

# “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 and that the spring time and summer brings you joy.

We have concluded another wrestling season and academic year. It was a record setting season for our program. I am proud of the resolve and determination that our young wrestlers displayed throughout the year. This group of young men was able to achieve great things on the mat and in the classroom.

The wrestling highlights include:

- Concluded the season ranked 24th nationally in USA Today/NWCA Coaches Poll after climbing as high as 22nd during the season.
- Nine consecutive weeks in the Top-25
- School record of 15 victories
- 10-match winning streak was 2nd longest in school history
- 2nd place finish in EIWA dual meet standings
- 3rd place team finish at EIWA Championships was the best in program history
- Six EIWA place winners
- Four NCAA qualifiers

We have an experienced team returning as well as adding a solid recruiting class. We are creating much needed depth and the practice room will be more competitive than ever.

Our greatest accomplishment is in the classroom. Our team GPA continues to rise. We had a term GPA of 3.23 and our overall GPA is a 3.16. Eighteen out of 22 athletes on our roster had a 3.0 or better. This shows that our student-athletes understand the importance of balance and time management.

Our program carries a lot of forward momentum during this off-season. While coming off a fantastic year, we continue to look to the future and improve which is evident by the announcement of a state-of-the-art wrestling center (The Graham Building) and the hiring of one of Bucknell’s all-time greats in Kevin LeValley. Kevin will start June 22nd and we anticipate moving into the Graham Building during the summer of 2016. There will always be the expectation to bring home more All-Americans and our first National Champion.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who continues to support our program financially. Your support is essential for continued growth needed to see this program succeed. Thanks again and have a wonderful summer.

Go Bison!

Dan Wirnsberger --- Head Wrestling Coach

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## FORMER BISON ALL-AMERICAN KEVIN LeVALLEY RETURNS AS ASSISTANT COACH

Former Bucknell great Kevin LeValley is returning to his alma mater as an assistant wrestling coach, Bison head coach Dan Wirnsberger announced recently. A 2011 Bucknell graduate, LeValley was a



two-time All-American during his time as a Bison and he still holds school records for wins in a season and a career.

“Words cannot express how thrilled I am to bring Kevin back to Lewisburg,” said Wirnsberger, the 2015 EIWA Coach of the Year. “He is an ideal fit for our program. He truly understands the student-athlete model for an institution like Bucknell because he lived it during his four years. Kevin graduated as our most successful wrestler in program history and returns with a wealth of coaching experience as well as international wrestling experience. He will have an immediate impact in the development of our student-athletes.”

“I am beyond excited to return to my alma mater and the Lewisburg community,” said LeValley. “I want to thank Bucknell University and Coach Wirnsberger for this opportunity. Bucknell truly holds a special place in my heart, and I look forward to helping current and future student-athletes achieve success both in the classroom and on the mat.”

LeValley, who served as team captain, had a remarkable career during his time as a Bison, earning All-America honors in 2010 and 2011. The three-time NCAA qualifier at 149 pounds compiled a 127-

See LeVALLEY, pg. 2

## LeVALLEY, cont. from pg. 1

40 career record, including 42-8 as a junior and 34-3 as a senior. He became the second Bucknell wrestler to win an EIWA title, handing Cornell's Kyle Duke his final collegiate loss in the 2011 EIWA finals in Sojka Pavilion.

Following his graduation from Bucknell with a degree in education, LeValley moved to Minneapolis to pursue a master's degree in applied kinesiology and sport management at the University of Minnesota, which he obtained in December 2013.

LeValley spent four years at Minnesota working as an administrative assistant and recruiting coordinator with the Gophers wrestling team that placed in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships four times and in the top five three times. Additionally, LeValley was a coach at the Pinnacle Wrestling School in Shoreview, Minnesota.

While at Minnesota, LeValley continued to compete internationally for the Gopher Wrestling Club and Minnesota Storm. He is ranked 18th in the world at 70kg (154 pounds) and has had great success in international competitions, earning gold at the 2013 Cerro Pelado International in Cuba, taking second at the 2014 Alexander Medved International in Belarus and placing third at the 2014 Dave Schultz Memorial International. He also finished fourth at the 2014 U.S. Open.

LeValley and his wife, Amanda, were married in October 2014. She is a certified athletic trainer.



