

NCAA Championships in 2001 and 2000 respectively and will provide fierce competition to Kurth and Baker. Vogel is an outstanding athlete and honor student who offers an impressive mix of aggressiveness, intelligence, and tenacity. He won an Ohio state title while in high school and is the two-time defending Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation champion. Ratel has an aggressive, attacking style and is capable of pinning anyone he faces. He had a dominating performance at this year's Kutztown Invitational, earning the Most Falls Award en route to the title. Extremely talented, Ratel is solid on his feet as well as a punishing rider on the mat.

Marc Israel (Ithaca) and Joel Dzeidzic (WI-Oshkosh) have placed at nationals in the past and will be formidable opponents for the All-Americans already mentioned. Israel finished eighth nationally at 141-pounds last season after a championship performance at the Empire Wrestling Conference. He is an unorthodox wrestler who likes to take chances on the mat. Dzeidzic earned his All-American honor with an eighth-place finish at the 1999 NCAA Championships. He was victorious at the 2001 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and is a former two-time Wisconsin state runner-up.

Bart Mehlert (Wartburg), Troy Fabry (WI-LaCrosse), Ryan Stroud (Augsburg),

Chris Vogel (Loras), Clint Manny (Simpson), Brian Vetter (St. John's), and Bill Ivatts (Springfield) will be contenders for some type of national placement. Mehlert captured the 2001 National Junior College Championships title while competing for Ellsworth Community College. A former Iowa state champion, Mehlert is a terrific mat wrestler with a myriad of punishing rides and pin holds. Fabry seized top honors at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and is an intense, hard-nosed competitor with enormous strength. Stroud placed second at this year's Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open and St. Cloud Invitational. He was the 2001 Wisconsin state runner-up for Park Falls/Butternut High School. Vogel is a good all-around wrestler with superior point-scoring skills. This year he was first at the Concordia Open and second at the Dick Walker Invitational. Manny is a dynamic performer with a passion for pinning. He placed second at the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and was the 2001 Iowa state runner-up for Winterset High School. Vetter qualified for the 2001 NCAA Championships with a second-place finish at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He is a fine technician with the physical tools and mental toughness needed to excel. Ivatts missed All-American status by one match last season and is the defending New

England College Wrestling Association champion. He had a sterling prep career at Foxboro High School, claiming three Massachusetts state titles and compiling an overall win-loss record of 154-33.

Some strong challengers for national recognition are Ohio Athletic Conference runner-up Tony Patrizi (Heideleberg), Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference runner-up Alex Morf (St. Olaf), 2001 Wisconsin state champion Justin Geitner (WI-Stevens Point), 2000 New York state champion Dustin Winn (Oneonta State), New Jersey state placer Pat Brady (New Jersey), Steve Hult (NYU), Kyle DeBias (Roger Williams), Scott Michels (Upper Iowa), and 2000 Iowa state runner-up Danny Ebling (Central).

Others with potential include two-time Maryland state champion Bryan Hamper (McDaniel), Jeremy Messinger (Delaware Valley), Rocky Burkett (Manchester), Scott Roesch (Ursinus), three-time Maine state champion Dan Whelan (Norwich), Mark Romeo (Trinity), Randy Bosley (John Carroll), two-time Kansas state champion Mark Dugan (St. John's), Mike Hewitt (Baldwin-Wallace), Lucas Kern (WI-Platteville), Alex Brandenburg (Buena Vista), College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin runner-up Rob Golombek (Augustana), Sean Reese (Lycoming), and two-time New York state

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runner-up Josh Herzig (Ithaca).

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Marcus Levesseur (Augsburg), Kevin Bratland (Wartburg), and Aaron Loewens (Buena Vista) will vie for the national championship and there is no clear-cut favorite. Levesseur is a transfer from the University of Minnesota. He had a legendary prep career that included four Minnesota state crowns, a runner-up performance at the prestigious Junior National Freestyle Championships, a Cadet National Freestyle title, and an overall win-loss record of 218-12. An entertaining performer with a flair for the dramatic, Levesseur will be difficult to beat because of his sensational moves, great balance, and amazing body control. Bratland is a crushingly strong individual with the ability to overwhelm his opposition. He finished third at last year's NCAA Championships and has won two straight Dick Walker Invitational titles. Loewens showcases solid all-around skills and is an excellent mat wrestler with a variety of pinning combinations. He placed fourth nationally last season and is the defending Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion.

