

All-Star wrestling event fun for all Classes

By **CLIFF OTT**
Special Correspondent

With college coaches watching, 52 of South Carolina's best high school senior wrestlers showcased their talents Saturday at the South Carolina Coaches Association All-Star Wrestling Tournament at Brookland-Cayce High School.

"I feel like this is the best single event that's ever happened to high school wrestling," Dreher coach Joe Soltish said. "Being a low-budget sport, most college scouts get to attend only the big tournaments and focus primarily on Class AAAA schools.

"A tournament like this gives the best wrestlers a chance to match up against each other regardless of the size of the school. They aren't discriminated against on the basis of the size of the school."

Dreher's two-time state Class AAA champion, Bill Bookman, was one who fared well against competition from a larger school. Bookman won the 125-pound division by defeating two wrestlers from Class AAAA schools who had a combined record of 161-10.

"I've been telling people that Bill could wrestle with anyone in the state, and today he backed that up. He

dominated both his opponents today," Soltish said.

Another spectacular performance was turned in by Summerville's Chris Burns. Burns won the 135-pound division by defeating Dorman's Brian Cohens. Burns owns 1987 and '89 state championships and ends his career with a 94-3-1 record, including 34-0 this year.

Lexington's Troy Sheldon won the 112-pound division by defeating Battery Creek's William Craig. Sheldon, the 1989 state champion, finishes 31-1.

Summerville's Jim Ellis won the 145-pound division by defeating pre-

viously undefeated Bill Berry of Swansea. Berry, the Class AAA state champion, finishes 34-1.

All-Star Wrestling Tournament Results

103 — Cle Daniels (Beaufort) d. Beverly Bush (Dreher); 112 — Troy Sheldon (Lexington) d. William Craig (Battery Creek); 119 — James Boneparte (O-W) d. Peter Mierke (Hillcrest); 125 — Billy Bookman (Dreher) d. Shawn Tucker (Summerville); 130 — Allen Smith (Summerville) d. Dale Beachum (Lexington); 135 — Chris Burns (Summerville) d. Brian Cohens (Spartanburg Dorman); 140 — Steve Pomatto (Summerville) d. McGarrett Simmons (Swansea); 145 — Jim Ellis (Summerville) d. Bill Berry (Swansea); 152 — Bernard Parker (Summerville) d. Jamie Green (Woodruff); 160 — Kevin Jones (O-W) d. Jeff Cole (Summerville); 171 — Tory Stock (Belton-Honea Path) d. Marshall Jeffcoat (Swansea); 189 — Everett Sands (Conway) d. Scott Parris (Boiling Springs); 275 — Alex Henderson (Dreher) d. Todd Lowman (Airport).