## BISON HONORED AT TEAM BANQUET

The Bucknell wrestling program held its annual end-of-year team banquet to celebrate a season in which it posted a record 15 wins, was nationally ranked for the first time and recorded its best-ever finish at the EIWA Championships. A number of awards were presented, including the William A. Graham IV Most Outstanding Wrestler award, which went to Joe Stolfi for the third straight year.

Other awards given out included the Class of 2010 Leadership Award (to Paul Petrov), the Coach's Award (to Logan Kerin), the 11th Man Award (to Collin Boylan and Tyler Greene), the Most Improved Award (to Grim Gonzalez), Freshman of the Year (to Tom Sleigh and Tyler Smith), and the brand new Lifestyle Achievement Award (to Tyler Lyster). Additionally, 10 different individual victories by nine different wrestlers throughout the season were recognized as part of the first-year Big Win Award.

A three-time NCAA qualifier, Stolfi put together another outstanding year within his 285-pound weight class. He posted a 37-8 overall record and led the nation in pins with 20. He now owns the Bucknell career record for wins by fall (52).

Stolfi finished in second place at this year's EIWA Championships, marking his third consecutive top-three finish at the event. He became Bucknell's second EIWA champion in 2014.

Stolfi ranks seventh on the all-time Bison wins list with a career record of 99-37. He has posted two straight 30-win campaigns.

Petrov, a junior who shared last year's Graham Award with Stolfi, captured the Class of 2010 Leadership Award for the second straight year. The award is presented in honor of the first class of seniors following the reinstatement of the Bucknell wrestling program to the wrestler who is the best leader, both on and off the wrestling mat. Petrov earned his second consecutive NCAA Championships berth this past March after he placed third in the 125-pound bracket at the EIWA Championships.

A three-time EIWA placewinner, Petrov was 27-7 this year, including 17-2 in duals. The two-time team captain is 78-30 in his career.

Kerin, a sophomore, took home the Coach's Award, which is presented to the wrestler that exemplifies what a coach looks for in a student-athlete: work ethic, dedication and a positive attitude. Kerin was 15-15 this year, a 10-win improvement from his rookie campaign. Twenty-four of his 30 bouts came in tournament competition.

Boylan was one of two winners of the 11th Man Award along with Greene. The 11th Man Award is given to the wrestler who may or not be in the starting lineup, but works just as hard and contributes tremendously to the overall achievement of the team. Boylan wrestled at 141 pounds this year as a freshman and compiled an 8-14 overall record. He competed in six tournaments and three duals and faced four nationally ranked opponents.

Greene posted an 11-10 record with 19 of his 21 bouts in tournament competition. The sophomore 197-pounder finished in second place at the Mat Town Open and in third place at the Lock Haven Invitational. He moved up a weight class from the 184 he competed at as a freshman.

EIWA placewinner Grim Gonzalez earned the Most Improved Award. The sophomore finished in fifth place in the 133-pound bracket at the EIWA Championships. He was 23-11 overall, jumping from a .450 winning percentage in 2013-14 to .676 this season.

Gonzalez was 4-2 at the EIWA Championships and tied for fourth on the team with 13 dual wins. He didn't lose two bouts in a row after Jan. 1 and was 19-5 in his last 24 matches.

Smith and Sleigh – both NCAA qualifiers – shared the Freshman of the Year award. Smith placed third in the 141-pound bracket at the EIWA Championships to earn an automatic berth to NCAAs. He posted a 5-1 record at the EIWA Championships and became Bucknell's first-ever 141-pound NCAA qualifier. Overall, Smith was 24-8 with five pins and six major decisions in 2014-15.

Sleigh ranked second on the team in victories with a 30-18 record, becoming the 12th different Bison to reach the 30-win plateau in a season. He placed fifth at 184 pounds at



Outstanding Wrestler Joe Stolfi (middle) with asst. coach Jim Gibson (left) and head coach Dan Wirnsberger (right).

the EIWA Championships to earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Championships. Sleigh wrestled a team-high 46 bouts and was 13-6 in duals.

Lyster became the first recipient of the new Lifestyle Achievement Award, which is presented to the student-athlete that exemplifies excellence in the three key areas of the Bucknell wrestling program. The individual excels academically, athletically and socially.

A senior, Lyster posted his third straight 20-win campaign as he finished with a career-high 26 victories. He competed at the EIWA Championships and put together an eight-bout winning streak in late December and early January. The 197-pounder finished his career with a 77-74 record, ranking third among current Bison in wins.

