



2021-22 GIRLS WRESTLING



2021-22 AIA GIRLS WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Feb. 18-19 • All Rounds (Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum)

All rounds/all days live on



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The AIA would like to thank the following individuals for helping make the state championships happen. Evelyn Bader and the folks at Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and all the staff and personnel who are assisting with the events at sectional championship sites.

Wrestling tournament coordinator: Dean Visser

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Front cover photo: Chris Stanley/MaxPreps

Inside cover photo: Steve Paynter/Paynters Pics

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 and 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.

This past year showed us that by working as one statewide unit for the greater good we can achieve anything. It remains a priority 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 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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GIRLS WRESTLING IS A PARADE OF CHAMPIONS **TEN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS FROM LAST YEAR RETURN, BUT WEIGHT CLASSES HAVE BEEN REDRAWN**

By Andy Morales
AZPreps365.com

The weight classes shifted, the number of weight classes offered have been changed and the venue for the state championships are equal to that offered to the boys. There has been plenty of positive movement in girls wrestling in Arizona, and it's only going to get bigger and better.

Only 10 weight classes were recognized in 2019, the first year the AIA held a statewide wrestling championship for girls. There were no team scores offered that inaugural season, but the sport was up and running and former Shadow Ridge standout Lexi Borunda became the first state champion ever in the 101-pound weight class.

The same 10 weight classes were offered again in 2020 and Sierrah Thrun of Corona del Sol, Carolina Moreno of Kofa and Mia Didur of Centennial became the first wrestlers to win two individual championships in Arizona history.

2021 brought us a leap forward with 14 weight classes offered and programs began competing for a team championship for the first time in Arizona history. Basha came away with the first state championship in the sport's history and two more wrestlers added their names to the list of two-time state champions in Goldwater senior Bree Garcia (2020, 2021) and Naomi Norton of Arizona Lutheran (2020, 2021).

Garcia (24-1) has a chance to be the first girl from Arizona to win three state championships and she is competing in the 126-pound division. Liberty sophomore Taylor Colangelo (42-2) beat Garcia at the Section VII championships (Dec 5-4) for her only loss. This will be one of the most anticipated matches in the state.

Including Garcia, there are 10 returning champions but with a twist. The number of weight classes offered for competition this year has been reduced from 14 to 12 so earning a spot on the steps at the end of the night will become that much more difficult.

TWO-TIME STATE CHAMPIONS

Sierrah Thrun, Corona del Sol (2019, 2020)
 Carolina Moreno, Kofa (2019, 2020)
 Mia Didur, Centennial (2019, 2020)
 Bree Garcia, Goldwater (2020, 2021)
 Naomi Norton, Arizona Lutheran (2020, 2021)

RETURNING STATE CHAMPIONS

100: Bella Bocenagra (Liberty) 36-0
 107: Audrey Jimenez (Sunnyside) 9-0
 120: Trinity Howard (Hamilton) 18-1
 120: Adacelli Noriega (Bisbee) 14-1
 126: Bree Garcia (Goldwater) 24-1
 132: Isabelle Munoz (Casteel) 34-0
 138: Camry Carter (Casteel) 20-2
 165: Nina Sandoval (Campo Verde) 12-0
 185: Stefany Valencia (Westwood) 33-1
 235: Charry Benecke (Winslow) 25-1

The team competition was held at Mesquite High School last year but all competition is slated for the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum this year for both boys and girls. The girls will wrestle all day on Friday, Feb. 18 and then again on Saturday with the championship round scheduled for Saturday night.



Bree Garcia of Barry Goldwater is going for her third individual title, this time in 126 pounds after her championship in 132 last year before the realignment of weight classes. (Chris Stanley photo/MaxPreps)

Basha is still in the mix to repeat but Liberty qualified six wrestlers for state while Casteel, Westwood, Sunnyside, Winslow and Basha had five. Chavez, Hamilton, Mesa and Poston Butte will bring four.

Bisbee junior Adacelli Noriega (14-1) became the first wrestler from Southern Arizona to win a state title in 2020 as a freshman but Bisbee did not compete last year due to COVID restrictions. Noriega was unable to defend her title but she's back this year. Sunnyside standout Audrey Jimenez (9-0) won her first title last year and the sophomore is currently ranked No. 1 in the country in her weight class. She will be making a strong case for four individual titles but she has to get this one first.

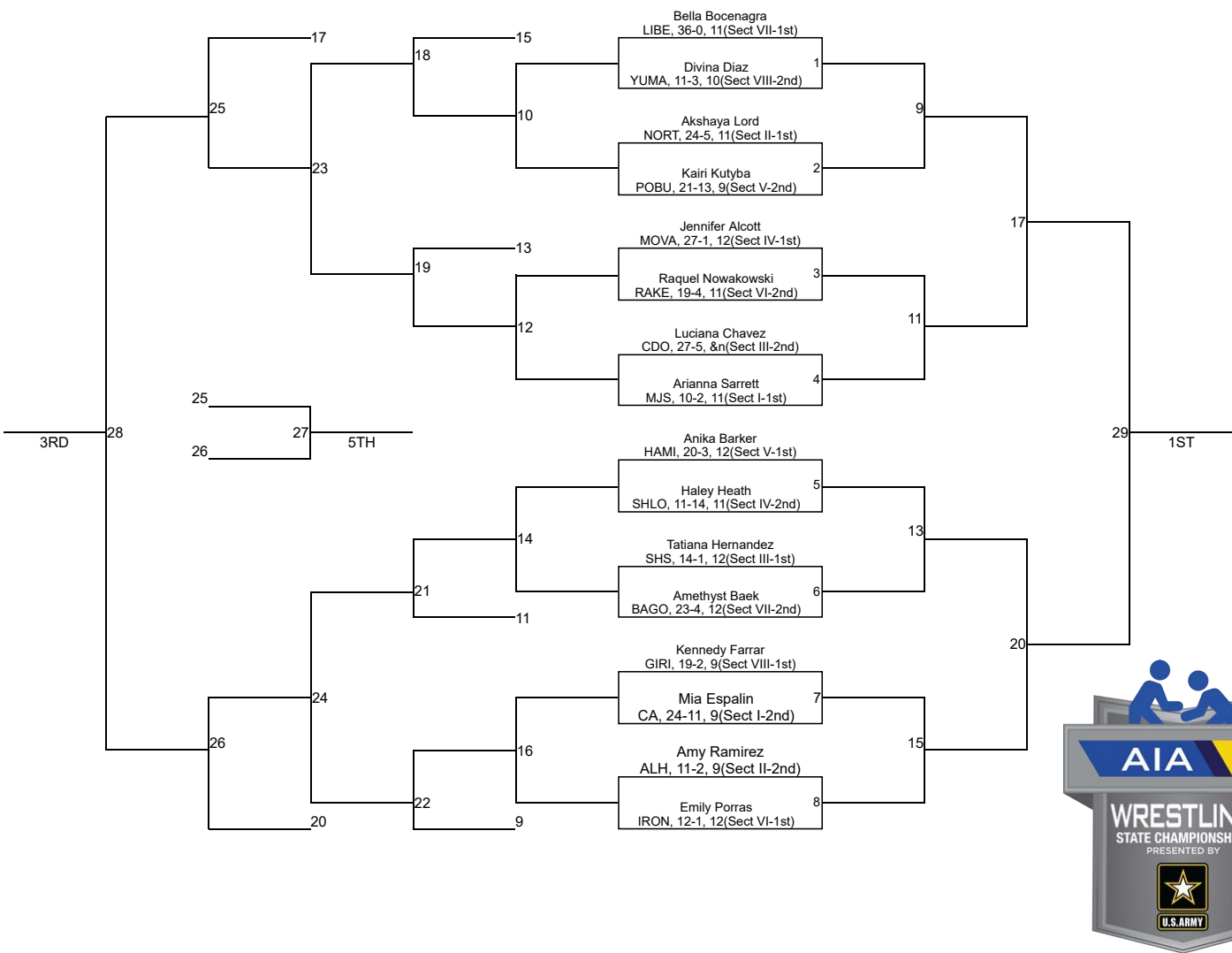
Jimenez is one of a handful of undefeated wrestlers including Bella Bocenagra of Liberty (100: 36-0); Adriana Barron of Washington (107: 20-0); Audrey Jimenez of Sunnyside (107: 9-0); Riley Davila of Winslow (114: 26-0); Jussiah Bamba of Peoria (114: 20-0); Andie Donahue of Valley Christian (120: 9-0); Mylei Seigla of Canyon del Oro (132: 31-0); Isabelle Munoz of Casteel (132: 34-0); Jamie Laswell of Cesar Chavez (132: 7-0); Isis France of Sunnyslope (132: 33-0); Shi'anna Bamba of Peoria (138: 22-0); Taliyah Armstrong of Westwood (145: 32-0); Issis Stevens of Kofa (145: 22-0); Genesis Higuera The Odyssey Institute for Advanced and International Studies (152: 21-0) and Nina Sandoval of Campo Verde (165: 12-0).