Dustin Roland (Central), Charlie Bishop (Loras), and Aaron Harris (Delaware Valley) have attained All-

American status in the past and are dedicated individuals with lofty goals. Roland placed fourth at the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference last year prior to a seventh-place NCAA finish. He shines on his feet with a myriad of takedown moves. Bishop earned his All-American honor with a fourth-place performance at the 2001 NAIA Championships. He is a very hard worker with an explosive, go-for-broke style. Harris took sixth at the 1998 NCAA Championships and will look to come back from two season-ending injuries.

Garrett South (Luther), Dave Shafer (King's), Steve Mosley (Ohio Northern), Greg Ilaria (New Jersey), Joe Lovello (Hunter), Joe Moskowitz (WPI), and Mark Meyers (WI-Platteville) are terrific wrestlers looking to make an impact at this classification. South won the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at 165-pounds last season as a true freshman. He has a reputation as a fierce pinner and was the 2001 Iowa state champion for Cumberland-Anita-Massena High School. Shafer seized top honors at the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation and was a third-place finisher at the 1997 Junior National Greco-Roman Championships. He utilizes some devastating head and arm combinations and is never out of a match because of his prolific pinning skills.

Mosley is an electrifying individual blessed with incredible quickness. He won this year's Ohio Northern Invitational in impressive fashion and is the returning Ohio Athletic Conference runner-up. Ilaria is a transfer from Division I Seton Hall University. He was triumphant at the 2002 Ithaca Invitational and is tough on his feet and in the advantage position. Lovello is a rugged mat wrestler with a series of rides and pin holds. He was the 2000 Pennsylvania state runner-up for Brandywine Heights High School. Moskowitz is a rapidly improving individual who has been impressive this year with championship performances at the Red Dragon Invitational and Roger Williams Invitational. He had a stellar prep career at Souhegan High School, winning four New Hampshire state crowns and compiling an overall record of 177-16. Meyers won a Wisconsin state title while in high school and is the reigning Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion.

A multitude of experienced grapplers should challenge for some type of national placement. They include Midwest Regional champion Jarold Ridley (Manchester), Centennial Conference champion Sean Howard (Ursinus), New England College Wrestling Association champion Rich Moskowitz (Plymouth State), 2002 NCAA qualifier Tim Anderson (St. John's), Ithaca Invitational placer Casey Beach (Ithaca), Messiah Petrofes champion Rob Power (SUNY-Brockport), Carlos Sanchez or Joel Catour (Augustana), Drew Zollars (Mount Union), Jeremy Adams (Lycoming), Mike Pfeilsticker (Cornell), Ric Scannell (Lawrence), former two-time Minnesota state champion Chris McAlpine (Augsburg), and Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference placer Aaron Destival (Upper Iowa).

Other names to follow are Corey Day (WI-LaCrosse), Ryan Ficco (John Carroll), Nate Lukanich (Chicago), Jess Monzo or Jake Beitz (Montclair State), Jeremy Salyers (Heidelberg), Chase Weller (Simpson), Adam Dorner (WI-Oshkosh), Mikey Blake (McDaniel), Tom Fives (Gettysburg), Dave Bucco (Trinity), Chris Muller (WI-Eau Claire), and Blaire Surgent (Oneonta State).

165 POUNDS

Pat North (R.I.T.) is the top pick after his outstanding fourth-place NCAA performance last season. He won this year's Ithaca Invitational in real style and is the returning Empire Wrestling Conference runner-up. A fierce competitor, North excels in the advantage position with a good array of leg rides and pin holds.

All-Americans Pat Wilsbacher (Buena Vista), Jesse Reyerson (Luther), and Danny Anderson (Mount Union) are top-flight

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performers who will supply quality competition to North. Wilsbacher is an immensely powerful individual with a tremendous work ethic. He was the 2000 Iowa state runner-up for Bishop Heelen High School. Reyerson is a flamboyant wrestler with the expertise to pin opponents in a variety of ways. He recorded the most falls in the least amount of time at the 2001 NCAA Championships. Anderson has won three consecutive Ohio Athletic Conference titles and is a two time All-American. He was the 1997 Ohio state champion for Chardon High School and is exceptionally strong on his feet.