Another new award this year was the Big Win Award. The Bison coaching staff singled out 10 individual victories that had a significant impact on either an individual team basis. Those wins are listed below.

Bucknell had a banner 2014-15 season as it finished with a 15-4 overall record and was 8-1 in EIWA duals. The Bison finished in third place at the EIWA Championships and head coach Dan Wirnsberger was named the conference's Coach of the Year. Bucknell was ranked as high as 22nd in the USA Today/NWCA Coaches Poll and finished the season listed 24th nationally.

#### Award Winners

William A. Graham IV Most Outstanding Wrestler: Joe Stolfi

Class of 2010 Leadership Award: Paul Petrov

Coach's Award: Logan Kerin

11th Man Award: Collin Boylan, Tyler Greene

Most Improved Award: Grim Gonzalez

Freshman of the Year: Tom Sleigh, Tyler Smith

Lifestyle Achievement Award: Tyler Lyster

#### Big Win Award:

- Paul Petrov for win vs. Sean Boyle (Chattanooga) at Navy Classic
- Grim Gonzalez for win vs. Josh Terao (American) at EIWA Championships
- Tyler Smith for win vs. Jamel Hudson (Hofstra) at EIWA Championships
- Victor Lopez for win vs. Cody Ruggerillo (Hofstra) at Grapple at the Garden
- Rustin Barrick for win vs. Andrew Atkinson (Virginia) at Dec. 20 dual
- Robert Schlitt for win vs. Nick Terdick (Hofstra) at Grapple at the Garden
- Robert Schlitt for win vs. Curt Delia (Rider) at Virginia Duals
- Rory Bonner for win vs. Greg Bacci (Virginia) at Dec. 20 dual
- Tyler Lyster for win vs. Zach Nye (Virginia) at Dec. 20 dual



*Grim Gonzalez*



*Joe Stolfi*



*Tyler Lyster*



*Paul Petrov*

## 5th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

Bucknell Wrestling recently held its fifth annual golf outing at the Bucknell Golf Course on Friday, May 15th. It was a fun-filled afternoon with numerous prizes and giveaways available. Nearly sixty former Bucknell wrestlers, boosters, and local community members took part in the two flight event with the team of Jim Snyder, Bobby Ferraro, Pete Libby, and Mark Wiley coming away the victors of the first flight with a 59. Dave Gutelius, John Wuerdeman, Tom Egli and Tracy Fetterman finished in a close second with a score of 61.

In the second flight, Carl Chambers, Pete Pappas, and Mark Dawson won with a 70 while Rob Williams, Ed Robinson, and Ted Christiansen finished in second with a 71. Bart Winslow was the big winner on both closest to the pin contests with Tom Egli winning the longest drive contest on #7.

We would like to thank everyone who made the trip to Lewisburg to take part in this great event and we hope to see you all back in town this Fall!

## BISON FINISH IN TOP-25 NATIONALLY

For the first time in program history, the Bucknell Bison Wrestling team reached the national rankings in late December. Through the course of the final 10 weeks of the season, the Bison were able to defeat two nationally ranked opponents (No. 10 Virginia and No. 17 Rider) and reach as high as No. 22 in the USA Today/NWCA Coaches Rankings. Also during this span, Bucknell put together a 10 match win streak that spanned over the course of six weeks and propelled them to a stellar 15-4 dual meet record (most wins in program history).

The season was capped off with a 3rd place finish at the EIWA Championships and four automatic qualifiers (Paul Petrov, Tyler Smith, Tom Sleigh, Joe Stolfi) for the NCAA Tournament. In the EIWA Championships, the Bison were able to get six grapplers to a top five finish. The four automatic qualifiers plus Grim Gonzalez and Victor Lopez helped Bucknell to their best finish in program history at the conference tournament.

## BUCKNELL GRAPPLERS WITH BEST CONFERENCE FINISH IN PROGRAM HISTORY

The Bucknell Bison Wrestling team completed a phenomenal 2014-15 season with the best finish at the EIWA Championships in program history. Six of the ten Bison placed in the top five of their respective weight classes en route to a third place finish. Bucknell was led by junior heavyweight Joe Stolfi who finished second and reached the finals for the second time in as many years.

Paul Petrov (125) and Tyler Smith (141) both finished 3rd at the conference championships, which was good enough to punch their tickets to the NCAA Championships. Petrov started things off with a 5-3 victory over Scott Parker of Lehigh. Later in the medal rounds, Smith came back from an early deficit to defeat David Pearce of Drexel, 9-8.