If the weight classes and records hold from sectionals to bracketing, the 132-pound division with Seigla (31-0), Munoz (34-0) and France (33-0) clashing at some point along with Laswell (7-0). The 145 weight class has Stevens (22-0) and Armstrong (32-0) competing and the 114 weight class has Davila (26-0) and Bamba (20-0) competing.

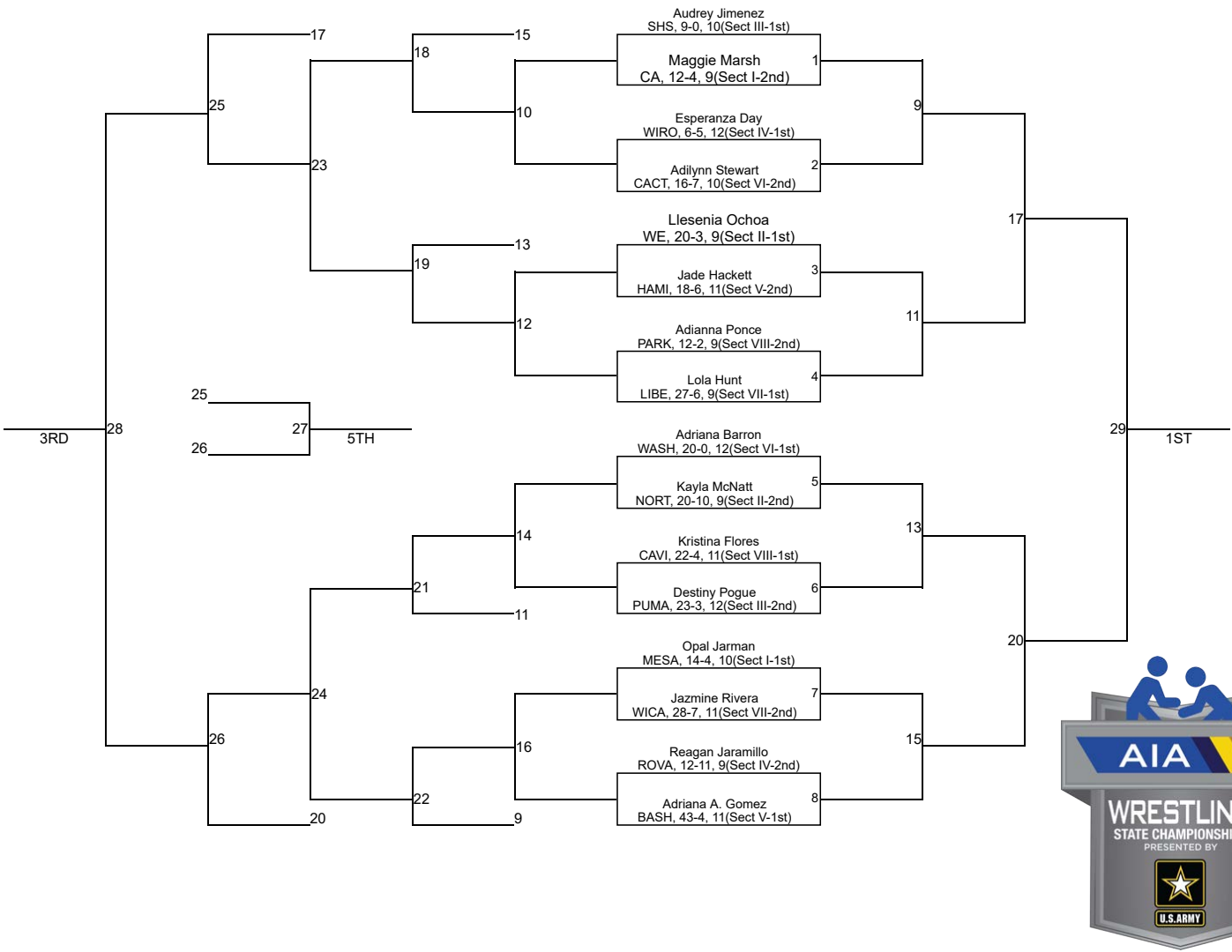
All four divisions on the boy's side will take to the floor of the Coliseum with the girls during the Parade of Champions prior to the championship final. There were eight sectionals this year for the girls and each section sent the top two qualifiers in each weight class if possible to make up the 16 spots on the championship bracket. The top six wrestlers from each weight class will earn a medal.

