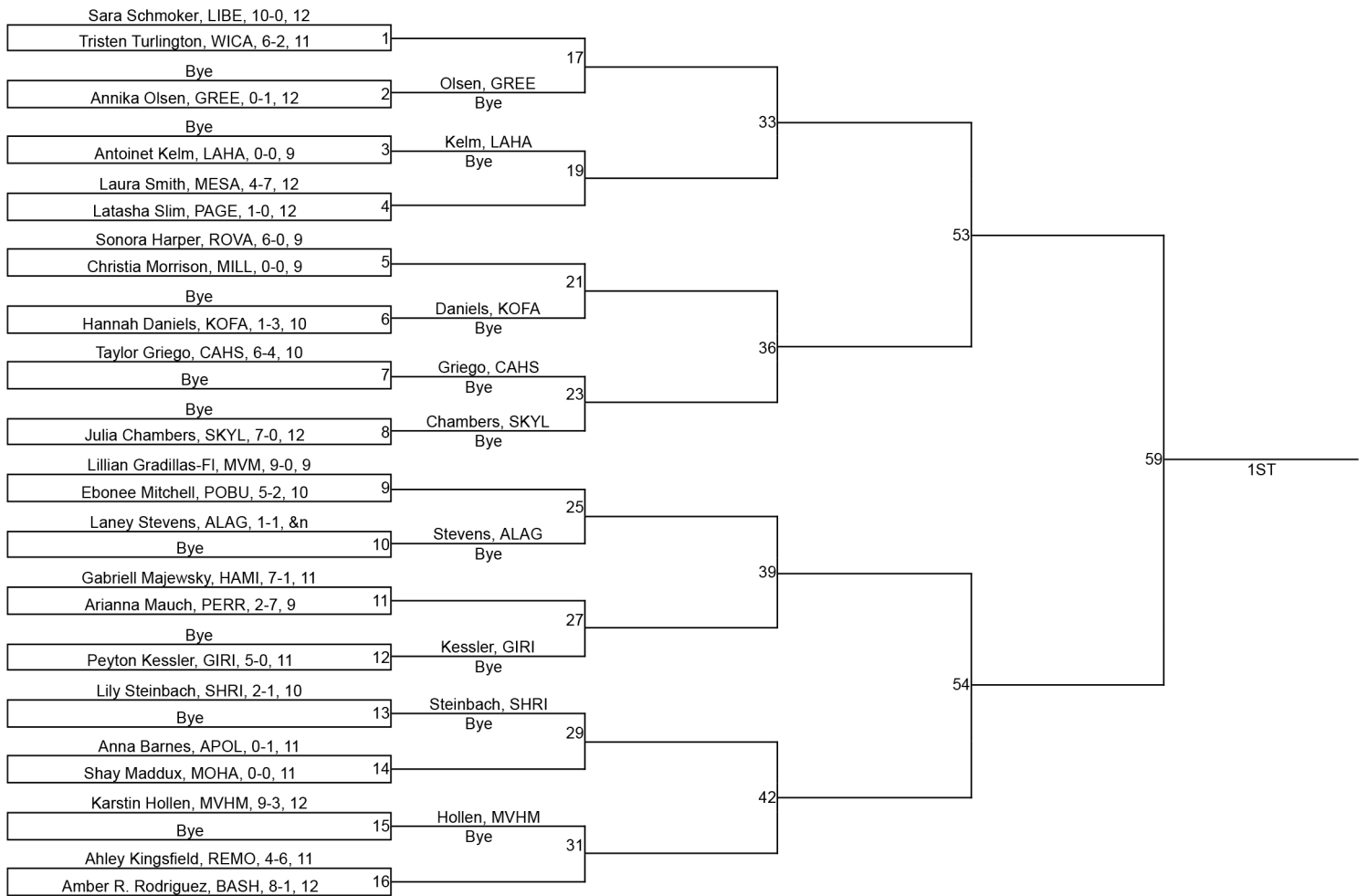
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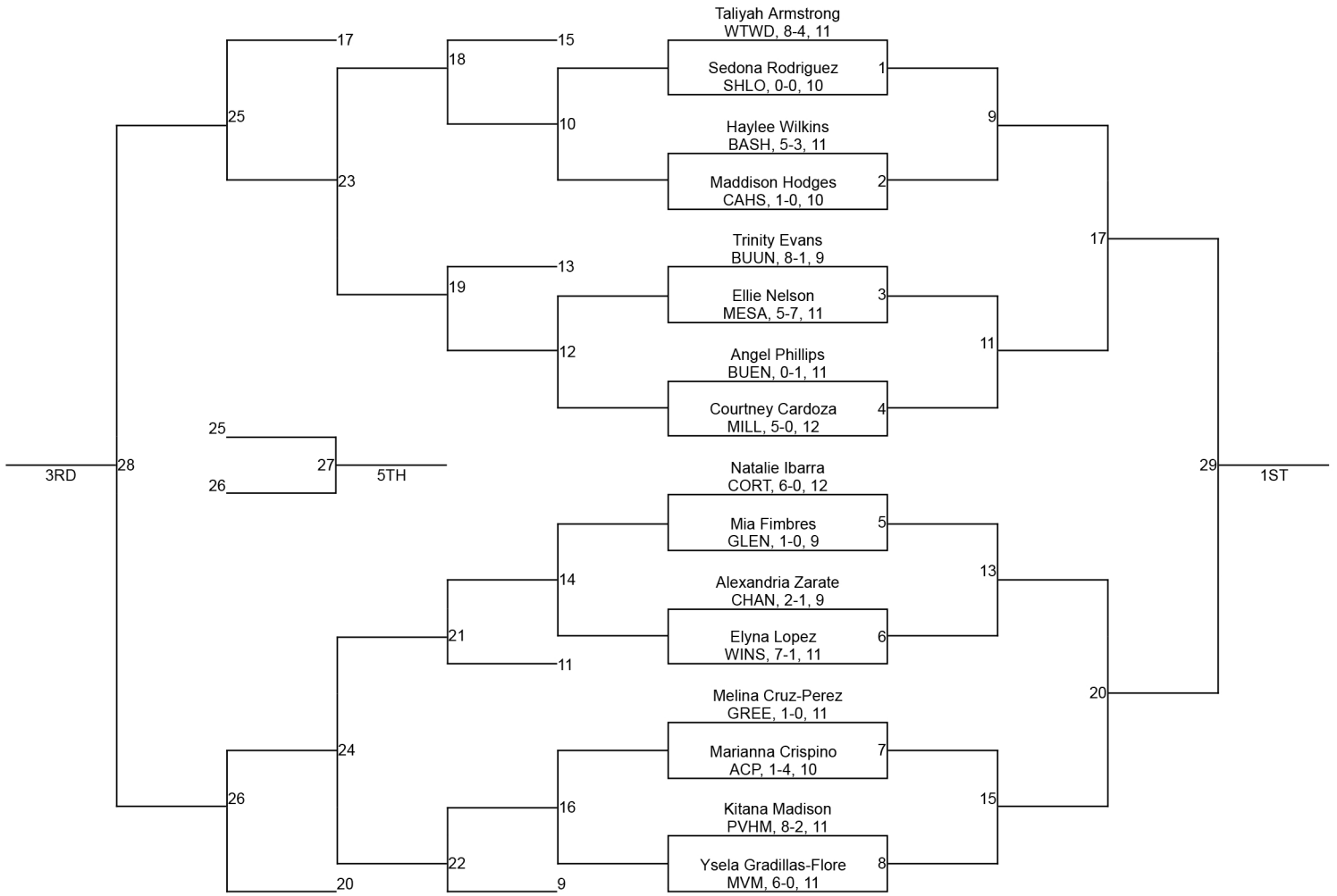
