

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



MAY 2014 • VOL. 6, NO. 3 • LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings,

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. I am proud of the resolve and determination that our young wrestlers displayed throughout the year. This group of young men were able to achieve great things on the mat and in the classroom. The wrestling highlights include a dual meet victory over Lehigh for the first time in program history. We

also qualified two student-athletes for the NCAA Tournament (Joe Stolfi-285 lbs.; Paul Petrov-125 lbs.).

I am looking forward to all 10 starters returning as well as adding a nationally ranked recruiting class to our current roster. We are creating much needed depth and the practice room will be more competitive than ever. Our team GPA continues to rise. We currently stand at a 3.1 cumulative GPA as a program. This shows that our student-athletes understand the importance of balance and time management. These next four to five months are critical for skill and strength development. This will provide us with the confidence needed as we look to improve and pass the competition. There will always be the expectation to bring home more All-Americans and our first National Champion.

I also want to remind everyone about our annual golf outing which will now take place on Friday, June 6th after being postponed due to poor weather on the 16th. If you haven't done so already, please consider participating in our event or taking on a sponsorship role. This is always a fun day to connect with our current team and reconnect with your past teammates.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who continues to support our program financially. Your support is essential for the continued growth needed to see this program succeed. Thanks again, and I hope you enjoy the remainder of your spring and the summer.

My Best,

Dan Wirnsberger
Head Wrestling Coach

SEASON WRAPS UP WITH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The team wrapped up the 2013-14 season with its annual awards banquet on Saturday, April 19th. Six different awards were given out to six individuals during the ceremony. The ceremony was highlighted by the William Graham Award (Most Outstanding Wrestler), which was given to both Paul Petrov and Joe Stolfi for their performances at the NCAA tournament.



Victor Lopez was named Freshman of the Year for his 23 win season and an eighth place finish at the EIWA tournament. Rustin Barrick was tabbed as Most Improved Wrestler on the team for overcoming a season ending injury at the beginning of 2012-13 and compiling 18 victories this past year. The Coach's Award, given to the individual who is most willing to do what's best for the team, went to Bobby Schlitt. The Class of 2010 Award (Leadership Award) was given to Paul Petrov. Brennan McAllister was named the 11th Man Award recipient because of his work ethic in the room.

Four other individual awards were given to wrestlers who led the team in specific statistical categories. Joe Stolfi led the team in both wins (34) and pins (23). Stolfi's pin mark in 2013-14 also tied for the NCAA Division I lead with Taylor Walsh of Indiana. Paul Petrov led the team in takedowns with 86, while Tyler Lyster led the team in near fall points with 61.

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: Jarrod Garnett Phone: 570-577-3980
E-Mail: jvg007@bucknell.edu
Volunteer Coach: Derek Caldwell
E-Mail: dmc055@bucknell.edu
Fax: 570-577-1660

2014-15 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Oct. 25	Intrasquad	Lewisburg, Pa.	TBA
Nov. 2	Michigan St. Open	East Lansing, Mich.	All Day
Nov. 8	Pittsburgh	Bethlehem, Pa.	TBA
Nov. 9	Binghamton Open	Vestal, N.Y.	All Day
Nov. 22	Navy Classic	Annapolis, Md.	All Day
Nov. 30	Mat Town Open	Lock Haven, Pa.	All Day
Dec. 5-6	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	All Day
Dec. 20	Virginia	Lewisburg, Pa.	TBA
Jan. 4	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	TBA
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. 18	Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia, Pa.	TBA
Jan. 23	Columbia*	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	Brown*	Providence, RI	TBA
Jan. 25	Harvard*	Cambridge, Mass.	TBA
Feb. 1	Bloomsburg	Bloomsburg, Pa.	TBA
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.	TBA
Mar. 7	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 8	EIWA's	Bethlehem, Pa.	All Day
Mar. 19-21	NCAA's	St. Louis, Missouri	All Day

* Conference Match

Home Matches in Bold

WRESTLING CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

The Bucknell Bison Wrestling team has been hard at work once again assisting the local community in various projects. Bison wrestlers were most recently at Sunflower Childcare Center doing outside maintenance work to the facility. Individuals helped to mulch flowerbeds, pull weeds, and rake excess leaves left over from the winter. The grapplers were also assisting in the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank that took place at the First Baptist Church in downtown Lewisburg. Our young men helped local families and individuals carry their goods to their vehicles as they arrived. This is the third time during the 2013-14 academic year that Bucknell Wrestling has helped with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Bison wrestlers also partook in planting trees in the grove with the assistance of Bartlett Tree Experts.