AIA Girls State Championships

100



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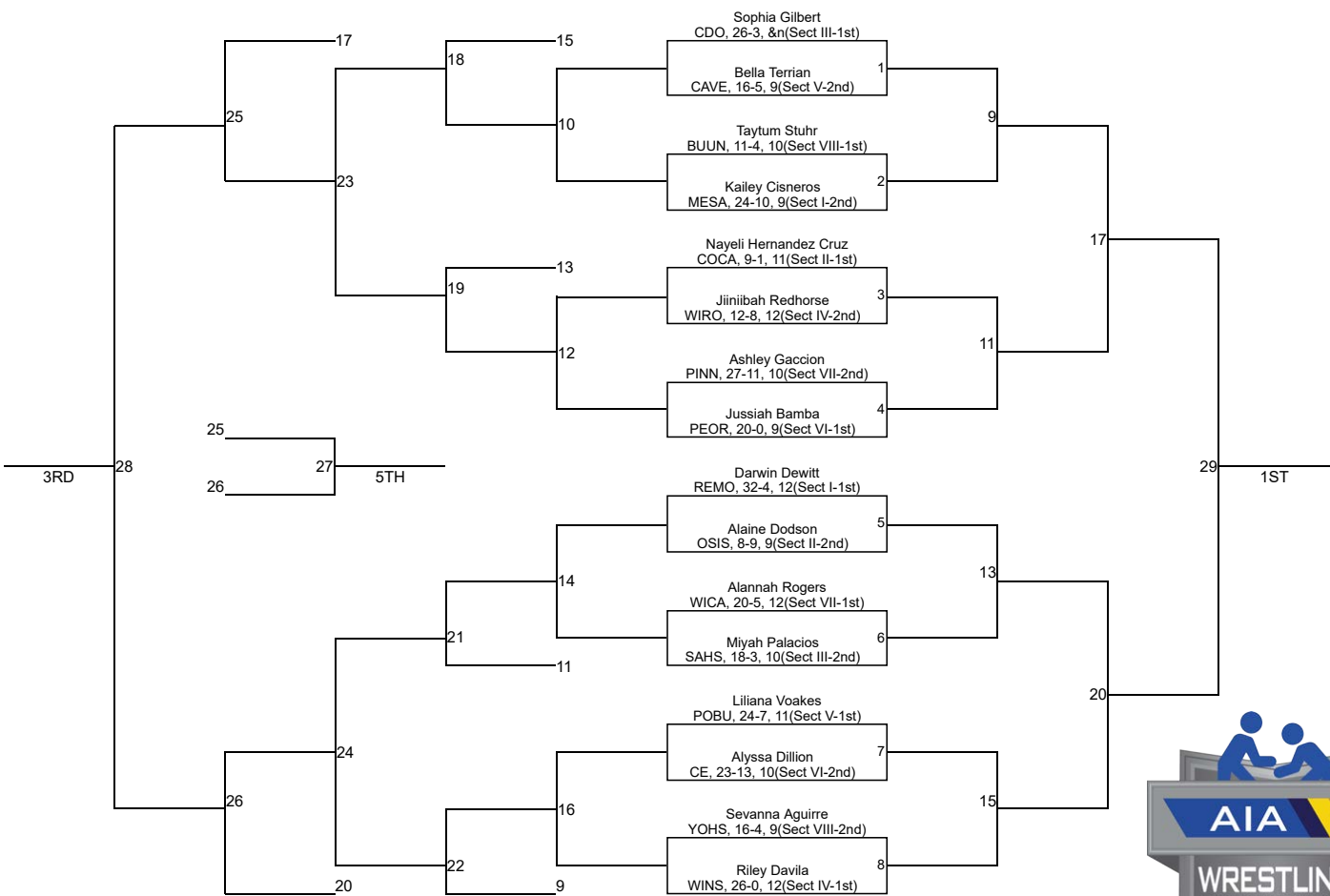
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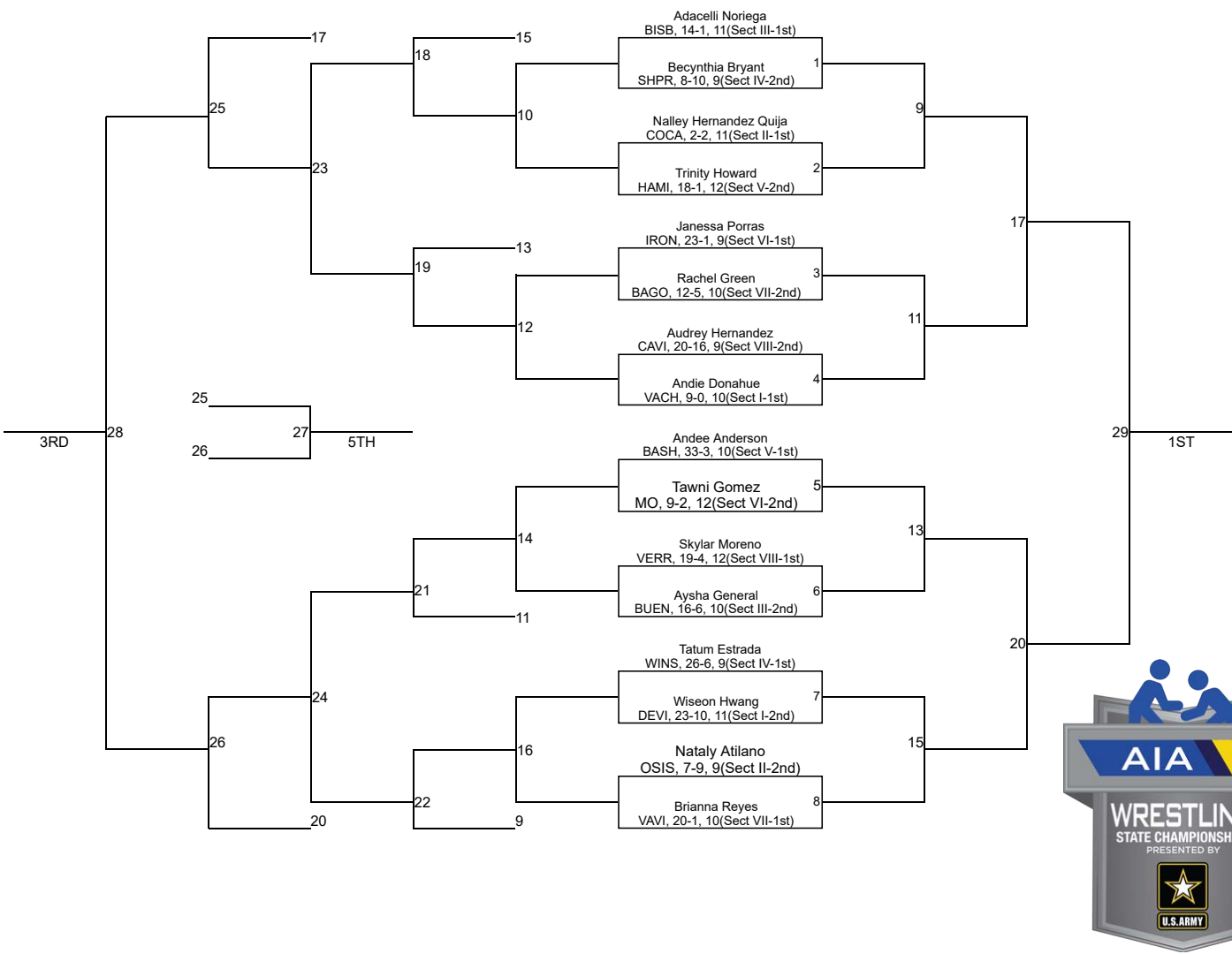


