

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



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• LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Dear Alumni, Family, and Friends,

Another wrestling season has come to an end, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment and support of our Bucknell Wrestling program. We have a lot to be proud of, as we qualified six individuals for NCAA's and brought home another team trophy from EIWA's. We didn't reach our ultimate goal of crowning our first National Champion or placing individuals on the podium, but we continue to make positive strides!

I am so grateful for our senior class (Rustin Barrick, Chuck Boddy, Brennan McAlister, Paul Petrov, Rob Schlitt, and Joe Stolfi) and for the leadership they displayed throughout their careers. There is no question that the best is ahead of them as they take their experiences as student-athletes at Bucknell and apply those valuable life lessons to their personal and professional lives.

We are ready and determined to take the necessary steps to help us achieve our goals. The timing and momentum has never been better, as we prepare to move into our new facility, the Graham Building. This brand new, state of the art, wrestling specific training facility is scheduled to open later this summer. We have also taken the next step in creating a USA Wrestling Regional Training Center, which is detailed throughout this newsletter. I hope you will consider providing additional support towards the operation of this training center. The majority of teams in our conference, as well as elite teams throughout the country, are currently home to similar programs. This is a critical step as we continue to build and move forward to achieving the kind of success that will make you proud of our student-athletes, both on the mat and in the classroom.

We continue to build upon the years of history of the program. In order to solidify the foundation of all those who have worn the Orange and Blue, this year I invited Coach Ferraro and former two-time All-American Bobby Ferraro to speak to the team. It was a fantastic afternoon, providing an excellent opportunity for us to connect with Coach Ferraro and Bobby as we talked about the tradition of Bucknell Wrestling, the ongoing financial needs of the program, and the exciting steps moving forward with creating a USA Wrestling Regional Training Center.

It is important for our student athletes to hear from past coaches and athletes. They are continually motivated and inspired by the stories of positive experiences our alumni have had at Bucknell and the significant opportunities that Bucknell University and Bucknell Wrestling provide in the future.

In closing, I want to again thank you for all of your support. Let us look forward to the exciting future of Bucknell Wrestling! Go Bison!

My best,

Dan Wirnsberger - Head Wrestling Coach

THE FERRARO'S VISIT THE GRAHAM WRESTLING ROOM

In early February, former Bucknell Wrestling Coach Bob Ferraro and his son, two-time All-American Bobby Ferraro, spent time in Lewisburg and met with Coach Wirnsberger and his staff. In addition, the Ferraro's spent time touring the athletic facilities and speaking to the team prior to practice.



Coach Ferraro (above) and his son, Bobby Ferraro '94 (below)



In regards to the visit, coach Ferraro was gracious enough to provide the following:

“Coach Wirnsberger invited my son Bobby and me to meet with him and the wrestling staff last week. After a three-hour meeting, he asked us to speak to the wrestling team at practice. It was a very enjoyable day that brought back many fond memories. The team is working very hard to achieve its goals. What a great group of young men. Bucknell can presently offer outstanding support

See **FERRARO**, page 2

Bison Wrestling Contact Information

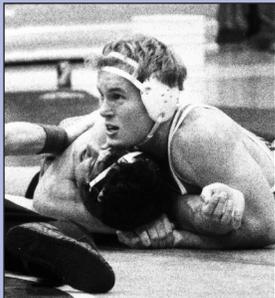
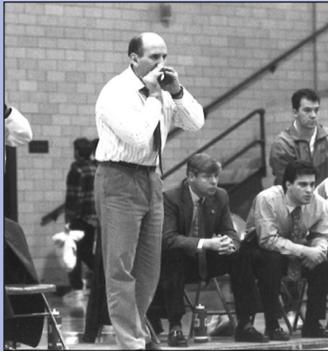
Head Coach: Dan Wirnsberger Phone: 570-577-1035
E-Mail: djw020@bucknell.edu
Assistant Coach: James Gibson Phone: 570-577-1755
E-Mail: jmg059@bucknell.edu
Assistant Coach: Kevin LeValley '11 Phone: 719-771-0160
E-Mail: kll011@bucknell.edu
Volunteer Coach: Dustin Manotti
E-Mail: djm044@bucknell.edu

Web Site: www.bucknellbison.com

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from its administration, a great coaching staff, competitive schedule, and a world-class education.”

