

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings and Happy New Year!

I wish everyone the best in 2014. We are currently in the middle of our competition schedule and our young team is learning how to battle and compete through the ups and downs of a Division I wrestling season. Most of the guys are buying in 100% to the program. They are beginning to understand the commitment and discipline needed to be successful on the mat and in the classroom.

I am thrilled to announce that this group of young men achieved a term GPA of 3.12 and our cumulative GPA currently stands at 3.04. These guys understand the importance of balance and structure with their social, academic, and athletic lives. The vision for our program is to be a place where athletes can compete to be amongst the best in the country on the mat and in the classroom.

This is a very important time of the season. A majority of our effort as a staff moves toward the individual and the development process as we prepare for Easterns and NCAA's. Team practices become shorter and individual instruction and workouts increase. We have shown our young team the standard of competition that the Bison Community expects. We still have a great deal of wrestling left and look forward to improving our performance. Please check out our schedule and hopefully you can make a trip to Lewisburg for one of our remaining home matches or visit us on the road as we close out our dual meet schedule.

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 or this spring at our 4th Annual Golf Outing. Thank you for your continued support.

My Best,

Dan Wirnsberger
Head Wrestling Coach



BUCKNELL TOPS LEHIGH FOR FIRST TIME IN DUAL MEET ACTION

The Bucknell wrestling team made headlines across the sport's tight-knit community on November 9th as it defeated No. 22 Lehigh, 18-17, in a dual match in front of more than 1,500 fans at Leeman Turner Arena at Grace Hall. The victory was the first for the Bison over the Mountain Hawks in 10 all-time meetings.

Bucknell won five of the 10 bouts and outscored Lehigh by an 18-17 margin in the team score. However, the Bison were docked one team point for unsportsmanlike conduct during the 165-pound match, making the score 17-17 following a Lehigh injury default in the heavyweight bout. The tie-breaker came down to which team had more six-point victories and the injury default at heavyweight was the only six-point outcome, giving Bucknell the 18-17 victory.

"This win means a lot for this program," commented Bison head coach Dan Wirnsberger. "I am excited for the guys on our team who get rewarded for the hard work they have put in. It was a great atmosphere with well over 1,000 fans who really know the sport.

"We competed well in all 10 matches and had a chance to win every one of them. We were very confident heading into the heavyweight bout with our best guy out there. You never want to win by virtue of somebody's injury, but it was great to get the victory."

The Bucknell lineup featured four freshmen, but it was mainly the veterans who produced points. Sophomore Paul Petrov (125) and senior Alex Pellicciotti (149) posted one-point decisions, while senior Stephen McPeck (174) collected a five-point win. Freshman Tyler Greene (184) added a 7-2

See LEHIGH, pg. 2

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decision that brought the Bison to within 14-11 with two bouts remaining.

Lehigh led 17-11 entering the heavyweight bout, meaning Joe Stolfi needed a pin to tie the score and give the Bison the win on the six-point victories tiebreaker. Fifty-four seconds into the match Max Wessell injury defaulted, giving Stolfi and Bucknell the bout win they needed, which led to the overall match victory.

Bucknell 18*, Lehigh 17

125: Paul Petrov (Buck.) dec. Darian Cruz (Leh.) 6-5, t.b.

133: No. 6 Mason Beckman (Leh.) major dec. Grim Gonzalez (Buck.) 10-2

141: Laike Gardner (Leh.) dec. Victor Lopez (Buck.) 3-2

149: Alex Pellicciotti (Buck.) dec. No. 19 Mitch Minotti (Leh.) 5-4

157: No. 10 Joey Napoli (Leh.) major dec. Logan Kerin (Buck.) 14-3

165: Brian Brill (Leh.) dec. Rustin Barrick (Buck.) 6-4, s.v.**

174: Stephen McPeck (Buck.) dec. Elliot Riddick (Leh.) 10-5

184: Tyler Greene (Buck.) dec. Austin Meys (Leh.) 7-2

197: John Bolich (Leh.) dec. Tyler Lyster (Buck.) 3-2

285: No. 10 Joe Stolfi (Buck.) injury default Max Wessell (Leh.) 0:54

* - Bucknell wins on second criteria (Combined total number of falls, forfeits, defaults and disqualifications.)