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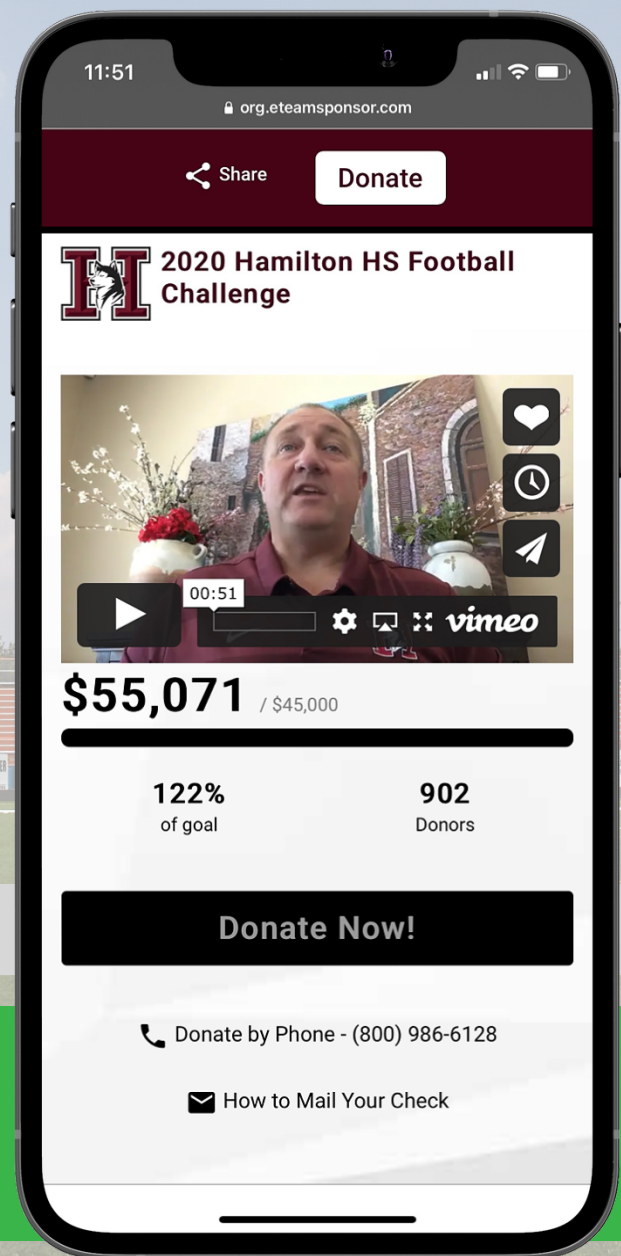
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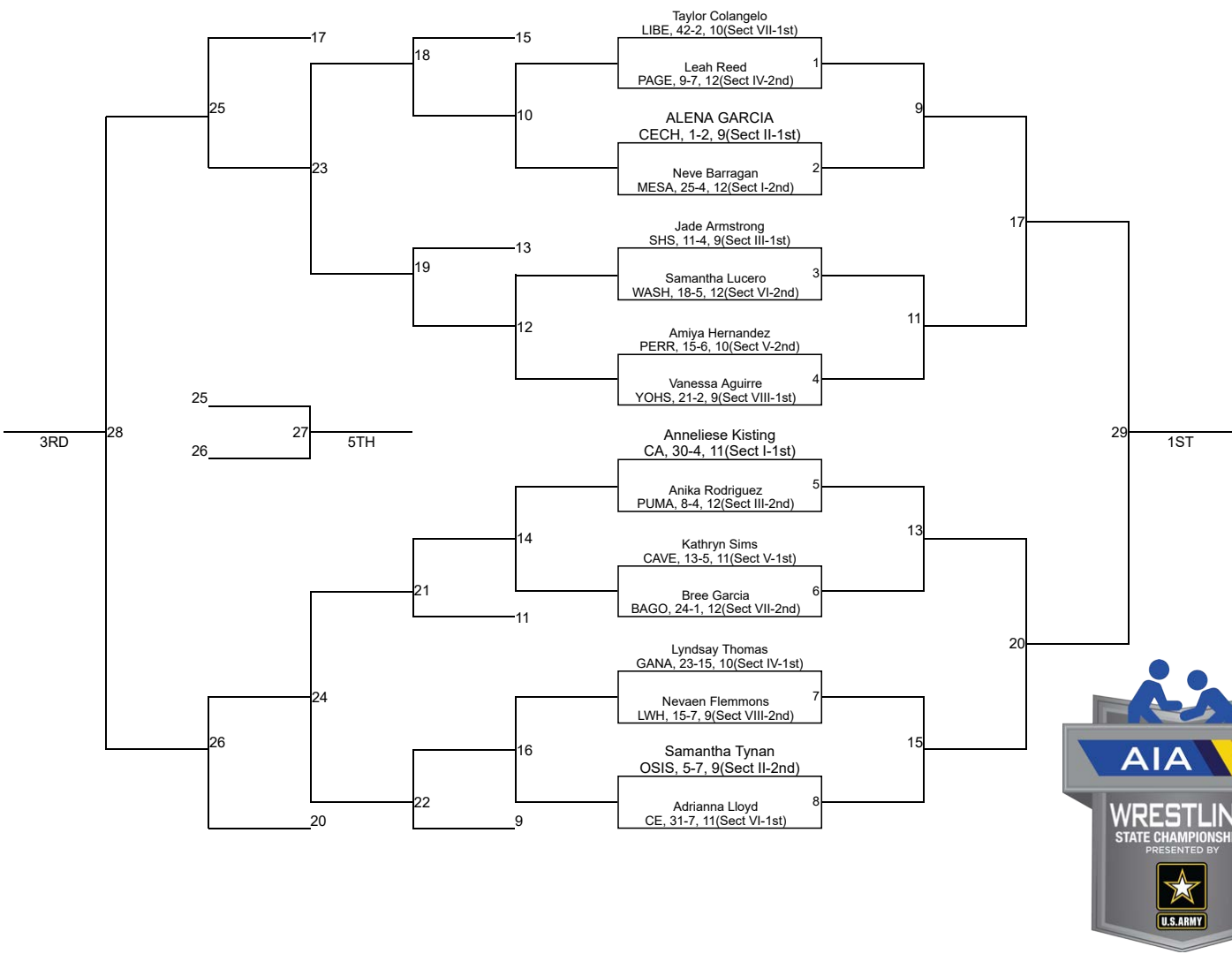