Coach Ferraro and his wife, Jeanne currently live in Easton, PA. Bobby Ferraro, his wife Leslie, and their children Dylan Perkins (15), Taylor (11), and, Kendall (5) call Camp Hill, PA home. Bobby plans to play in this year’s Bucknell Wrestling Golf Outing, which takes place on Friday, May 13th at the Bucknell Golf Course.



2016 BUCKNELL WRESTLING GOLF OUTING

Don’t forget that the Bucknell Wrestling Golf Outing is fast approaching! It will be held at the Bucknell Golf Club on Friday, May 13th.

Please contact assistant coach, Kevin LeValley, with any questions or for a copy of this year’s brochure. Phone: (719)771-0160. Email: kl011@bucknell.edu



GETTING TO KNOW COACH JIM GIBSON

Assistant Wrestling Coach, Jim Gibson has just completed his 4th season with the Bison. We sat down with Coach Gibson to get to know him and his family a little better.

1. Tell us a little bit about your family.

My wife Sarah and I have been together since we were 15-years old, and were married in May of 2009. We have a 2 year-old son named James. He is the fourth generation “James Gibson” in our family, although each has a unique middle name.

2. Do you think that James will be a wrestler?

He doesn’t have a choice. All joking aside, he already spends a large amount of time around the sport. He enjoys talking about our wrestlers and is always asking to wrestle anyone who is willing or unwilling, including classmates at the local daycare! I am a firm believer that wrestling teaches skills and values that he will be able to utilize throughout his life.

3. What do you like most about living in Lewisburg?

The small town lifestyle is a big part of me and how I was raised. I grew up in the town of Hermitage, PA, and went to college at Edinboro University. For my family, Lewisburg is the perfect embodiment of the small town lifestyle.

4. Although wrestling takes up the majority of your time and energy, what do you like to do when you get a free moment?

Away from wrestling, I like to spend time with Sarah and James, regardless of the activity. We enjoy visiting family in Hermitage and spending time on my parents’ horse farm. I have a small fishing boat that I enjoy taking out on the water. It’s always fun catching more and bigger fish than Coach LeValley. Although some view fishing as fun and relaxing, Coach LeValley and I find a way to make everything a competition.



BISON CLUB SPRING RECEPTION TOUR

The 2016 Bison Club Spring Reception Tour will be coming to seven different cities this May. The dates and locations are below, and we will have a coach at each location from the wrestling program. Please mark your calendar for the location nearest you.

Thursday, May 5 --- Baltimore • 6-8 p.m.

Liberatore’s Ristorante, 9515 Deereco Rd, Timonium, MD

Tuesday, May 10 --- Pittsburgh • 6-8 p.m.

The Duquesne Club, 325 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

Thursday, May 12 --- Philadelphia/Central N.J. • 6-8 p.m.

Graham Building, One Penn Square W., Philadelphia, PA

Tuesday, May 17 --- New York City • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY

Wednesday, May 18 --- New Jersey • 6-9 p.m.

Bahr’s Landing Restaurant, 2 Bay Avenue, Highlands, NJ

Tuesday, May 24 --- Boston • 6-8 p.m.

The Country Club at Brookline, 191 Clyde St., Chestnut Hill, MA

Wednesday, May 25 --- Connecticut • 6-8 p.m.

Indian Harbor Yacht Club, 710 Steamboat Rd., Greenwich, CT

MEET FRESHMAN BRIAN LAPHAM



1) What solidified your decision to wrestle for Bucknell?

Bucknell was the first school I visited that had the full package of great wrestling and great academics. I knew this university was going to provide me with an opportunity to achieve my goals athletically and to be successful after graduation.

2) What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't training?

I like hanging out with my teammates, listening to music and watching sports during my free time.

3) What is your current area of study here at Bucknell?

Currently I am undecided but I plan to apply to the School of Management this month.

4) What are your wrestling goals for next year?

I want to crack the starting lineup and place in the EIWA tournament.

5) Where do you need to improve in order to achieve these goals?

I need to get the most time on the mat possible and to get stronger. I have gotten a lot better since I have been here, so hopefully this spring and summer I can make the gains necessary to reach my goals.