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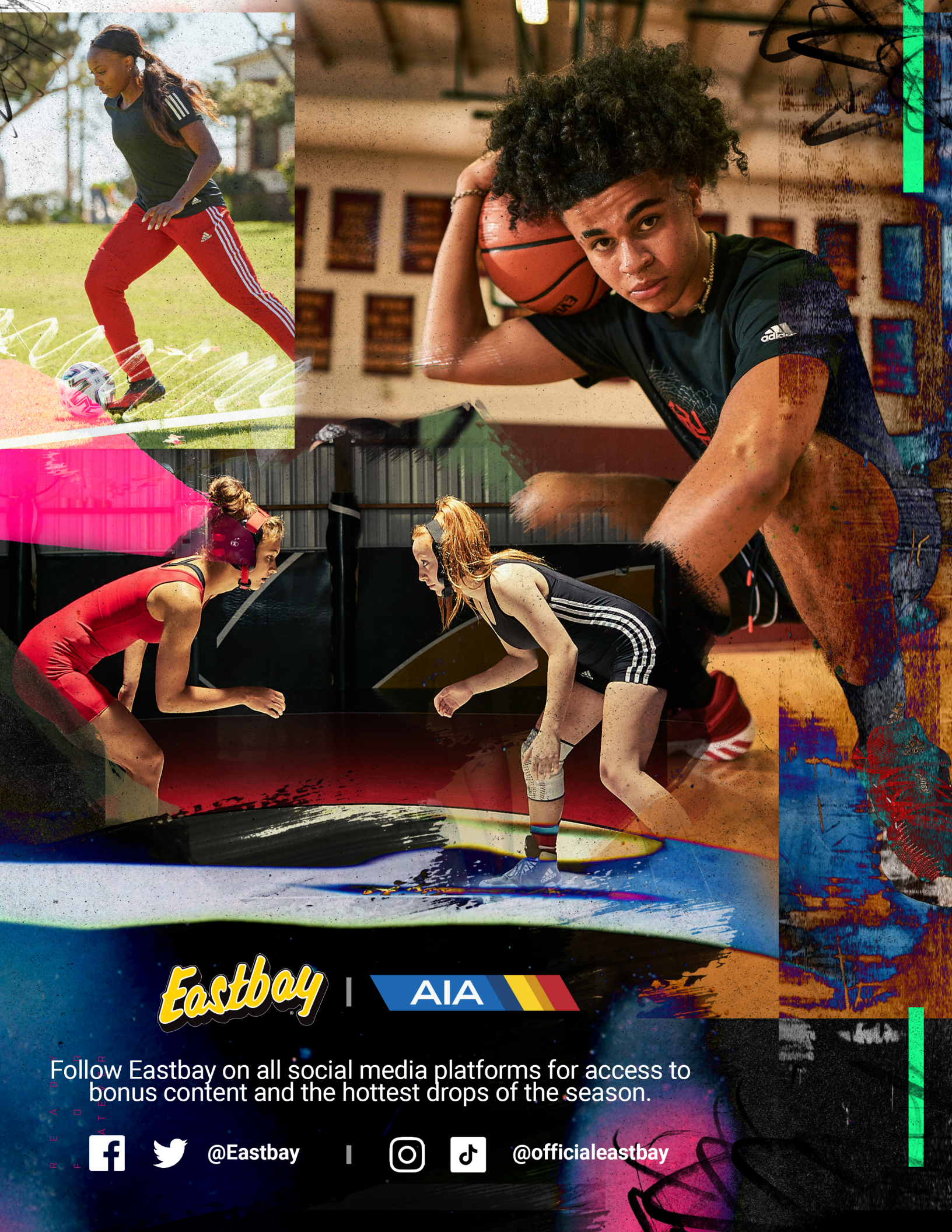
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