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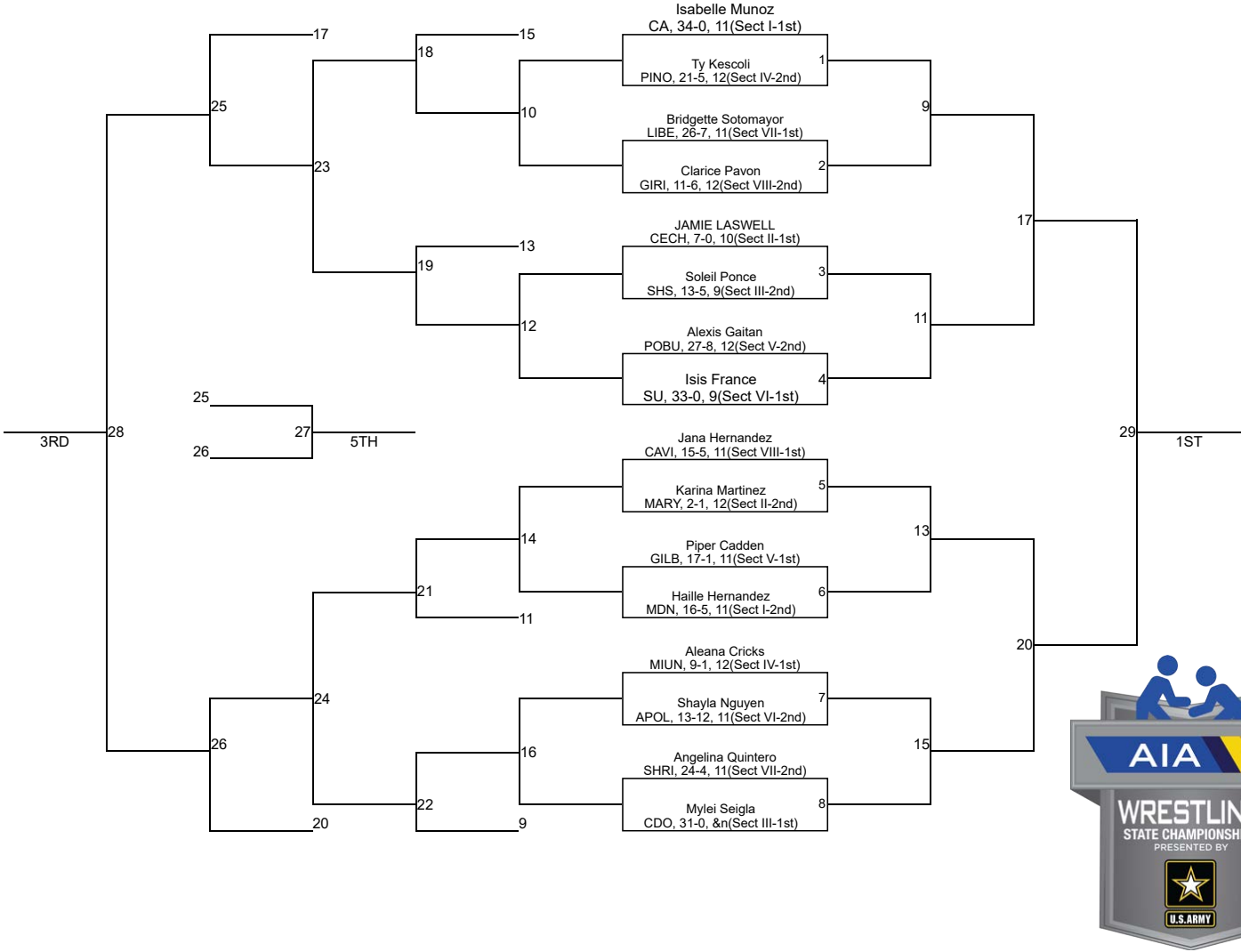
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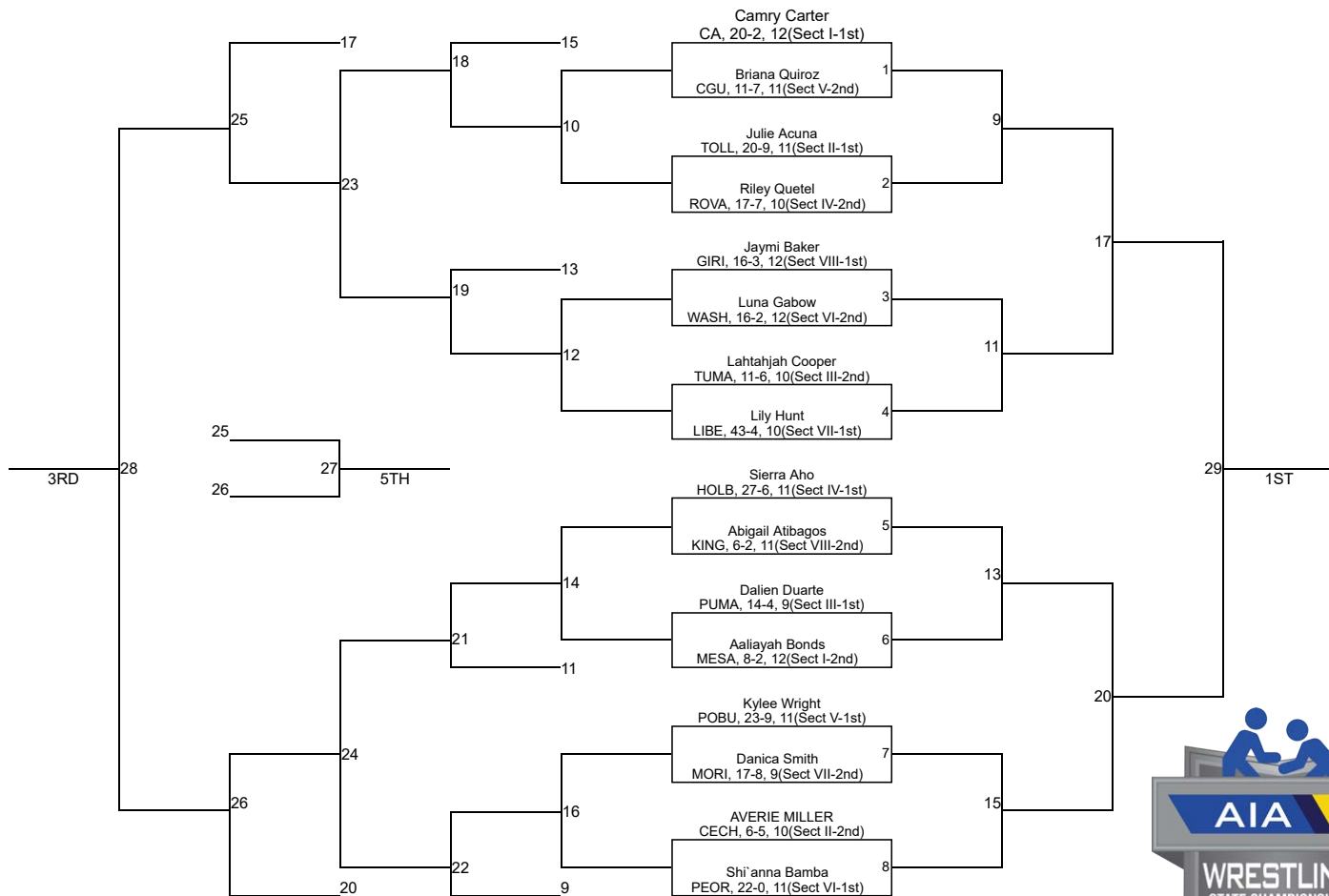