Victor Lopez (149) put together a solid EIWA tournament with a fourth place finish for the Bison. Lopez went 4-2 during the two-day event with a pair of bonus point victories and a victory over No. 11 CJ Cobb of Penn, 3-2.

Grim Gonzalez and Tom Sleigh finished 5th place at 133 and 184 pounds respectively. Gonzalez was solid all weekend, only falling to eventual EIWA Champion, Kevin DeVoy of Drexel and narrowly to EIWA 3rd place finisher, Mark Grey of Cornell by a score of 4-3. In Gonzalez's final bout of the tournament, he found himself pitted against Josh Terao of American. Terao had beaten Gonzalez in dual meet action a few weeks earlier, but a pair takedowns overwhelmed the American Eagle and gave the Bison grappler a 5-3 win.

Sleigh was able to punch his ticket to the NCAA tournament with a quarterfinal victory over Jack McKeever of Binghamton, 3-0. Sleigh would fall in the semifinals to eventual NCAA Finalist, Nate Brown of Lehigh, 7-2. Sleigh found himself against McKeever again in his fifth place bout and once again was able to shutout the Bearcat, this time by a score of 1-0.

Bucknell's 90 points in the tournament were good enough for a 3rd place finish. The high placement of the six placers for the Bison helped to keep pace with a surging Columbia on day two who finished 4th with 82 points. The Bison also finished ahead of 5th place Penn (78 points) and 6th place Drexel (71.5 points).



## STOLFI HONORED WITH NATIONAL PIN AWARD

At the conclusion of the 2015 NCAA Wrestling Championships in St. Louis, Missouri on Saturday, March 21st, Joe Stolfi was honored with an award as the NCAA Division I leader in falls. Stolfi finished the season with 20 falls including one during his time in St. Louis. Stolfi edged out the 2014 NCAA Division I leader in falls, Peyton Walsh of Indiana, who finished second in 2015 with 17.

Stolfi finished the 2013-14 season with a total of 23 falls, finishing second in the nation behind Walsh. His 23 falls in 2013-14 is the most in a single season by any Bison wrestler, and he currently holds the all-time school record for falls with 52. Congratulations to Joe Stolfi on this national honor.



## WIRNSBERGER NAMED EIWA COACH OF THE YEAR

Bucknell Wrestling Head Coach, Dan Wirnsberger, was named the 2015 EIWA Coach of the Year at the EIWA Championships on the campus of Lehigh University. The Bison posted a 3rd-place finish at the national qualifier with six different grapplers placing in the top-five.

To go along with the postseason accolades, Coach Wirnsberger's squad also completed the regular season with a 15-4 dual meet record and an 8-1 mark in the EIWA. In those 15 wins, Bucknell knocked off No. 10 Virginia and No. 17 Rider allowing the Bison to finish the season ranked 24th in the country. The Bison look to build off that success next season after losing only one senior from the 2014-15 team. A big congratulations to Coach Wirnsberger and the Bucknell Bison!



# 2015 RECRUITING CLASS ANNOUNCED

The Bucknell Wrestling team will look to gain more momentum off the 2014-15 season with the addition of 11 recruits for 2015-16. The incoming freshman hail from six different states (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Maryland, and Vermont) and have numerous preparatory school accolades.

## **Christian Bassolino (Florham Park, N.J./Hanover Park) – 141/149**

High School: Won four letters in wrestling and three in football at Hanover Park High School ... wrestling team captain as a senior ... three-time state qualifier ... named first-team all-conference (NJAC) ... placed eighth at Beast of the East Tournament and seventh at Escape the Rocker ... earned Ernie Eveland Scholar-Athlete Award two times ... helped lead the team to its first-ever state group championship ... in football, earned many awards, including 2014 MVP award, 2014 NJ Mini Max Award, National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award, NJFCA Super 100 All-State Team award and 2014 Mugs Media Morris County Football Player of the Year award ... named first-team all-conference and Freedom Division first team in North-west Jersey Athletic Conference ... named Daily Record First Team All-County in 2014 ... named first-team offense by Morris County Football Coaches Association ... USA Heart of a Giant Recipient ... named NJ.com 2014 All-Group Second Team ... voted into No. 2 spot of top QB poll on NJ.com with 47,282 votes ... named to Sideline Chatter All-Morris-County First Team ... won All-Unruly Most Versatile Player of the Year by Morris County Football. Personal: Christian R. Bassolino ... born March 20, 1997 in Livingston, New Jersey ... son of Sam and Donna Bassolino ... has one brother, Sebastian.