6) Who is your favorite wrestler to watch?

James Green

7) What are your expectations for the team next year?

I believe as a program we keep progressing in the right direction. If we keep working hard and stay healthy I don't see why we can't be top three in the EIWA again and be a top twenty program.

2015-16 RESULTS

Nov. 6	#7 Lehigh*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	L, 23-12
Nov. 13	F & M*	Lancaster, Pa.	W, 33-3
Nov. 15	Michigan State Open	East Lansing, Mich.	Ind.
Nov. 21	Navy Classic	Annapolis, Md.	7th of 10
Dec. 4	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	18th of 40
Dec. 5	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	10th of 40
Dec. 19	Gardner Webb	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 22-16
Dec. 29	Lock Haven Classic		4th of 16

At Virginia Duals, Hampton, Va.

Jan. 8	vs. The Citadel		W, 32-9
Jan. 8	vs. #5 Virginia Tech		L, 24-6
Jan. 8	vs. Kent State		L, 22-17
Jan. 9	vs. Rider		W, 28-13

Jan. 15	Oklahoma	Lewisburg, Pa.#	L, 23-21
Jan. 21	Lock Haven	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 24-13
Jan. 23	Brown*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	W, 27-15
Jan. 23	Harvard*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	L, 26-21
Jan. 31	Bloomsburg	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 44-9

Feb. 7	Sacred Heart*	Fairfield, Conn.	W, 39-0
Feb. 13	American*	Washington D.C.	W, 24-16
Feb. 13	George Mason	Fairfax, Va.	W, 32-12
Feb. 14	Penn*	Philadelphia, Pa.	L, 19-18
Feb. 19	Binghamton*	Vestal, N.Y.	W, 21-15
Feb. 20	Columbia*	New York, N.Y.	W, 24-15

Mar. 5	EIWA's	Princeton, N.J.	3rd of 16
Mar. 6	EIWA's	Princeton, N.J.	3rd of 16
Mar. 17-19	NCAA's	New York, N.Y.	T32nd of 72

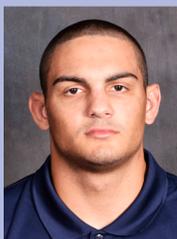
* Conference Match

- Sojka Pavilion

Home Matches in Bold

FOUR BISON WRESTLERS EARN EIWA ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS

We are proud to announce that Rustin Barrick, Victor Lopez, Paul Petrov, and Tom Sleigh have received EIWA All-Academic Awards. In order to earn an EIWA All-Academic Award, a student-athlete must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.20 and won 60 percent of his matches or been an EIWA placewinner. Student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 who qualified for the NCAA Championships through the EIWA were also eligible for EIWA All-Academic Awards.



Rustin Barrick



Victor Lopez



Paul Petrov



Tom Sleigh



Wrestling Office
Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837

INTRODUCING THE BUFFALO VALLEY REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

We are excited to announce that the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center is now officially recognized by USA Wrestling as a regional training site for elite high school, college, and Olympic level wrestlers. The establishment of this program plays a key role in helping to establish Bucknell Wrestling as one of the elite programs in the EIWA and NCAA.

Bucknell now joins the 10 other EIWA programs that are home to regional training centers. Both Lehigh and Cornell are home to regional training centers that fund world-class resident athletes.

The next step in the development of the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center is fundraising. Our goal is to fund two resident athletes so that they can live, train, and compete at a level that allows them to best prepare to represent their country and the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center at the World and Olympic games. The yearly cost to fully fund two resident athletes is estimated at \$100,000.

The establishment of the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center and the funding of two resident athletes will allow Bucknell Wrestlers to practice with world-class training partners in designated workouts.

According to former Bucknell Wrestling Coach, Bob Ferraro, "In order to improve every day, our wrestlers must have great workout partners. Funding elite resident athletes to represent the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center will help Bucknell Wrestling to consistently produce EIWA Champions, NCAA All-Americans, and our first NCAA National Champion."

Coach Wirsberger and his staff will soon be starting communications on annual program contributions and additional financial support of the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center. **We need to emphasize that this is a new initiative and it is crucial that any financial contributions made towards the Buffalo Valley Regional Training Center should not take place of yearly contributions to Bucknell University or Bucknell Wrestling.**