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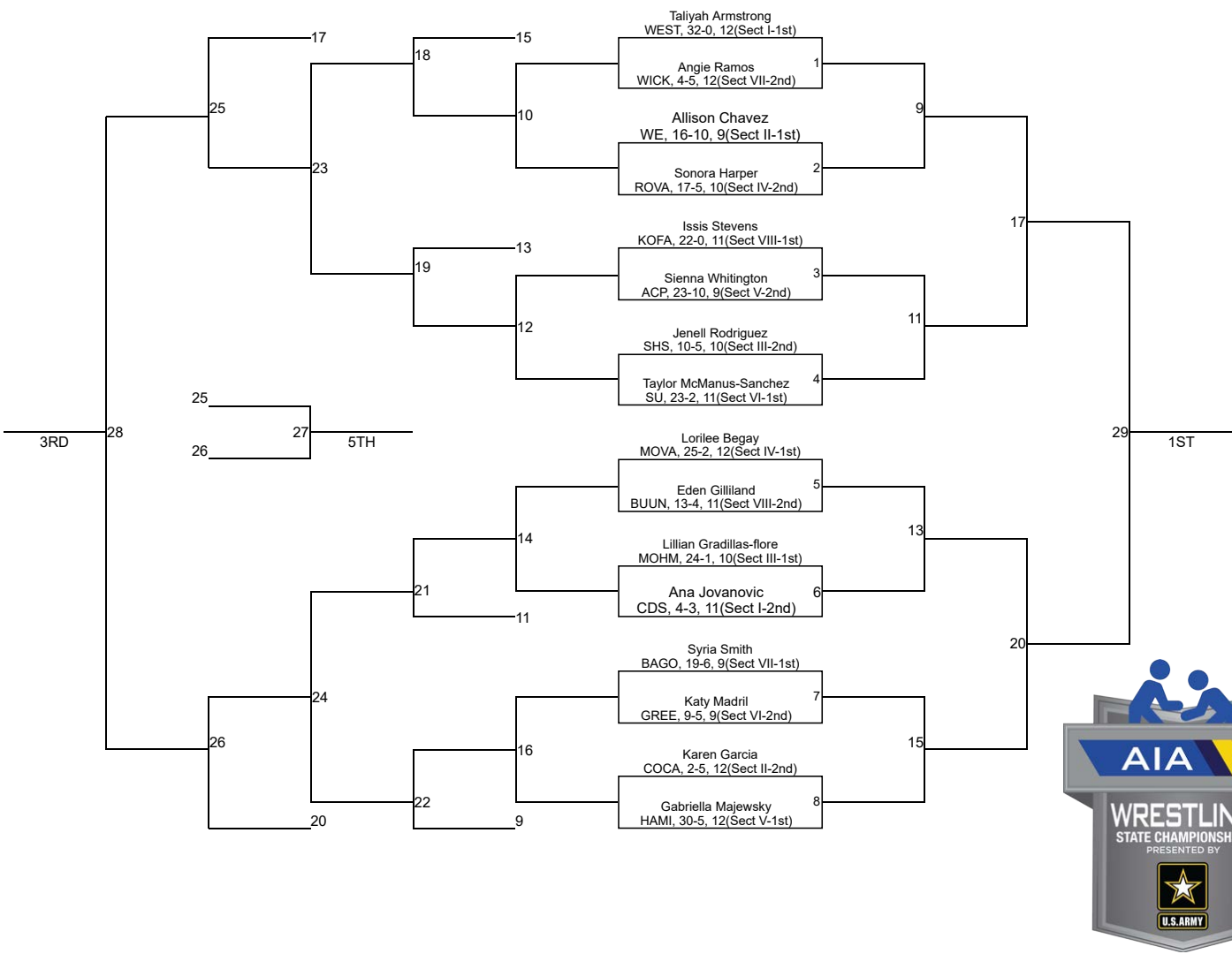
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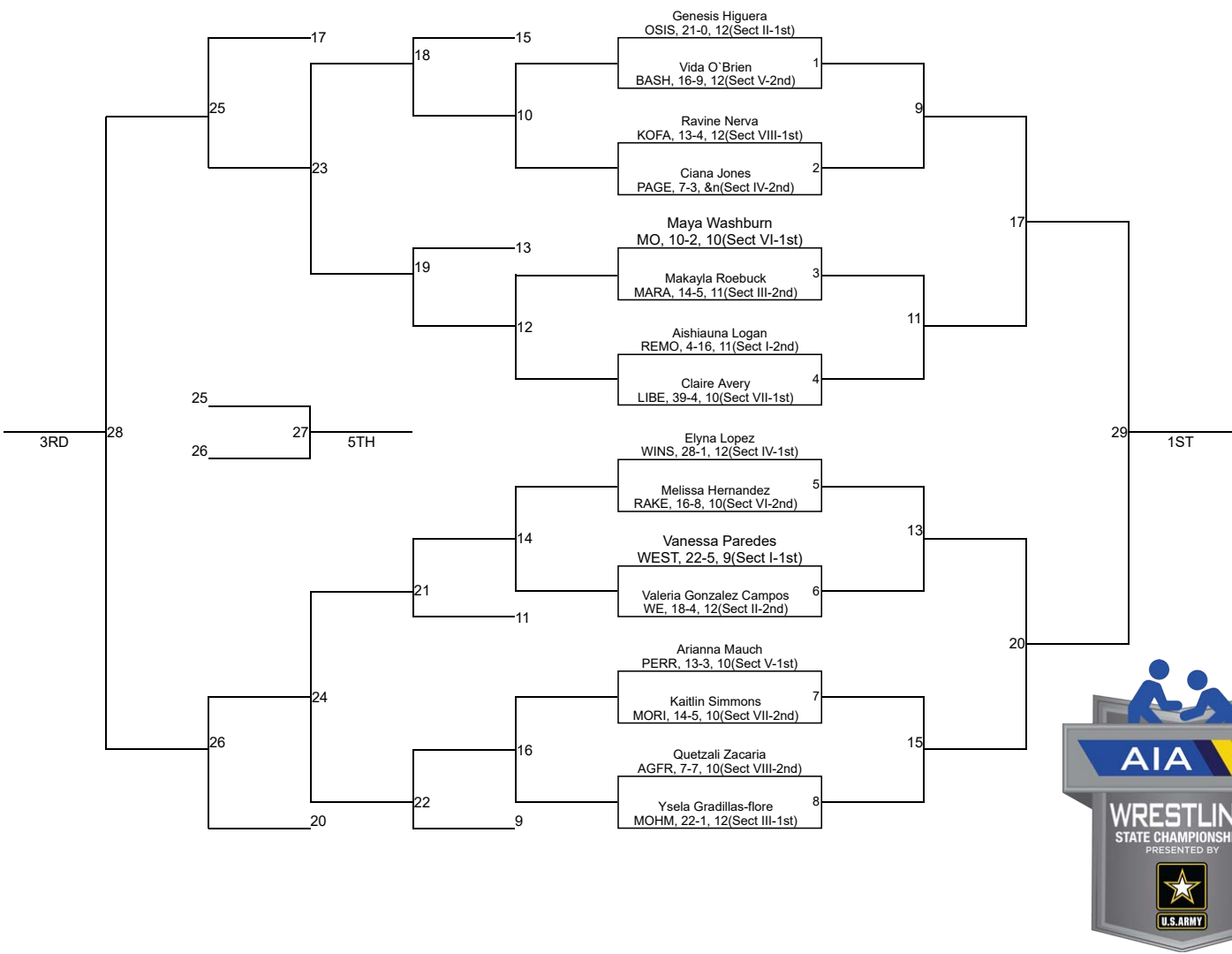
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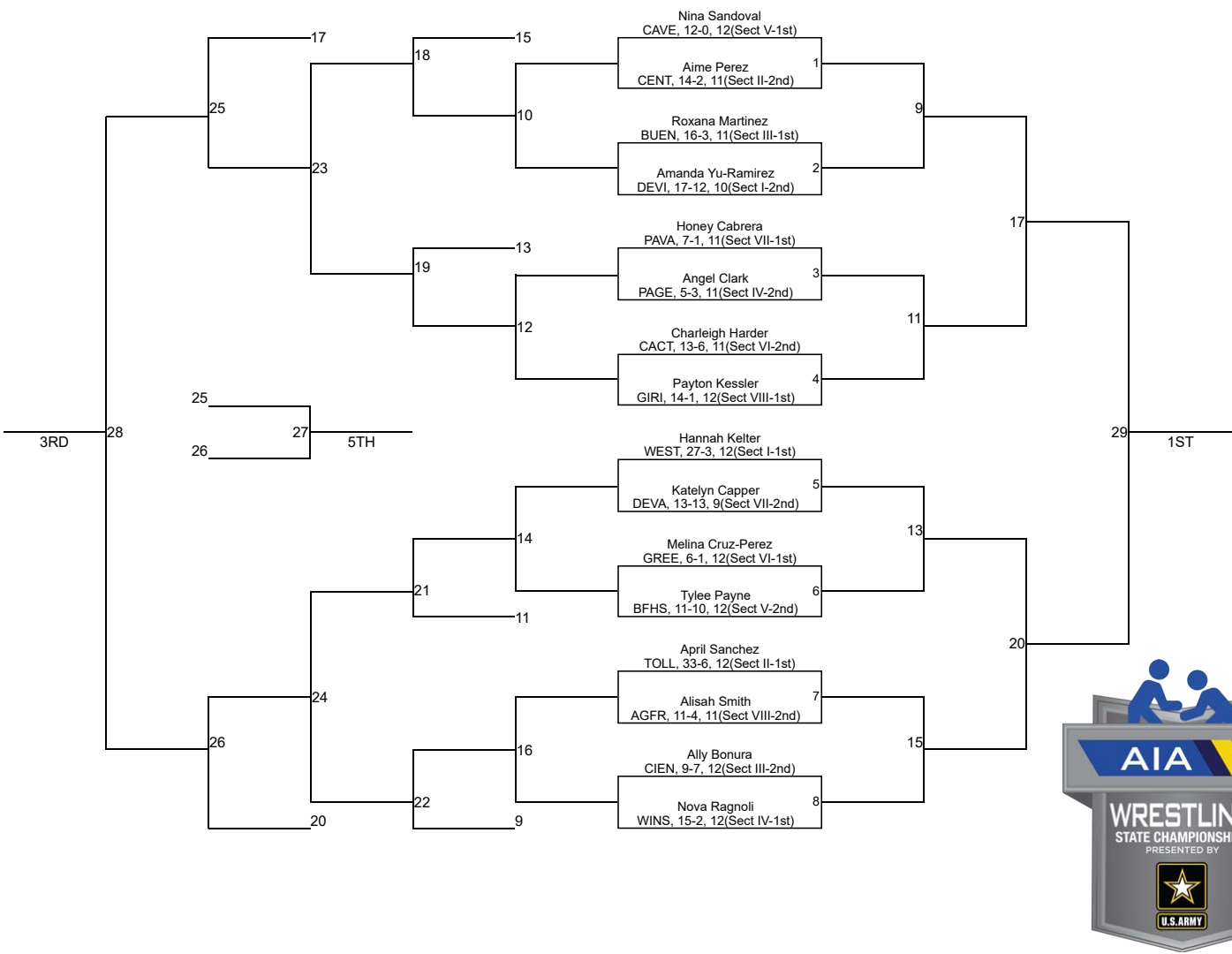
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AIA Girls State Championships