** - Buck. docked one team pt. for unsportsmanlike conduct

2013-2014 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Nov. 2	Shippensburg	Lock Haven, Pa.	W, 50-0
Nov. 2	Lock Haven	Lock Haven, Pa.	L, 19-13
Nov. 9	#22 Lehigh *	Bethlehem, Pa.	W, 18-17
Nov. 17	#3 Oklahoma St.	Stillwater, Okla.	L, 40-6
Nov. 17	#5 Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	L, 38-6
Nov. 23	Navy Classic	Annapolis, Md.	8 of 14
Dec. 21	#12 Pittsburgh	Lewisburg, Pa.	L, 30-12
Jan. 1-2	Southern Scuffle	Chattanooga, Tenn.	28 of 34
Jan. 10	#22 Bloomsburg	Hampton, Va.	L, 24-11
Jan. 10	The Citadel	Hampton, Va.	L, 19-18
Jan. 10	George Mason	Hampton, Va.	W, 27-9
Jan. 18	Brown *	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 22-19
Jan. 18	Clarion	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 24-18
Jan. 19	Penn *	Lewisburg, Pa.	L, 24-13
Jan. 24	Columbia *	New York, N.Y.	L, 19-18
Jan. 31	American *	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 2	George Mason	Fairfax, Va.	9:00 a.m.
Feb. 2	Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	Army *	West Point, N.Y.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	Sacred Heart *	Fairfield, Conn.	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	F & M *	Lancaster, Pa.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	VMI	Lewisburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	Binghamton *	Vestal, N.Y.	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 8	EIWA's	Philadelphia, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 9	EIWA's	Philadelphia, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 20-22	NCAA's	Oklahoma City, Okla.	All Day

* Conference Match

Home Matches in Bold

BUCKNELL WRESTLING HELPS WITH LOCAL FOOD DRIVE

Members of the Bucknell Wrestling team joined with First Baptist Church in Lewisburg and Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for their annual food drive in December. The wrestlers assisted members of the church in unloading, unpacking, and storing various food items to be used for the food drive. Bucknell Wrestling strives to succeed not only on the mat and in the classroom, but in the local community. This is the eighth year in which Bucknell Wrestling has assisted with the First Baptist Church Food Drive. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is in its 33rd year of existence and currently serves 27 counties throughout central PA. If you would like to learn more about the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and how you can help out like the Bucknell Wrestling team, visit centralpafoodbank.org.



Members of the Bucknell Wrestling Team help unload and unpack food items for the local food drive.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Bucknell Wrestling Family would like to invite you to our 4th Annual Bucknell Wrestling Golf Outing on Friday, May 16th at the Bucknell University Golf Course! More details will be provided as we draw closer to the date, but we are expecting another great turnout for this event.

Not only does our golf outing serve as a great way to catch up with old friends, but it helps to support our growth as a wrestling program. Please direct any interest to participate or support our golf outing to Derek Caldwell (dmc055@bucknell.edu, 814.592.1063).

Start working on that swing and we'll see you soon!

FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT WITH GRIM GONZALEZ



What solidified your decision to come and wrestle for Bucknell?

It wasn't too close but also wasn't far enough that I couldn't come home during breaks.

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

Hanging out with my friends or playing other sports

What is your current area of study here at Bucknell?

Undecided

What are your goals athletically here at Bucknell?

To become an All-American

Who is your favorite wrestler on the team and why?

I don't have a specific favorite, I'm pretty close with all of the guys on the team.

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

Ed Ruth, the way he wrestles looks effortless but he still dominates.

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

To stay focused because the hard work done in these next four years is going to pay off in the future.

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

EIWAs because if you place high enough you can qualify for nationals.

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

Any ranked wrestler honestly. I want to beat the best in the country.

What are your personal expectations for the team this year?

To beat some ranked teams and qualify as many wrestlers as we can for nationals.

PETROV & STOLFI PERFORM WELL AT SOUTHERN SCUFFLE

Paul Petrov (125) and Joe Stolfi (285) were both one match shy of placing at the Southern Scuffle in Chattanooga, Tennessee on January 1st and 2nd. Petrov and Stolfi each posted a 3-2 record at the Scuffle before being eliminated in the afternoon of day two.



