

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



OCTOBER 2015 • VOL. 8, NO. 1 • LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings from Lewisburg!

I hope this note finds you doing well and the fall season brings you and your family happiness. I love the fall season for many reasons. However, my favorite part of fall is getting to know new guys, a new team, and how close we are to the start of another wrestling season.

Our program continues to grow in a positive direction. We are coming off one of our best seasons and look to build on that with our current roster as well as a commitment to a new training center. The Graham Building is under construction and this shows to the rest of the country how committed Bucknell is to building an elite wrestling program. We have also added one of our own to the coaching staff in 2011 graduate Kevin LeValley.

We have a very experienced and talented team that has been working hard this fall in preparation for the season. Our young men will be challenged and tested with both our dual meet and tournament schedule. Our dual meet schedule is hi-lighted by home matches vs. Lehigh (Nov 6) and Oklahoma (Jan 15). We will also return to Las Vegas for the Cliff Koen Las Vegas Invitational in early December. The schedule is designed to prepare our team for the NCAA Championships and to compete in front of our strong alumni and fan support. We look forward to the season and encourage you to show up to our matches. We need strong fan support this year as we travel the road to Madison Square Garden in March 2016.

Go Bison!

Dan Wirnsberger
Head Wrestling Coach



BUCKNELL WRESTLING ORGANIZES 9/11 HEROES RUN

On September 12th, Bucknell Wrestling hosted the first annual 9/11 Heroes Run with the Travis Manion Foundation. Travis Manion, a former wrestler at the U.S. Naval Academy, was fatally wounded by an enemy sniper while aiding and drawing fire away from his wounded comrades. Bucknell students, faculty, and staff, as well as citizens from Lewisburg and the surrounding communities came together to walk and run in the 5k.

Bucknell’s wrestlers served a variety of roles during the event: greeting participants, holding flags, operating audio equipment, and providing traffic control along the route. Coach Wirnsberger participated in the run with his two eldest sons, Cade and Max. Cade Wirnsberger (age 10), won his age division with a time of 23:58.

All proceeds from the 70+ participants were directly allocated to the Travis Manion Foundation. These funds will help veterans and the families of fallen heroes through a variety of programs. The 9/11 Heroes Run will be a yearly event, hosted by Bucknell Wrestling on or around September 11th of 2016.



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
Fax: 570-577-1660

HOMECOMING EVENTS

Don't forget that Homecoming Weekend is fast approaching. We have put together several events on both Friday and Saturday that will give you a chance to connect with both past and present Bucknell wrestlers!

Friday, October 23rd

- 7:00 pm --- Bryan Burns Hall of Fame Induction/Bill Graham Alumni Achievement Award
 - o Pre-register to reserve a seat
 - o <http://www.cvent.com/d/vrq406>

Saturday, October 24th

- 10:00 am --- Open Practice/Live Wrestling in Davis Gym
 - o Meet the Team, Refreshments Provided, Merchandise Available
- 4:00 pm-7:00 pm --- Alumni and Friends Social, Towne Tavern Shanty.
 - o Beer and Appetizers, Update on Graham Building Progress

HOME MATCH EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, November 6*
Lehigh -- 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH DAY

Friday, January 15*
Oklahoma -- 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 21#
Lock Haven -- 7:00 p.m.

ALUMNI DAY

Saturday, January 23*
Brown -- 12:00 p.m.
Harvard -- 7:00 p.m.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, January 31#
Bloomsburg -- 2:00 p.m.

* - Sojka Pavilion
- Davis Gymnasium

MEET COACH KEVIN LeVALLEY

As many of you may know, Bucknell Alum, and two-time All-American Kevin LeValley '11 has returned to Bucknell to serve as an assistant wrestling coach. We sat down with coach LeValley to learn a bit more about him and his family.



You are originally from Colorado, can you describe your hometown?

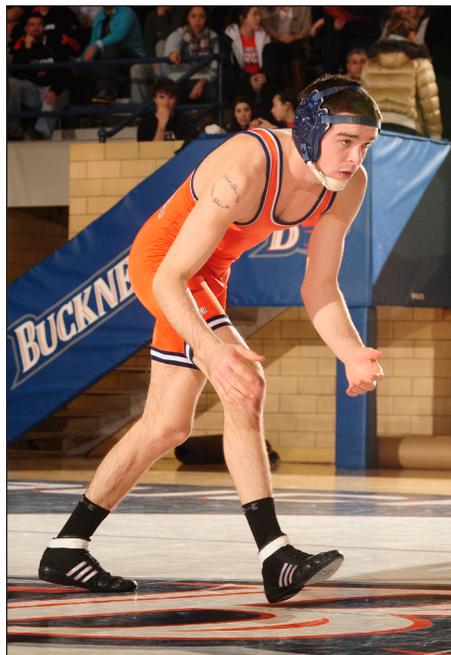
I grew up on a farm 25 miles south and 5 miles east of Limon, Colorado at the dead end of a dirt road. Limon has a population of about 1900 people, and I graduated with 43 kids in my senior class. Limon may be a small town, but it is a sports town. The community prides itself on athletics. I still stream Limon football games online, and when I go home people want to know about my wrestling. That kind of support is motivating and still drives me to be successful.

Your family was always a staple at Bucknell Wrestling matches, home and away. Can you talk about them for a minute?

My family has always been the root of my success. My parents (Dan and Tammy) and my grandparents (Marvin and Estelle) have made unmeasurable sacrifices to help me succeed in wrestling and in life. They were all just here in August. My parents will be at the Oklahoma dual this year and at NCAA's in January.

You were just married in October. Tell us a bit about your wife.