Cory DeBias (Roger Williams), Jason Shivak (Delaware Valley), Dan Kull (John Carroll), Rich Schroeder (Loras), Ryan Sturm (Wartburg), Artie Weidler (SUNY-Brockport), Brian Viglione (Springfield), Bill Deniz (Montclair State), Aaron Gibbs, (Washington & Jefferson), and Bill Morgan (Augsburg) will be top contenders for All-American accolades. DeBias won a Pennsylvania state title while in high school and is a transfer from Division I Rider University. This year he was champion at the Doug Parker Invitational and Roger Williams Invitational. Shivak missed All-American status by one bout last season and is the defending Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation champion. He had a dominating performance at this year's Spartan Invitational and was the 2001 Pennsylvania state runner-up for Spring-Ford High School. Kull placed second at the Ohio Athletic Conference and is a clever, low-risk type performer who knows how to maintain position. Schroeder moves well on his feet and is an aggressive wrestler who thrives for the fall. He was the 1999 Iowa state champion for Lemars High School. Sturm, a former Iowa state champion, is a hard-working competitor who competes with a physical, battling style. He will be challenged by 2002 Dick Walker Invitational winner Andrew Knaack to represent the Knights at this classification. Weidler was triumphant at this year's Messiah Petrofes Tournament and is a former National Junior College All-American. Viglione had a sterling prep career at Chelmsford High School, claiming two Massachusetts state titles, a New England Championships crown, and amassing an overall win-loss record of 161-19. He finished second at this year's Doug Parker Invitational and third at the Ithaca Invitational. Deniz is a complete wrestler who consistently turns in good performances. Gibbs, a former Pennsylvania state placer, incorporates outstanding athletic ability with an aggressive and dominating style. Morgan seized top honors at this year's Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open and was

the 2000 Minnesota state runner-up for West Central Area High School.

Some experienced individuals looking to make an impact at this division are Golden Eagle Open runner-up Jim Hamilton (WI-Platteville), Messiah Invitational champion Joe Arnone (King's), Great Lakes Regional champion Aaron Heinberger (Pacific), Concordia Open runner-up Ryan Hlinak (Chicago), College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin runner-up Sean Hoover (Augustana), Matt Zwaschka (WI-LaCrosse), Bill Bobbitt (McDaniel), Andy Gum (Central), Andy Geerts (Upper Iowa), Ithaca Invitational runner-up Bill Parry (Ithaca), and 2002 New England College Wrestling Association placer Dan Moskowitz (Plymouth State).

Others to watch include Red Dragon Invitational champion Matt Slate (SUNY-Cortland), Derek Crane (Lycoming), Pacific Open runner-up Mick Davis (Pacific), Andy Cook (Bridgewater State), Derek Tieche (Ohio Northern), Paul Meirick (Luther), Metropolitan Conference placer Joe Amalfitano (Hunter), Joe Heiland (Baldwin-Wallace), Nate Slinkard (St. John's), Cody Downing (Simpson), former two-time Connecticut state champion Wes Connell (Trinity), Jason Kreiger (WI-Whitewater), Kyle Hauptfleisch (Oneonta State), and 2001 Ohio state champion Tim Kelly (Heideleberg).

174 POUNDS

Ed Aliakseyenka (Montclair State) is the dominant figure here after his impressive NCAA championship performance last year. A two-time All-American, Aliakseyenka hails from Belarus and is a multi-talented international competitor. He has captured two consecutive Metropolitan Conference titles and is one of the finest 174-pounders in the entire nation regardless of division or classification. An aggressive attacker, Aliakseyenka is a virtual takedown machine with a series of slick techniques.

All-Americans Josh Housekeeper (Delaware Valley) and Don Favro (SUNY-Brockport) finished sixth and seventh respectively at last season's NCAA Championships and are rugged performers. Housekeeper had a big win at this year's Ithaca Invitational and is the defending Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation champion. He is an enormously strong individual with the expertise to simply overpower much of his opposition. Favro is experienced at different wrestling styles and is the returning Empire Wrestling Conference runner-up. He has fine athletic ability and utilizes outstanding stamina and conditioning to his advantage.