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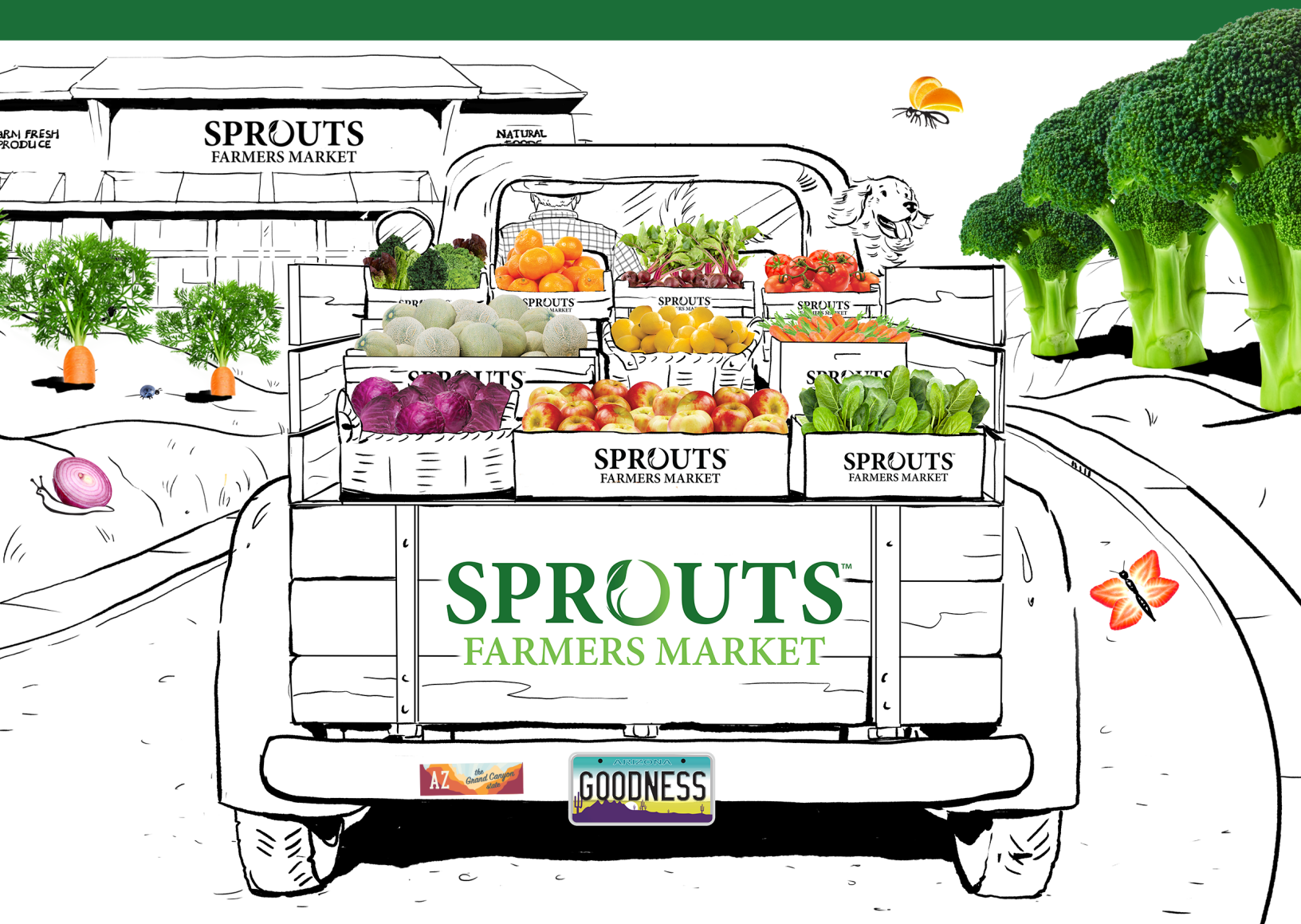