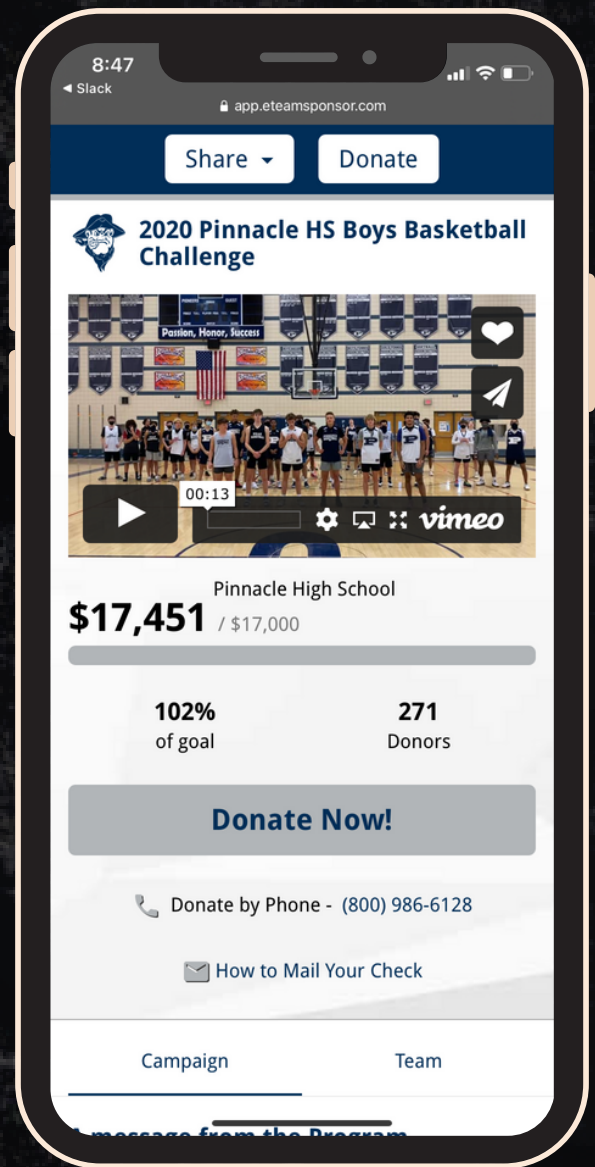
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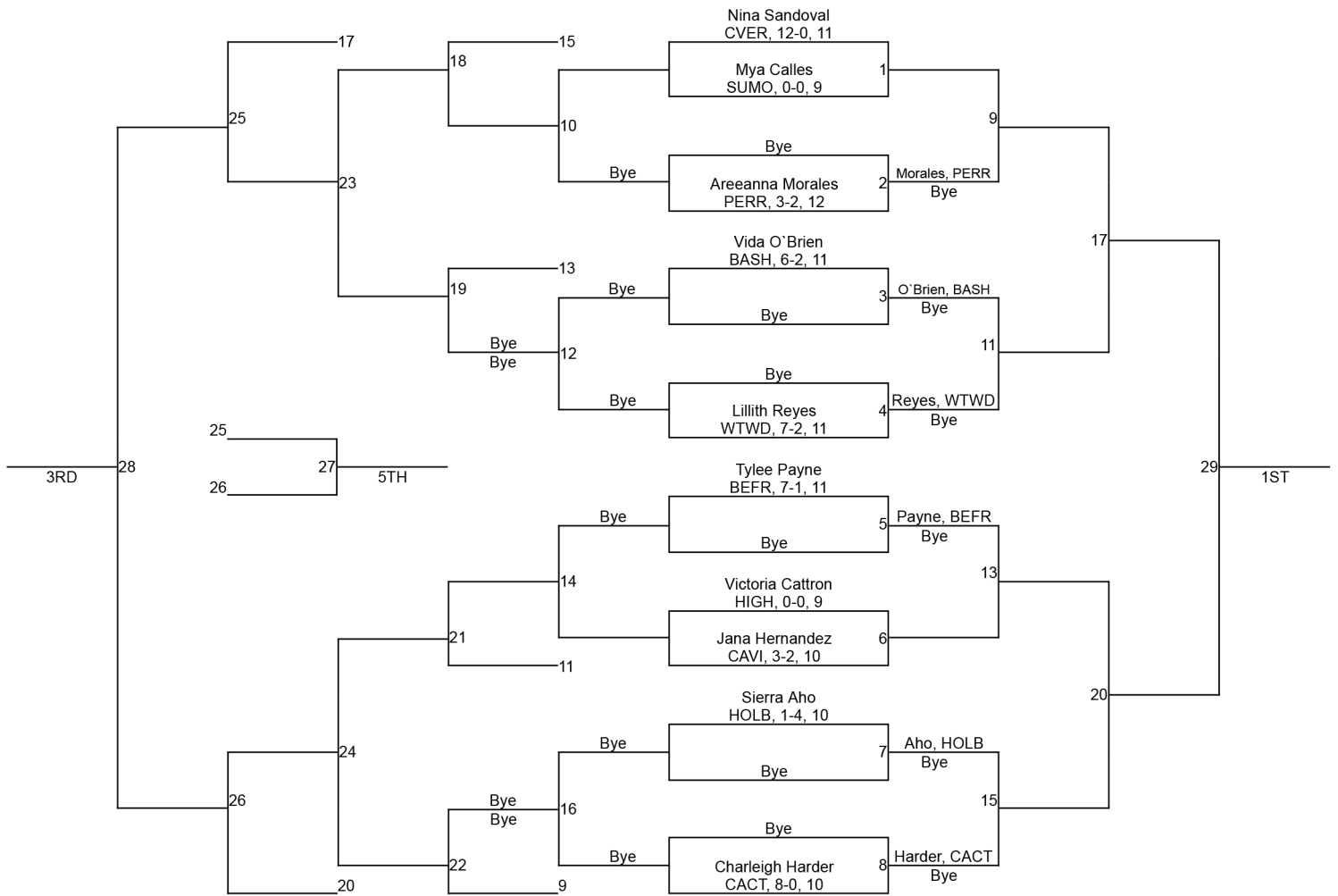
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