## **Ben Bliss (Underhill, Vt./Mount Mansfield Union) – 125**

High School: Four-time wrestling letterwinner at Mount Mansfield Union ... three-year team captain ... three-time Vermont state finalist ... earned third place at Vermont State Championships as a freshman and second place as a junior ... state champion as a sophomore as a 106-pounder ... as a senior, was both state champion and New England champion at 120 pounds ... all-time high school wins leader with a career record of 182-15 ... led team to two divisional championships and four top-three finishes at the state tournament. Personal: Benjamin Roger Bliss ... born May 16, 1997 in Burlington, Vermont ... son of Doug and Lolly Bliss ... has four brothers, Tad, Avery, Daniel, and Luke, and one sister, Allie.

## **Kyle Greene (Slingerlands, N.Y./Columbia) – 141**

High School: Won six varsity letters for wrestling and one for tennis at Columbia High School ... two-year wrestling team captain ... four-time section II class A champion ... four-time section II, division 1 placewinner ... state qualifier and two-time runner-up ... named first-team all-league four times. Personal: Kyle Egan Greene ... born Aug. 22, 1996 in Albany, New York ... son of Patrick Greene and Ellen Sax ... father was a four-year starter on the Syracuse University wrestling squad, placing twice at EIWA Championships and qualifying for NCAA Championships ... has one brother, Matt, who wrestled at Northwestern University and was named All-Academic Big Ten.

## **D.J. Hollingshead (Altoona, Pa./Altoona Area) – 157/165**

High School: Wrestling letterwinner at Altoona Area High School ... three-time District Six champion ... two-time regional champion ... placed second and fourth at state championships ... named twice to Pennsylvania All-Academic First Team ... earned fourth place at Flo-Nationals ... placed third, third and fifth at Powerade Tournament ... placed fifth in freestyle at Fargo Cadet Tournament ... finished seventh at Super 32 Tournament. Personal: David James Hollingshead ... born March 8, 1997 in Altoona, Pennsylvania ... son of Jim and Tina Hollingshead ... has one brother, Josh.

## **Zach Kelly (Lower Burrell, Pa./The Kiski School/Burrell) – 149/157**

High School: Attended the The Kiski School for three years before transferring to Burrell High School for 12th grade ... earned three varsity letters in wrestling ... three-year team captain ... runner-up at Super 32 Tournament and Prep National Tournament ... two-time Fargo All-American. Personal: Zachary James Kelly ... born April 1, 1996 in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania ... son of Rick and Tami Kelly ... has two sisters, Caitlin and Michala.

## **Jackson Kligerman (Rye, N.Y./Rye) - 174**

High School: Wrestling letterwinner at Rye High School ... captain of soccer and wrestling teams ... two- year all-league wrestler ... two-year section qualifier ... named Most Improved wrestler in 2014 ... named Most Outstanding wrestler as a senior ... compiled a regular-season record of 30-4 as a senior ... twice named all-league and all-section honorable mention on the soccer team. Personal: Jackson Alan Kligerman ... born May 18, 1997 in New York, New York ... son of June Rogoznica and Andrew Kligerman ... has one brother, Matthew ... cousin, Andrew McKernin, played water polo at Fordham University ... grandfather, Alan Kligerman, played football at UConn.

## 2015 RECRUITING CLASS cont.

### **Brian Lapham (Scotch Plains, N.J./Scotch Plains-Fanwood) – 149**

High School: Earned four varsity letters in wrestling at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School ... two-time team captain ... graduated as school's all-time winningest wrestler with a career record of 128-27 ... 2015 Union County champion ... named to all-county first team in 2015 ... two-time District 11 champion and four-time placewinner ... two-time Region 3 placewinner ... member of the National Honor Society. Personal: Brian Andrew Lapham ... born May 8, 1997 in Summit, New Jersey ... son of Steve and Marybeth Lapham ... has one sister, Kelly ... relative, Tom Levin, wrestled at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in the early 1990s.

### **Mike Macklin (Gaithersburg, Md./Damascus) - 125**

High School: Won letters in wrestling, ice hockey and co-ed volleyball at Damascus High School ... led wrestling team as captain for two years ... two-time Maryland state champion wrestler. Personal: Michael Abraham Macklin ... born October 4, 1996 in Rockville, Maryland ... son of Richard and Deborah Macklin ... has three siblings, Rachel, Joe and T.J.