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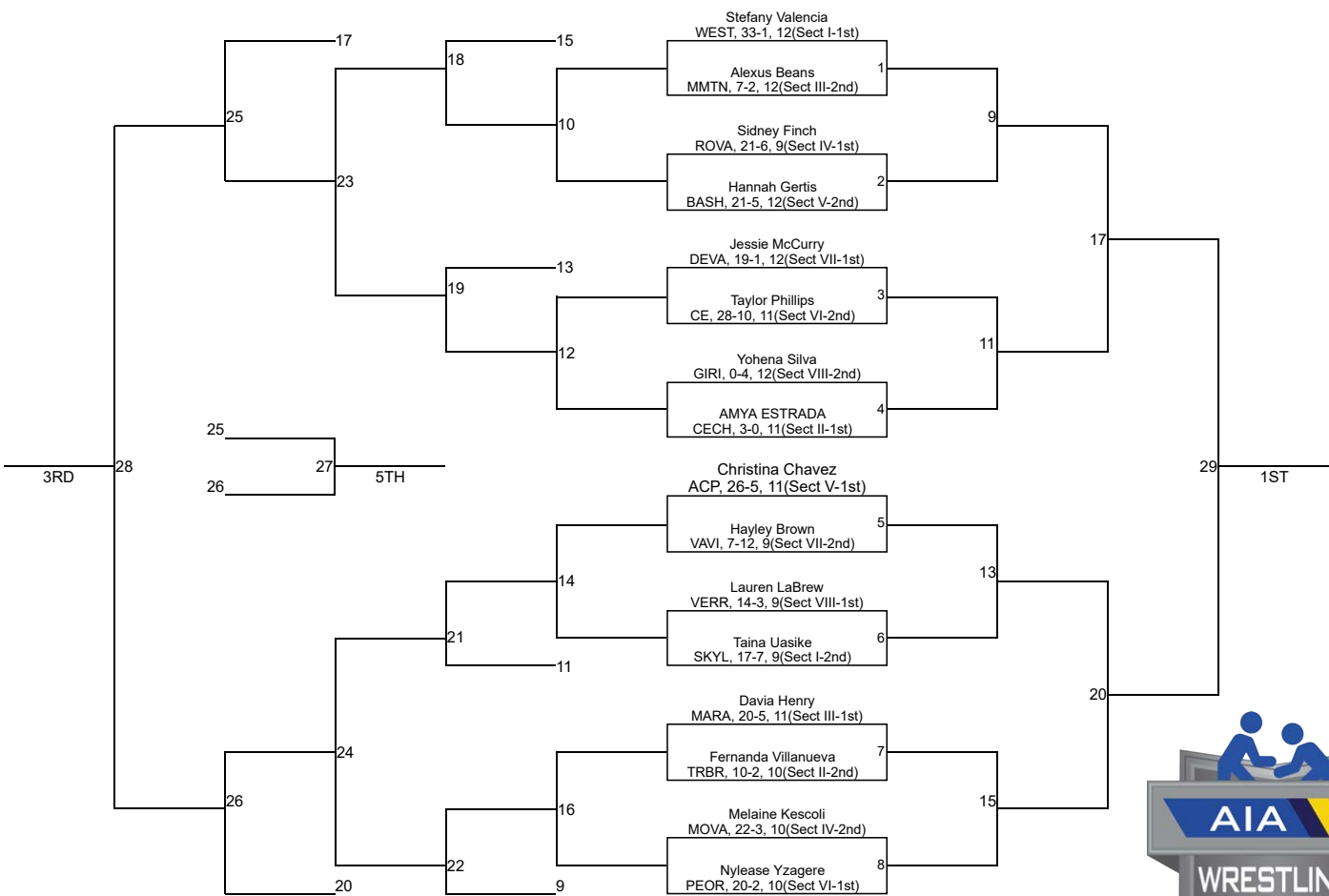
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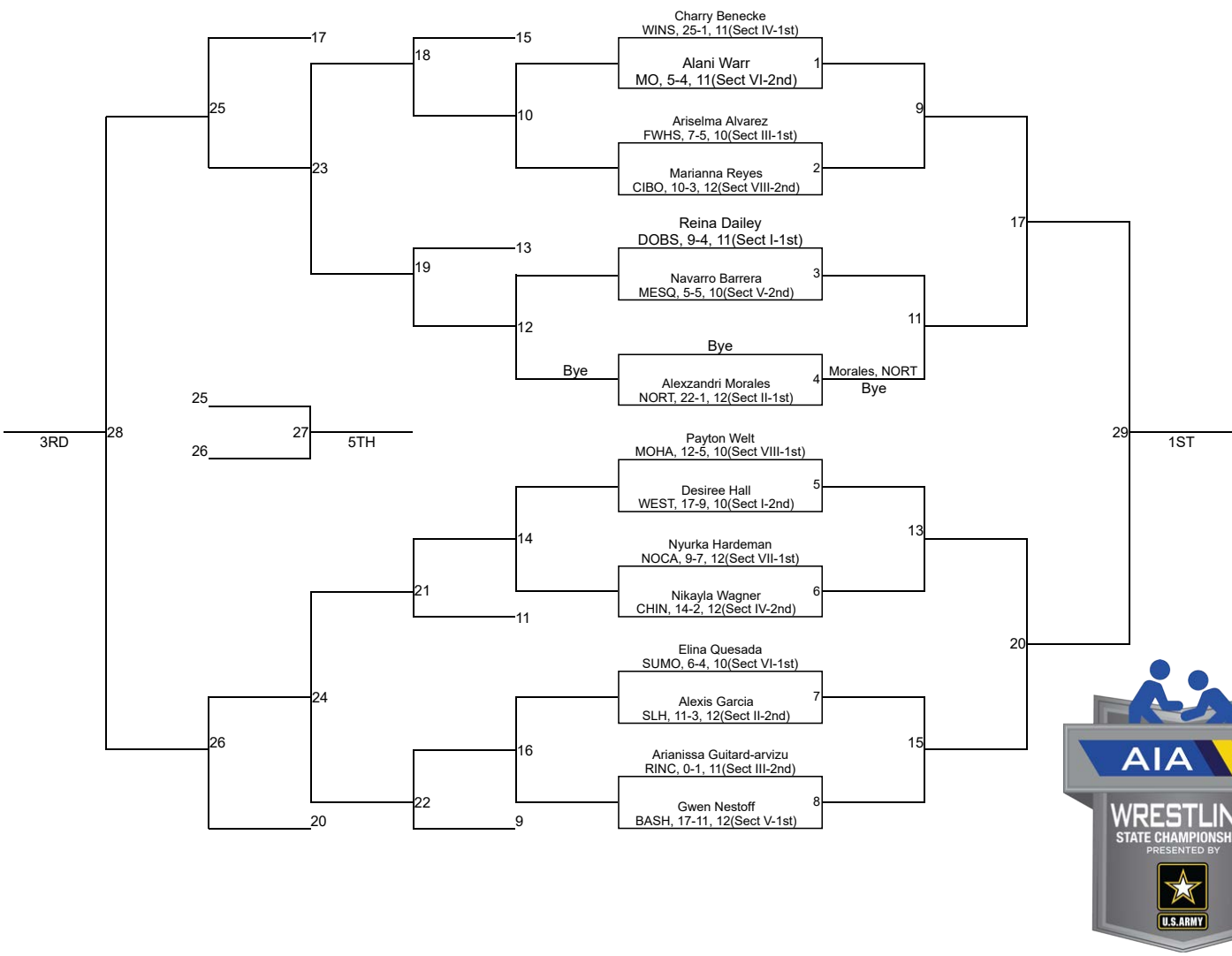
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