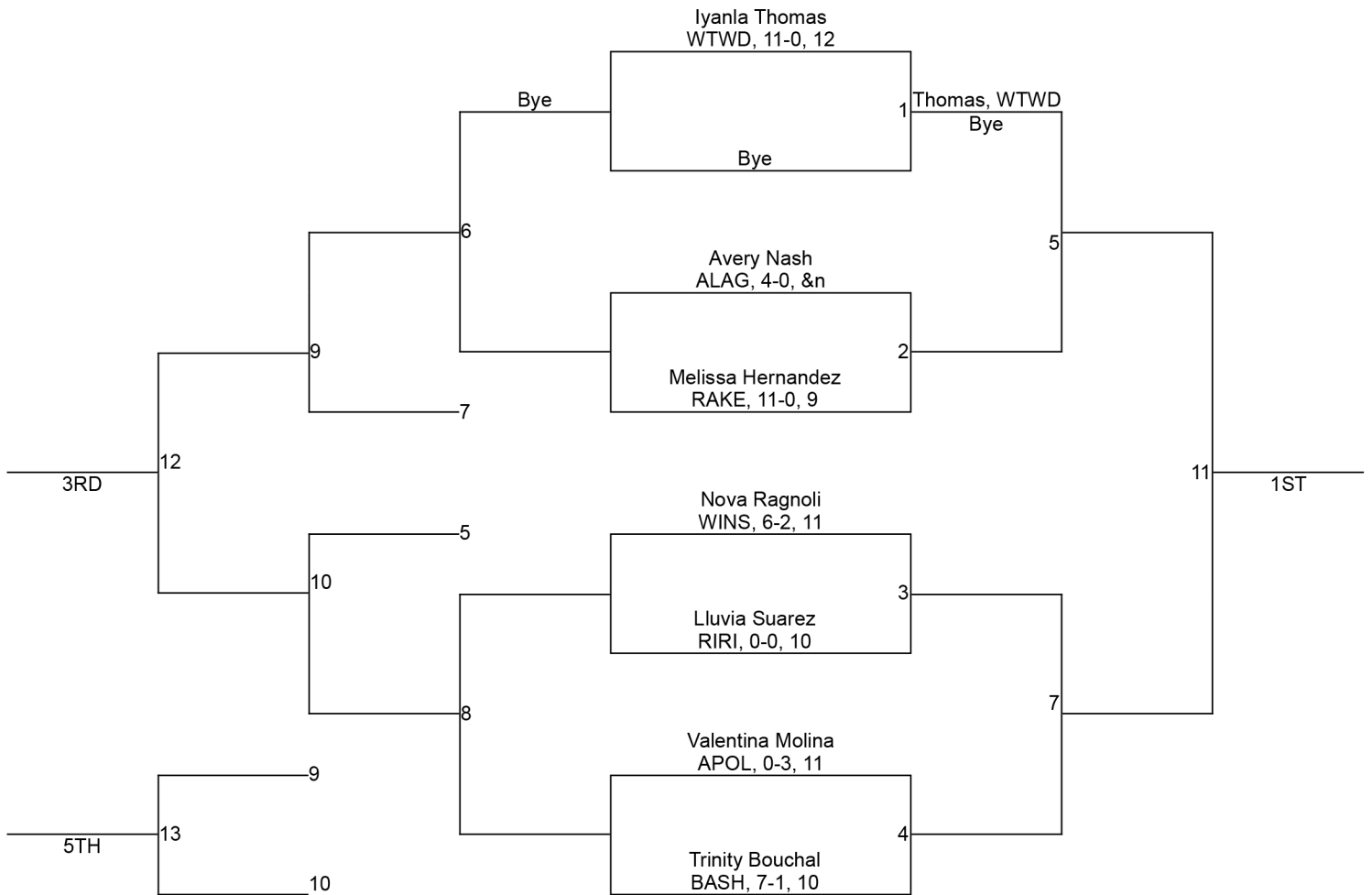
AIA Girls State Championships

160



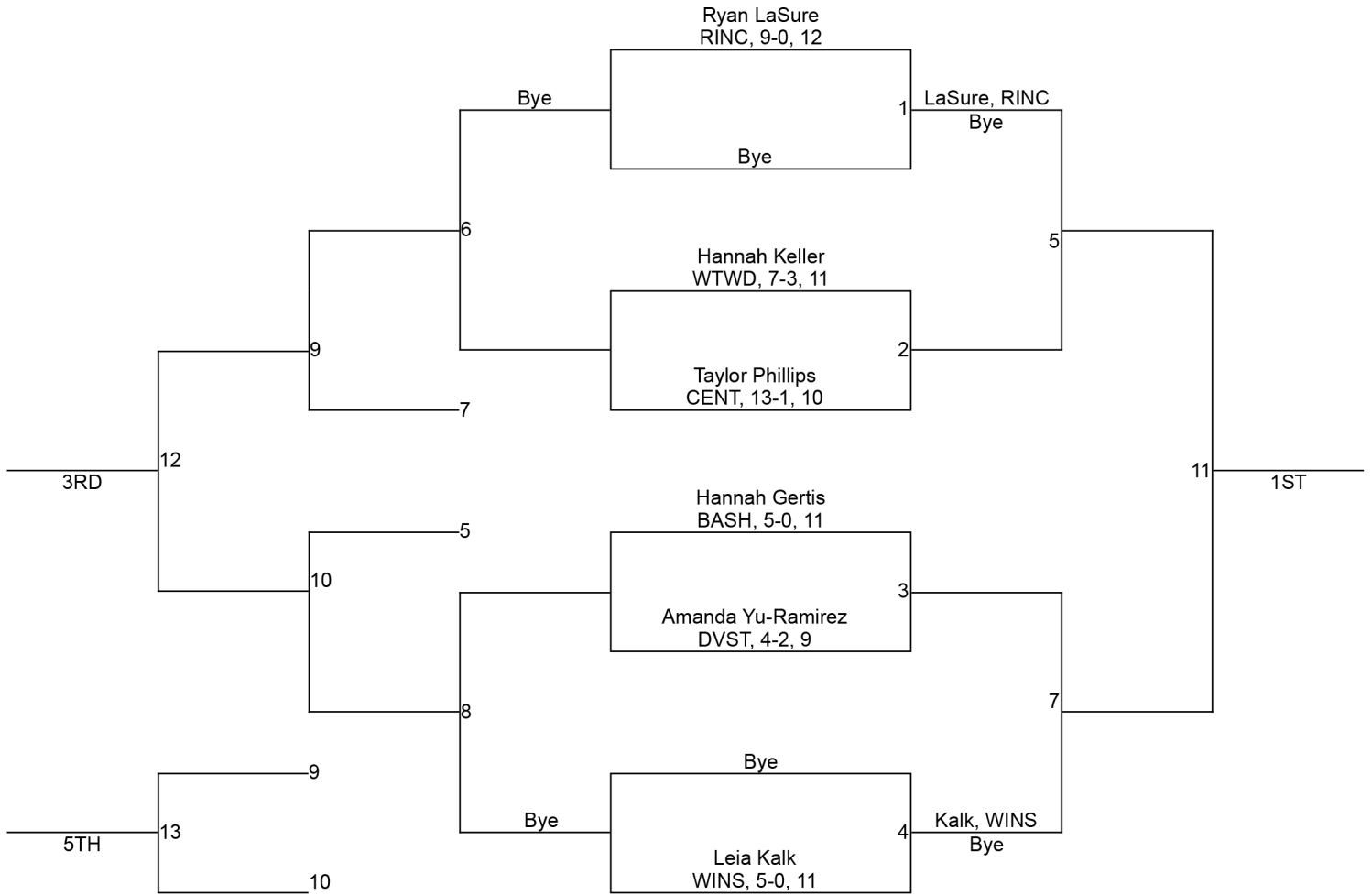
