

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings from Lewisburg!

I hope this note finds you and your family doing well. It has been a busy few months for our wrestling program. We completed a rigorous preseason of training and we have moved right into our full time routine of practice and competition. The new guys are developing well and are really beginning to understand the balance needed to be a successful Division I athlete. Our focus and message

continues to be on living the right lifestyle to be at our best in the classroom and the practice room. The preparation for both can be challenging, but ultimately will give our student-athletes the best opportunity to perform at a high level in the competition arena.

This is a very important time of the season. Our team is preparing for final exams and battling the nation in some of the biggest competitions. We are looking forward to the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational and our return to Madison Square Garden for the Grapple at the Garden event. This will be a good gauge for where we are as a team and give us direction and momentum for the second half of the year. We still have a great deal of wrestling left and look forward to improving every day, every week, and every competition. Please check out the schedule, and hopefully you can make a trip to Lewisburg for a home match or visit us on the road.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who continues to support our program financially. It is your support that helps provide our student-athletes with outstanding equipment and the opportunity to travel and compete against the elite level programs. I hope to see many of you at some point this season. Thank you for your continued support.

My Best,

Dan Wirnsberger --- Head Wrestling Coach

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: Dustin Manotti Phone: 570-577-3980
E-Mail: dustin.manotti@bucknell.edu
Volunteer Coach: Derek Caldwell
E-Mail: dmc055@bucknell.edu
Fax: 570-577-1660

WIRNSBERGER ATTENDS LEADERSHIP EVENT HONORING FORMER BISON WRESTLER GBENGA AKINNAGBE '00

Bucknell head wrestling coach Dan Wirnsberger recently had the privilege of attending the JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Launch and Benefit event at Tribeca Rooftop in New York City, which featured guest honoree Gbenga Akinagbe '00, a former Bison grappler. The event was geared towards rais-



Jay Hahn '11, Tom Harvey (Dir. of Athletics Development), Gbenga Akinagbe '00, Coach Wirnsberger

ing awareness about criminal justice reform and cutting incarceration in half by 2030.

Akinagbe was presented with JustLeadershipUSA's Leading with Conviction Award. He was a four-year member of the Bucknell wrestling team from 1996 to 2000. A winner of 28 matches in his career, including a 20-14 mark as a senior in 1999-2000, Akinagbe graduated from Bucknell with a degree in political science and English.

Born in Washington, D.C., Akinagbe is currently an actor and an activist. His television credits include The Wire, The Good Wife, Nurse

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Jackie and Graceland. He has had major roles in many films, including *The Savages*, *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* and *Edge of Darkness*.

Akinagbe is also a successful producer and has had several articles published in *The New York Times*.

Akinagbe is also passionate about making this a better world in which to live and is a nationally recognized activist on ending Stop-and-Frisk policies. In 2012 he launched “Liberated People,” and eco-friendly, socially conscious apparel company designed to inspire social activism.

“It’s great to see Bucknell Wrestling alumni being so successful following their Bison careers,” said Wirnsberger, who was also joined at the event by Bucknell director of athletics development Tom Harvey and former Bison wrestler Jay Hahn. “During my time as coach at Bucknell I have had the privilege of meeting many alumni who have gone on to do so many special things with their lives. This honor for Gbenga is a great tribute to the type of person he is and I am glad I was able to be there on this special day for him.”

FORMER BISON WRESTLING COACH RICH SCHUMACHER PASSES AT 66

Bucknell Wrestling lost one of its own on October 20th as former head coach, Richard Schumacher, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer. Coach Schumacher resided in Lawrenceville, Georgia with his wife, Karen. While in Georgia, he was a teacher and high school wrestling coach at Collins Hill and Meadowcreek High Schools.

Coach Schumacher was a graduate of East Stroudsburg State College (currently East Stroudsburg University) in 1970. During his time at ESSC, Schumacher was a four-time All-American and a NCAA College Division Champion his senior year. He was also a member of the 1967-68 PSAC Championship team for East Stroudsburg.

After graduation, Coach Schumacher found his first head coaching position here at Bucknell University from 1971-73. In that span, the Bison went 22-21-1; making him the only coach in the past 50 years to have an above .500 record at Bucknell.

Coach Schumacher is survived by loving wife, Karen Schumacher, his children, Ryan Schumacher and Casey Ann Schumacher, stepchildren Kristi Celentano and Michael Celentano, brother, Brian Schumacher, sisters, Loretta Keys and Virginia Schumacher, nieces Jennifer Thomas, Dianna Cooper, and Vanessa Keys, his ex-wife Christine Schumacher, and other dear family and friends too numerous to name.

On behalf of the Bucknell Wrestling Family, we are grateful for Coach Schumacher’s service while at Bucknell University and the positive impact he made in people’s lives. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Schumacher family as they carry on the celebration of his life.



TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR GRAPPLE AT THE GARDEN

Bucknell University will take on Davidson College and Hofstra University on Sunday, December 21st at Madison Square Garden for the Grapple at the Garden. The Bison will square off with Davidson at 10 a.m. and then do battle with Hofstra at 12 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$20, and can be obtained through the Bucknell University Box Office. Bucknell Wrestling fans will have their own section to enjoy the action at MSG and root on the Bison! For parties interested in purchasing tickets, call the Bucknell University Box Office at (570) 577-1000.





FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT ON TYLER SMITH

What solidified your decision to wrestle for Bucknell?

The family atmosphere and the coaches dedication to my academic and athletic goals.

What's your favorite thing to do when you aren't training or wrestling?

Hang out with the team, watching movies or playing video games with the team.

What is your current area of study here at Bucknell?

Undeclared, hoping to pursue a major in biology.

What are your goals athletically here at Bucknell?

Multiple time NCAA All-American and National Champion.

Who is your favorite wrestler on the team and why?

Joe Stolfi and Rustin Barrick. They both have high goals and know how to be successful in life as well as being a good person.

Other than your teammates, who is your favorite wrestler to watch compete and why?

Dylan Ness, because you can never count him out of a match and is fun the watch.

What was the best advice someone gave you before coming to Bucknell?

Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.

Is there a particular competition you are most excited for this season? If so, why?

NCAA Championships because that's when I can prove I belong in Division I as a true freshman.

What current wrestler do you most want a chance to wrestle this season and why?

Logan Stieber, he is the best wrestler in the country, if I can beat him, I can beat anyone and accomplish my goals.

What are your personal expectations for the team this year?

My expectations is for our team to be Top-20 in the NCAA and have multiple All-Americans.

2014-15 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Oct. 23	Intrasquad	Lewisburg, Pa.	Orange, 18-16
Nov. 8	#14 Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.	L, 22-11
Nov. 22	Navy Classic	Annapolis, Md.	7th of 13
Dec. 5-6	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	All Day
Dec. 20	Virginia	Lewisburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
Grapple at the Garden			
Dec. 21	Davidson	New York, N.Y.	10:00 a.m.
Dec. 21	Hofstra	New York, N.Y.	12:00 p.m.
Jan. 4	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 9-10	Virginia Duals	Hampton, Va.	All Day
Jan. 17	George Mason	Lewisburg, Pa.	11:00 a.m.
Jan. 17	Sacred Heart*	Lewisburg, Pa.	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 23	Columbia*	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	Harvard*	Cambridge, Mass.	12:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	Brown*	Providence, RI	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	Bloomsburg	Bloomsburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 7	American*	Washington D.C.	TBA
Feb. 13	F & M*	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Army*	Lewisburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 20	Binghamton*	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 22	VMI	Lexington, Va.	2:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 7	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 19-21	NCAA's	St. Louis, Missouri	All Day

* Conference Match

Home Matches in Bold

SAVE THE DATE -- JANUARY 17th!

This year's alumni social will be Saturday, January 17th starting at 10 a.m. outside Davis Gymnasium in the concourse. A meet and greet coffee hour will be available for those planning to attend the earlier dual meet against George Mason at 11. After the completion of the Bucknell and GMU dual, lunch will be served at 1 p.m. The Bison will then finish the day with a dual meet against Sacred Heart at 2 p.m. During the tri-meet we will honor the oldest living former BU Wrestling coach, Bill Wrabley. The exact time for this ceremony will be determined closer to the date.

Meet and Greet Coffee Hour --- 10 a.m.

Bucknell vs. George Mason --- 11 a.m.

Alumni Social/GMU vs. SHU --- 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Bucknell vs. Sacred Heart --- 2 p.m.

If you are planning on attending this year's event, please RSVP to Joan Glick at jls101@bucknell.edu.

BARRICK THE NEWEST BUCKNELL WRESTLING CAPTAIN



Head Bucknell Wrestling Coach Dan Wirmsberger announced earlier this month that Rustin Barrick (Mechanicsburg, Pa.) will be a captain for the 2014-15 season. Barrick will join fellow Bison wrestlers Paul Petrov (Cedar Lake, IN), Tyler Lyster (Wanamassa, NJ), and Joe Stolfi (Harleysville, PA) as captain. All three of the previous mentioned wrestlers were captains for the 2013-14 season. He will be competing at 157 pounds for Bucknell University this season.



Bucknell University
Wrestling Office
Lewisburg, PA 17837

BUCKNELL WRESTLING VOLUNTEERS AT LOCAL FOOD BANK

Members of the Bucknell Wrestling team lent a hand at the local food drive earlier this month in downtown Lewisburg. The First Baptist Church of Lewisburg is home to the Eastern Union County Food Pantry where members of the church team up with Bucknell University athletes and other local groups twice a month to serve the community. The wrestling team assisted in unloading the food truck in the morning so food could be handed out that afternoon.



FORMER MANAGER LIZ MATTSON PASSES

Elizabeth (Liz) Mattson '86, of Cranford, N.J., passed away on May 26, 2014. The former wrestling manager was a positive impact not only to the wrestling team, but to Bucknell University and the local community. Liz was a member of Delta Delta Delta, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Bucknellian, Society of Women Engineers, Politics Club and the Women's Rowing team. She was a mechanical engineer for ITT Marlow and General Motors. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Mattson family and those impacted by her life.

SUPPORT OUR CONFERENCE! NEW EIWA WRESTLING WEBSITE IS LIVE!



The all new EIWA Wrestling website has been launched recently. With the new site you can check out all the results from around the league, find out EIWA Championship information for the 2015 season, and much more! Go to eiwawrestling.org to stay connected!