### **Frank Satriale (Chester Springs, Pa./Westtown School/Malvern Prep) - 125**

High School: Won one letter each in cross country and track & field and four in wrestling during high school career ... attended Westtown School before transferring to Malvern Preparatory School in 11th grade ... captain of the wrestling team as a senior ... named Most Improved wrestler in 10th grade ... three-time all-league selection ... National Prep qualifier. Personal: Francesco Paulo Satriale ... born Feb. 25, 1997 in Coatesville, Pennsylvania ... son of Gloria and Robert Satriale ... has two older siblings, Gina and Nick, and two younger siblings, Rose and Mario.

### **Cale Shelton (Signal Mountain, Tenn./Signal Mountain) – 184/197**

High School: Earned four letters in both wrestling and football at Signal Mountain High School ... two-time wrestling team captain ... two-time Tennessee State Wrestling Champion ... NHSCA Academic All-American ... Tennessee National Team member ... four-time Tennessee freestyle/Greco-Roman state champion ... two-time Best of Preps ... two-time all-district football player ... helped football team to 2010 Tennessee football state title. Personal: Cale Justice Shelton ... born Sept. 18, 1996 in Atlanta, Georgia ... son of J.D. and Pamela Shelton ... mother played soccer at University of Alabama ... has one sister, Cayden.

### **Nick Stephani (Columbia Cross Roads, Pa./Troy) – 174**

High School: Won letters in wrestling, football and baseball at Troy Senior High School ... for football, was named WNEP Dream Team member in 2014 ... was named NTL Defensive Player of the Year in 2013 ... school's all-time leading tackler ... wrestling career record of 138-21 ... 2015 PIAA state runner-up ... 2015 Northeast regional champion ... 2015 District IV champion ... three-time North Sectional champion ... finished fourth at Northeast Regional championship two times ... received PIAA District IV Outstanding Sportsmanship Award ... Max Snyder District IV wrestling scholarship recipient ... named to state all-academic first team ... was 2015 NTL Wrestler of the Year ... named to first all-region team. Personal: Nicholas Ryan Stephani ... born July 18, 1996 in Elmira, Pennsylvania ... son of Kevin and Glenda Stephani ... has one older sister, Kayla ... sister is a member of the Misericordia softball team.

## LeVALLEY FINISHES 4th AT U.S. OPEN, QUALIFIES FOR WORLD TEAM TRIALS

Newly hired Bucknell Bison Assistant Wrestling Coach, Kevin LeValley, recently competed in the U.S. Open in Las Vegas, Nevada and came away with a fourth place

finish. LeValley made his way to the semifinals via a 5-5 decision over four-time NCAA All-American, James Green of Nebraska. He fell to fellow Minnesota

Storm member, Dustin Schlatter, in the semis. In the consolation semifinals, LeValley found himself in a shootout against former NCAA Champion Derek St. John. LeValley built a big lead, and was able to hold off St. John's late surge to win 13-9.

Placement in the top-five of the U.S. Open qualifies an individual for the U.S. World Team Trials. This year's trials will be held on June 12-14 in Madison, Wisconsin. We wish the best of luck to Coach LeValley and GO BISON!



## DATES TO WATCH FOR 2015-2016

As we look forward to the 2015-16 season a number of big duals and tournaments have found their way onto the Bison schedule. On November 6th, Bucknell will host EIWA rival, Lehigh at 7 p.m. In their last meeting (2013), the Bison came away with a 18-17 victory at Grace Hall. Bucknell Wrestling can be found at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational on December 4th and 5th. Another key home match in the 2015-16 schedule brings the Oklahoma Sooners to town against the Bison on Friday, January 15th with a start time of 7 p.m.

With a number of major events on the Bucknell Wrestling schedule this upcoming season, the Bison will look to build off of a stellar 2014-15 season as they continue their climb to national prominence! We hope to see you all in Lewisburg for the upcoming season.

# BISON NAMED FINALIST FOR NWCA BEST OF BRAND TOP NEWCOMER AWARD

The Bucknell wrestling program has been named a finalist for the 2014-15 Best of Brand Top Newcomer Award, the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), in coordination with Elite Level Sport Marketing (ELSM), recently announced. The Bison are one of 12 finalists for the award, which recognizes the program that best branded itself during the season via social network sites.