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170



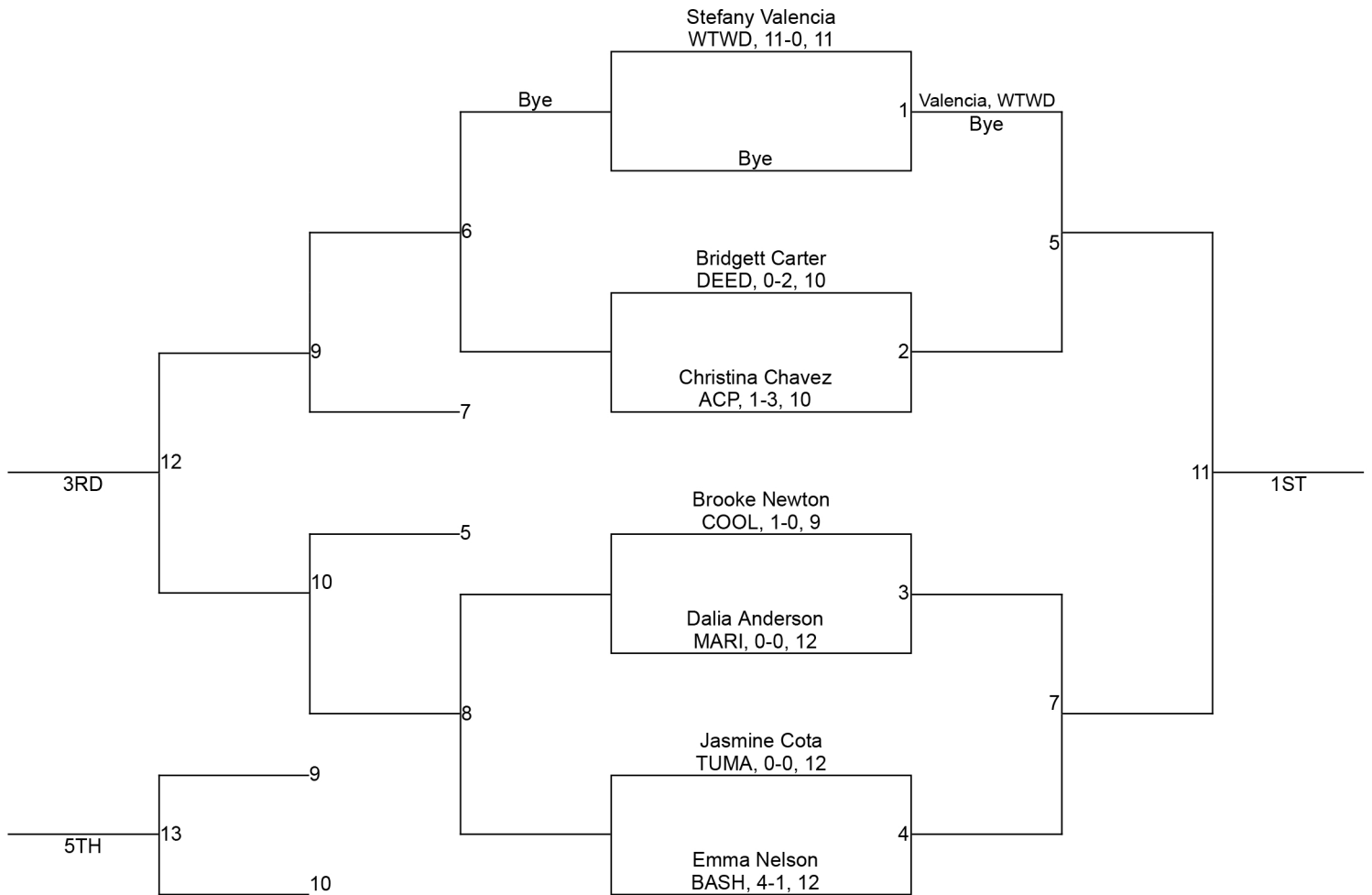
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182