Amanda and I met in Minneapolis in 2011. I was working J Robinson's wrestling camp system, and Amanda was employed as an athletic trainer. It took me an entire year to convince her to go on a date with me, but persistence paid off. Shortly after, I went on a 6 week wrestling tour to Russia. I knew that if she was still around when I got back, she was the one. She is now working as a medical device sales rep in the area, and we are enjoying life in Lewisburg. It is the perfect community for us to grow as a couple.



Have you found a house?

We are currently renting, but are looking to buy within the next year. It gives us a chance to get to know the community a little better and to see what neighborhoods we prefer. Right now, we are just a couple blocks off the Bucknell golf course. We have great neighbors, and I can still walk to campus.

What brought you back to Bucknell?

I was ready. Personally and professionally, I felt that I was prepared. But more importantly, at the time that Amanda and I made the decision, we saw Bucknell Wrestling in a good place. The team was young and talented, there was tremendous alumni support, plans were in place for a state of the art facility, Coach Gibson is known as a great recruiter, and obviously I have faith and trust in Coach Wirsberger. In 2006, I made my decision to wrestle for Bucknell. More than eight years later, I made a very similar decision. I believe in the future of Bucknell Wrestling.

MEET FRESHMAN ZACH KELLY

What solidified your decision to wrestle for Bucknell?

The two things that made me want to be a part of the Bucknell wrestling program were the coaching staff and the commitment they have shown to developing a great team. The great education I will be getting at an institution like Bucknell also played a large role when choosing to come here.



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

I am a big fan of all Pittsburgh sports teams so when I am not training I kick back and watch whatever team is in season.

What is your current area of study here at Bucknell?

As of right now I am an undeclared bio major. I am still waiting to find something that I am really interested in, but with having the ability to explore many different areas of study at Bucknell, I'm sure I will find something I like.

What are your wrestling goals for this season?

The goal for me is to improve as much as I can every day until nationals. If I can do that I truly believe I can be Bucknell's first NCAA Champion.

Where do you need to improve to achieve those goals?

I just need to train hard when it comes to wrestling and make sure all other aspects of my life are in order.

Who is your favorite wrestler to watch?

My favorite wrestler of all time has got to be Cary Kolat. My favorite wrestler still competing is probably Abdurashid Sadulaev from Russia.

What are your expectations for the team this year?

I expect the team to finish among the top-three at the EIWA tournament and qualify almost our whole team for nationals. Then, I really would love to see us bring back multiple all-Americans at NAAs.

2015-16 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

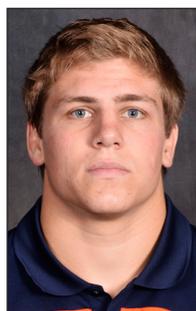
Nov. 6	Lehigh*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 13	F & M*	Lancaster, Pa.	TBA
Nov. 15	Michigan State Open	East Lansing, Mich.	All Day
Nov. 21	Navy Classic	Annapolis, Md.	TBA
Dec. 4	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	All Day
Dec. 5	Cliff Keen Invit.	Las Vegas, Nev.	All Day
Dec. 19	Gardner Webb	Lewisburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
<u>At Virginia Duals, Hampton, Va.</u>			
Jan. 8	vs. TBA		TBA
Jan. 8	vs. TBA		TBA
Jan. 9	vs. TBA		TBA
Jan. 9	vs. TBA		TBA
Jan. 15	Oklahoma	Lewisburg, Pa.#	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 21	Lock Haven	Lewisburg, Pa.	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 23	Brown*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	12:00 p.m.
Jan. 23	Harvard*	Lewisburg, Pa.#	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	Bloomsburg	Lewisburg, Pa.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 7	Sacred Heart*	Fairfield, Conn.	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 13	American*	Washington D.C.	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 13	George Mason	Fairfax, Va.	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Penn*	Philadelphia, Pa.	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 19	Binghamton*	Vestal, N.Y.	TBA
Feb. 20	Columbia*	New York, N.Y.	1:00 p.m.
Mar. 5	EIWA's	Princeton, N.J.	All Day
Mar. 6	EIWA's	Princeton, N.J.	All Day
Mar. 17-19	NCAA's	New York, N.Y.	All Day

* Conference Match

- Sojka Pavilion

Home Matches in Bold

LOGAN KERIN INTERNS AT "BEAT THE STREETS" IN PHILADELPHIA



During the past summer, I had the opportunity to be an intern at "Beat the Streets" in Philadelphia. Beat the Streets is a non-profit organization, which strives to alter the trajectory of struggling inner city kids in Philadelphia through wrestling and mentoring. I was able to do some marketing, and was involved in the development of fundraising projects to help raise money and awareness for the foundation. Another part of this internship that was essential to Beat the Streets was working as a mentor for the kids involved in the program, as well as tutoring and helping them with schoolwork.

This experience allowed me to really understand some of the struggles that the kids were going through, not only in everyday life, but in the academia realm as well. This part of the internship was the most rewarding for me because I was able to see first-hand how much of an impact Beat the Streets had in improving the kids' confidence in life, as well as in the classroom. I was ecstatic to be one of the people who was able to provide a helping hand in doing so.

On top of the mentoring aspect of the internship, I was able to help out at the Beat the Streets practices and clinics, helping the kids with wrestling. The wrestling part of the internship was also a crucial part of the Beat the Streets program. Wrestling is a sport which involves sacrifice, hard work, and dedication. These, and many other characteristics learned through wrestling, stay with you for the rest of your life, and ultimately make you a stronger individual. I feel that through teaching wrestling, I was able to aid kids to develop characteristics that will not only help them become better wrestlers, but also better people.

Follow Us on Twitter --- @BUWrestling

Like us on Facebook --- Bucknell Bison Wrestling



Wrestling Office
Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS TO BISON WRESTLING!



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.

We have been given a fundraising goal of \$110,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. 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 Wirmsberger, 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.