Petrov found himself in the quarterfinal round on

day two after going 3-0 on day one before



dropping his next two on day two. The Bison lightweight picked up an opening round 4-3 win over Nick Herrmann of Virginia. He then picked up a convincing 14-7 victory over Ares Carpio of Arizona State. This put Petrov in the round of 16 against No. 15 Anthony Zanetta of Pittsburgh. The two met 12 days prior in a dual meet at Davis Gymnasium where Petrov came out on top, 8-7. This time was much like the last with Petrov picking up the win, 5-3.

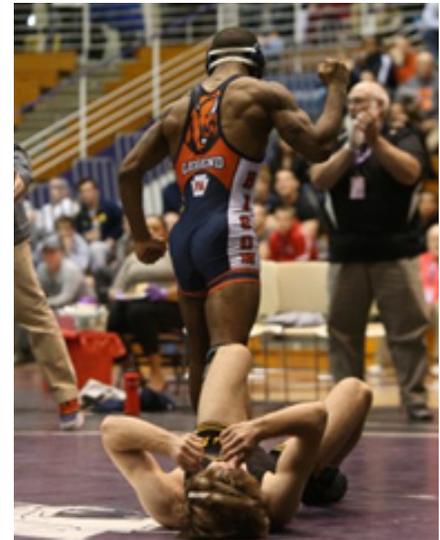
Stolfi was able to put together a solid amount of bonus points for Bucknell as he racked up two falls and a major decision in his three victories. Stolfi won his opening round bout against Collin Campbell of Virginia, 15-4. The Bucknell heavyweight was able to pick up two pins in the consolation bracket after falling to Missouri's Devin Mellon in a heartbreaking 3-1 overtime bout. Stolfi's falls came against Joseph Bexley of The Citadel and Henry Chirino of Northern Colorado.

The Southern Scuffle hosted 10 of the top 25 teams in the country, and is another great test for our student-athletes that Head Coach Dan Wirmsberger has put in place. We are continually looking to improve and understand that this can only be done by wrestling against the best competition in the country.

GARNETT 2nd AT 51st ANNUAL KEN CRAFT MIDLANDS

First-year Bucknell Wrestling Assistant Coach Jarrod Garnett finished second at the 51st annual Ken Craft Midlands Championship at Northwestern University. Coach Garnett was able to string together four wins to make the finals before falling short to Iowa's Thomas Gilman, 6-1.

Garnett opened with a 15-6 major decision victory over Braun Marquez of Northern Illinois and continued his dominance with a technical fall over



Darian Cruz of Lehigh. In the quarterfinal round, Garnett met Sean Boyle of Michigan. Jarrod was able to control the match with a pair of takedowns, three back points, and riding time to win 8-3.

In the semifinals Coach Garnett met Cory Clark of Iowa. Garnett was trailing 5-1 heading into the third period where he was able to get an escape and string together three takedowns to make it 8-7 in favor of the Bucknell Assistant. Clark's riding time gained through the first two periods gave him a point at the end of the third to force overtime. In the extra period Garnett was able to score a takedown to secure the 10-8 win and advance to the finals.



Bucknell University
Wrestling Office
Lewisburg, PA 17837

WRESTLING PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!!

Dear Friend of Bison Wrestling:

Energy, passion, and togetherness have been the hallmarks of the Bucknell Wrestling Program for many years. This has been true not only for the wrestlers on the mat, but for the group of supporters who have helped our program each year. As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I wrestling program.

Thanks to your support and the additional fundraising efforts from our team, last year we finished with \$101,000 in much needed support of the program. This year, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$100,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs, and **currently we have recieved \$35,000 in gifts and pledges.** This money is spent in the three main areas of student-athlete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel. As you know, student-athlete recruitment is a year-round and highly competitive and intensive process that is of essential importance in fielding successful teams. In addition, we feel it is important to be able to travel safely, stay in quality hotels, and feed our wrestlers appropriately when we travel.

I am well aware that we are still in a difficult time economically. At the same time, our program needs your financial support to continue in our quest for excellence. Your earmarked contribution for wrestling to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. We hope we can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

Dan Wirmsberger --- Head Wrestling Coach

HOME MATCH EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, January 31
American -- 7:00 p.m.



Veteran's Day
Saturday, February 15
VMI -- 2:00 p.m.