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195



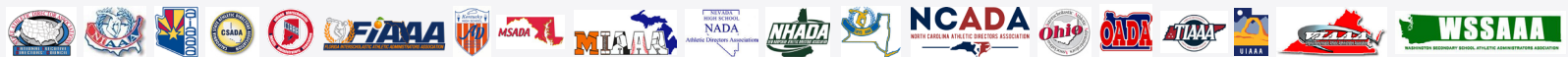
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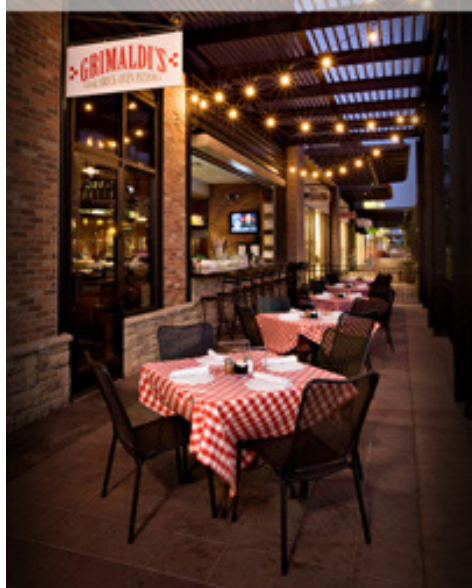
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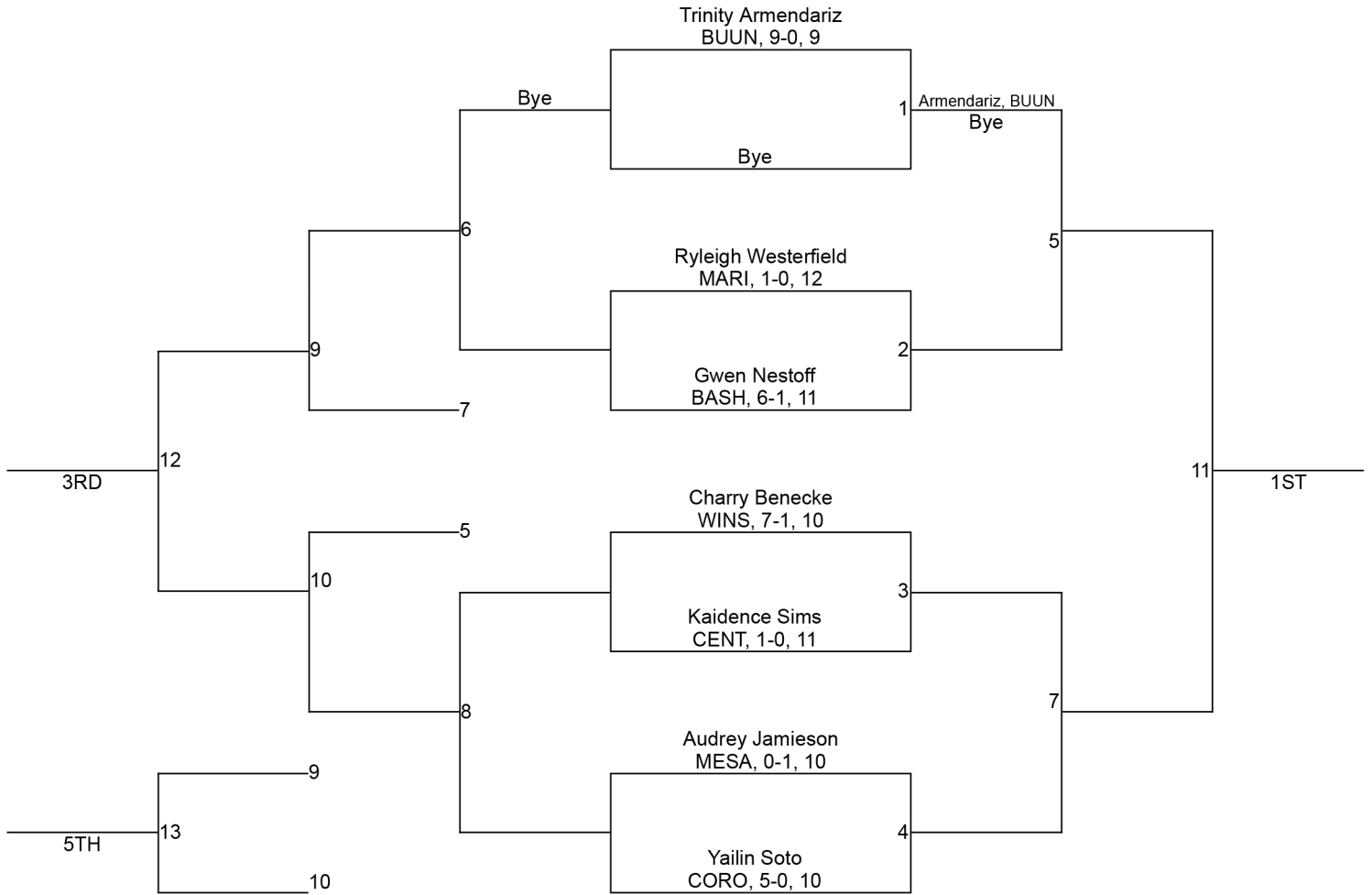
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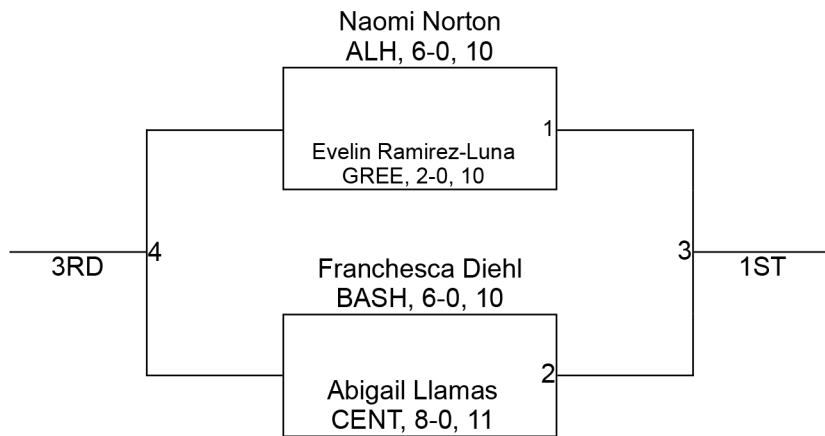
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