Current Bucknell wrestlers Tyler Lyster and Robert Schlitt assist in planting trees in the grove. Former Bucknell wrestler and current Bartlett Tree Expert, Jack Ingram, helped out with the planting.

FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT WITH RORY BONNER



What solidified your decision to wrestle for Bucknell?

Coming to see the campus and then meeting the team/coaches.

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

Lift

What is your current area of study here at Bucknell?

Undeclared

What are your goals athletically here at Bucknell?

I want to be a National Champ and Academic All-American

Who is your favorite wrestler on the team and why?

My favorite wrestler is Vin Favia. He is pretty cool and has helped me a lot to improve my skills.

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

I like to watch Jordan Burroughs. He is the best in the world right now.

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

The best advice someone gave me was probably to stay away from the wrong people and stay out of trouble.

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

I am most excited for the first competition.

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

I want to wrestle everyone who has beaten me this past season. I will be better next season and I want to avenge my losses.

What are your personal expectations for the team next year?

Have a winning record and finish top-5 in the EIWA.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WRESTLING GOLF OUTING

Our golf outing is only a few weeks away (June 6) and we are in the process of collecting donations and sponsorships for our annual affair. This outing is a major fundraiser for our team and provides the finances we need to help our team travel to events such as the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational and University Nationals in Akron, Ohio. We would ask that you reach out to your business in hopes of helping to generate funds for Bucknell Wrestling. It is our goal to bring in as much funding as possible so that we can give our guys the opportunity to compete against the best competition in the NCAA.

If you or your business would like to make a donation, send your check (made payable to Bucknell University) and completed registration to:

Coach Jarrod Garnett, Wrestling Office
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in Lewisburg on Friday, June 6!

BUCKNELL RECRUITING CLASS RANKED 18th NATIONALLY

Bucknell Wrestling was able to put together the 18th ranked recruiting class according to InterMat Wrestling. The Class of 2018 is headed by the No.36 overall recruit in the country and PIAA AAA State Champion, Tyler Smith (Export, Pa./Franklin Regional). Also highlighting the group is two-time PIAA AAA State Placer, Tom Sleigh (DuBois, Pa./DuBois Area), 2014 PIAA AAA Finalist, Zach Valley (Northampton, Pa./Northampton), and three-time Fargo place winner and two-time Kansas State Champion, Andrew Millsap (Junction City, Kan./Junction City).

Collin Boylan (Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central) --- Projected Weight: 149/157

A three-time Scholar-Athlete Award Winner, Collin Boylan is a three-year varsity letter winner compiling an 88-28 high school record in that span. He was named team captain at Hunterdon Central his junior and senior years. He is also a two-time NJSIAA qualifier, finishing 8th in 2014. Boylan was nominated as an All West-Jersey First Team member in 2014 and awarded Most Valuable Wrestler on his team as a senior.

John Faugno (Glen Ridge N.J./Glen Ridge) --- Projected Weight: 157/165

Faugno comes to Lewisburg with an array of credentials highlighted by his New Jersey State 7th-place finish in 2014 and a 124-17 career record. He was also a three-time District 13 Champion and a Region 4 Champion. On the national scene, John finished 8th at Flo Nationals in 2012 as a sophomore and 3rd at NHSCA Junior Nationals in 2013.

Italo Merante (Peters Township, Pa./Peters Township) --- Projected Weight: 133

Italo Giuseppe Merante was born Nov. 7, 1995 in Pittsburgh, Pa and is the son of Anthony and Domenica Merante. He was a three-year wrestling and lacrosse letterwinner at Peters Township High School, and a two-year wrestling team captain. In addition, was lacrosse team captain as a senior. Wrestling section runner-up and champion. Has two siblings, Salvatore and Antonio.

Andrew Millsap (Junction City, Kan./Junction City) --- Projected Weight: 157

Andrew carries a highly credentialed prep career with a high school record of 150-10. Millsap was a four-time Kansas State place-winner and a two-time champion for Junction City High School. He is also a three-time Fargo place-winner and was a runner up in Greco-Roman in 2013.