Bucknell was honored along with American, Cal Baptist, George Mason, Hofstra, Northern Illinois, NYU, Old Dominion, Sacred Heart, UW-Whitewater, Wayland Baptist and West Virginia.

This is the second consecutive year the Bison program has been cited by the NWCA and ELSM. Last year they were a finalist for the Best of Brand Masterful Mission Award.

The Best of Brand Awards program is an initiative designed to honor wrestling programs for their investment in marketing. The awards are meant to inspire coaches to engage in branding initiatives at all levels to grow the sport.

## TEAM RANKS IN TOP-10 NATIONALLY IN GPA, PETROV NAMED TO ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

The Bucknell wrestling program has once again been honored by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) for its academic prowess. The NWCA recently announced its annual All-Academic Top 30 Teams and Bucknell tied for seventh nationally in grade-point average with Stanford. Additionally, junior 125-pounder Paul Petrov (Cedar Lake, Ind./Hanover Central) earned a spot on the NWCA All-Academic Team for the second straight year.

Bucknell's team GPA was an impressive 3.264, placing it fourth among EIWA programs and tied for seventh overall. It is the second consecutive year the Bison were ranked seventh.

The team GPA is determined using a system that includes 12 student-athletes from each program. A total of 10 of these come from the wrestlers entered in the NCAA Tournament conference qualifier.



A two-time NCAA qualifier, Petrov was one of 118 student-athletes named to the NWCA All-Academic Team. The accounting and financial management major placed third at the EIWA Championships to earn his second consecutive automatic berth to NCAAs. He is a three-time EIWA placewinner who has finished sixth (2013), sixth (2014) and third (2015).

A two-year team captain, Petrov was 27-7 overall this past season, including 17-2 in dual competition. He was 15-2 in his last 17 bouts entering the NCAA Championship.

One of four Bison to start all 19 duals in 2014-15, Petrov is 78-30 in his career, wrestling at 125 and 133 pounds.

Petrov recently captured the Class of 2010 Leadership Award at the team's end-of-season awards banquet.

## 2014-15 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

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.	25th
Dec. 20	Virginia	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 20-16
<b>Grapple at the Garden</b>			
Dec. 21	Davidson	New York, N.Y.	W, 33-6
Dec. 21	Hofstra	New York, N.Y.	W, 25-15
Jan. 4	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	W, 25-12
<b>At Virginia Duals, Hampton, Va.</b>			
Jan. 9	vs. Nebraska Kearney		W, 33-6
Jan. 9	vs. Old Dominion		L, 27-10
Jan. 10	vs. West Virginia		L, 19-15
Jan. 10	vs. Rider		W, 25-12
Jan. 17	George Mason	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 34-6
Jan. 17	Sacred Heart*	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 36-6
Jan. 23	Columbia*	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 29-12
Jan. 25	Harvard*	Cambridge, Mass.	W, 26-9
Jan. 25	Brown*	Providence, RI	W, 28-10
Feb. 1	Bloomsburg	Bloomsburg, Pa.	W, 36-9
Feb. 7	American*	Washington D.C.	W, 27-9
Feb. 13	F & M*	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 33-6
Feb. 14	Army*	Lewisburg, Pa.	W, 25-13
Feb. 20	Binghamton*	Lewisburg, Pa.	L, 18-16
Feb. 22	VMI	Lexington, Va.	cancelled
Mar. 6	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	5th of 16
Mar. 7	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	3rd of 16
Mar. 19-21	NCAA's	St. Louis, Missouri	T45th of 69

\* Conference Match

Home Matches in Bold



*Clockwise from above:  
Collin Boylan, Tyler  
Green, Tyler Smith  
and Logan Kerin.*



Wrestling Office  
Bucknell University  
1 Dent Drive  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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## WE ARE CLOSE -- WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR GOAL!



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.

As you probably already know, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$110,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. **Thanks to the generosity of many parents, alumni and friends, as of the end of May we stood at \$88,000 raised.** 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.

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 Wirnsberger, Head Wrestling Coach

### **Methods of Giving**

**Check or Cash:** This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "Wrestling."

**By Credit Card:** The university accepts most major credit cards. Monthly payment plans can be arranged.

**Gifts of Stock/Securities:** To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

**Pledges:** You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

**Corporate matching gifts:** Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

**You can give on-line:** [www.BucknellBison.com](http://www.BucknellBison.com).