Chad Reese (Lock Haven, Pa./Central Mountain) --- Projected Weight: 165/174

Reese joins Bucknell fresh off of an 8th-place finish at the PIAA AAA State Championships. With a career record of 98-41, Chad was a two-time PIAA AAA State Qualifier and a two-time District VI Champion his junior and senior seasons. He was a Top Hat placer in 2013 and a finalist in 2014. Reese also placed twice at Escape the Rock in 2013 and 2014. He was one match away from placing at Fargo in 2012 as well.

Tom Sleigh (DuBois, Pa./DuBois Area) --- Projected Weight: 184/197

Tom Sleigh enters the Bucknell wrestling room as a highly touted recruit, posting a 140-23 mark and becoming DuBois Area's all-time win leader. Sleigh is a two-time PIAA AAA 3rd-place finisher in 2013 and 2014. Sleigh was also a champion at the King of the Mountain, Conestoga Valley, and Tool City tournaments in 2013 and 2014. On the national stage, Sleigh won Flo Nationals at 195 pounds this past April, while taking sixth in 2013. He was also a Super 32 5th-place finisher in 2013. Sleigh is a four-time District IX AAA Champion and two-time Outstanding Wrestler. He took home gold in the NW AAA Regional in 2013 and 2014 for the Beavers.

Tyler Smith (Export, Pa./Franklin Regional) --- Projected Weight: 141

A 2013 PIAA AAA State Champion, Tyler Smith finished his remarkable high school career with a 158-21 record. He placed at the state tournament two other times as well, finishing 5th in 2012 and 3rd in 2014. Smith was a four-time WPIAL runner-up and four-time section champion. Tyler also reached All-America honors in Fargo in 2013. He is a 1st team member of the 2014 "Dream Team" for USA Wrestling. Smith is a two-time Powerade finalist, and took home gold in the tournament in 2013. The Export native was also a member of the WPIAL 2014 Dapper Dan team as well as a member of the 2014 PIAA AAA Team Champion, Franklin Regional.

Zach Valley (Bath, Pa./Northampton) --- Projected Weight: 133

Zach Valley comes to Lewisburg as a three-time PIAA AAA State Placer, finishing second in 2014. Through his successful prep career, Valley boasted a 125-34 record which included a District XI title and NE Regional title. Zach's high school career also included landing on the podium twice at The Beast of the East, an Escape the Rock title, and a Hurricane Classic title. He also finished second at Flo Nationals in 2014 and received All-America honors there on one other occasion.

Connor Wagh (Ellicott City, Md./St. Paul's) --- Projected Weight: 174/184

A three-time state place winner in Maryland, Connor Wagh finished second in the MIAA Championships twice. Wagh amassed a 116-37 career mark with a senior season of 48-9. He is a two-time Powerade placer and a two-time runner-up at the Solanco Mule Classic. Connor has also been named to the Maryland State Wrestling Association All-Academic team twice. Wagh was a member of the Maryland State National team from 2009-2014 with a state title in Greco-Roman in 2013 and a 2nd place finish in Freestyle in the same year.



Bucknell University
Wrestling Office
Lewisburg, PA 17837

SUCCESSFUL WRESTLING SEASON COMES TO END AT NCAA'S

The Bucknell Wrestling team completed the 2013-14 wrestling season on Friday, March 21st in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma after both of their NCAA qualifiers were eliminated from the tournament that afternoon. At 125 pounds, Paul Petrov fell to the 15th seed from Pittsburgh, Anthony Zanetta, 3-1. Later in session three, Joe Stolfi dropped his bout to Billy Smith of Rutgers by a score of 10-6.

Both of these individuals earned a trip to Oklahoma City by receiving an automatic bid through the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships (EIWA). Stolfi put together a remarkable performance at the EIWA Championships by becoming the third champion for Bucknell since reinstatement. He was 4-0 through the two day tournament with two falls. His victories were over Michael Fechet (Columbia), Raymond O'Donnell (Princeton), Max Wessell (Lehigh), and Billy Smith (Rutgers). He became the first EIWA champion for the Bison since Kevin LeValley brought home gold in 2011. Petrov made a solid run to the semis with wins over Max Mejia (Harvard) and Darian Cruz (Lehigh) before bowing out of the tournament due to injury. Victor Lopez (149 pounds) also finished eighth for the Bison, but failed to receive an at-large bid to advance to the NCAA Championships.

The Bison finished the dual meet season 10-11 with key victories over Lehigh, American, and Clarion. Five individuals were able to put together 20-win seasons for Bucknell as well in Paul Petrov (32), Victor Lopez (23), Ray Schlitt (23), Tyler Lyster (21), and Joe Stolfi (35).