Tim Ruberg (Johnson & Wales), Cody Koenig (WI-Stevens Point), Mark Sturm (Wartburg), Joe Moon (Augsburg), Gary Franck (Coe), Mark Hawald (John Carroll), Nick Patenaude (WI-LaCrosse), Joe Fitzsimmons (Roger Williams), and C.J. MacNaught (Upper Iowa) are exceptional grapplers with the ability to contend for top national placement. Ruberg is a super sophomore with incredible takedown skills. He had championship performances at this year's Doug Parker Invitational and Ithaca Invitational and is the defending New England College Wrestling Association champion. Koenig missed All-American status by the slimmest of margins last season and is the returning Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference runner-up. This year he has been devastating with first-place finishes at the Golden Eagle Open, Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open, and Concordia Open. Sturm competes with a brawling, physical style and is the defending Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion. Moon won a Minnesota state title while in high school and is a proven winner with tremendous leadership capabilities. He was triumphant at this year's St. Cloud Invitational and is dominant on his feet. Franck provides constant pressure on his opposition and is an entertaining individual who can pin with real abandon. He had a big win at this year's Dick Walker Invitational. Hawald excels on his feet with a smooth, flowing style and is the returning Ohio Athletic Conference champion. Patenaude has captured two consecutive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles and is a disciplined, hard-working competitor. Fitzsimmons placed second at the 2002 New England College Wrestling Association Championships and is a former two-time New Hampshire state champion. MacNaught is a transfer from Division I Syracuse University. He was a two-time New York state finalist for Waverly High School.

Paul Vaccaro (New Jersey), Matt Smith (Washington & Jefferson), Jeff Zastrow (WI-Whitwater), Andrew Locke (Ithaca), Jason Mitchell (Simpson), Brian Bartlett (Bridgewater State), Sam Baumer (Pacific), and Joshua Rhoden (Pacific Lutheran) have competed successfully at the collegiate level and should not be overlooked. Vaccaro, in particular, has been impressive this year with a championship performance at the Central Jersey Open and third-place finishes at the Ithaca Invitational and Spartan Invitational.

Others with the ability to surprise include Concordia Open runner-up Tom Andrews (Loras), Joe Hada (Heidelberg), Matt Bruce (Lycoming), Rick Delagardelle (Buena Vista), Josh Gregorek (Mount

Union), Tony Valenti (Messiah), Ed Miller (Oswego State), Tom Atkinson (Central), Mark Staron (NYU), 2002 Ohio state placer Kevin Ryan (Ohio Northern), Sterling Sebek (Baldwin-Wallace), Rory O'Farrell (Cornell), Dan Willaert (St. John's), Ryan LeBeau or Lon Welsh (Luther), Johnny Davis (Manchester), and 2002 Minnesota state runner-up Brad Bruns (Augsburg).

184 POUNDS

This weight class contains a multitude of exceptional grapplers with the talent to win the NCAA championship.

All-Americans Ricky Crone (Augsburg), Paul Cleary (Loras), Sonny Alvarez (Wartburg), and Ryan Jones (Pacific) finished second, third, fourth, and seventh respectively at last year's national tournament. Crone adjusts well to the many different strategies that his opponents attempt and is the defending Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion. He does not use a lot of fancy moves but is hard to stop with his specialties. Cleary is a highly conditioned athlete with enormous strength and power. He wears down his opposition with his non-stop pursuit of points and is the defending Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion. A former two-time Illinois state runner-up, Cleary has been devastating this year with championship performances at

the Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open, the Dick Walker Invitational, and the Concordia Open. Alvarez is a two-time Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference runner-up and two-time All-American. He is superior on his feet and knows how to win through a fine combination of strength, intelligence, and tenacity. Jones finished second at the Great Lakes Regional and is a former Idaho state placer.

Jeremy Kosch (Ohio Northern), Jason Lulloff (WI-LaCrosse), Tevon Fordyce (SUNY-Brockport), Nate Kittredge (Plymouth State), Ken Ware (Coe), Todd Schmauss (Upper Iowa), and Dale Rissmiller (Centenary) are top-flight performers with the potential for excellence. Kosch has captured two consecutive Ohio Athletic Conference titles and is an extremely physical and intimidating wrestler. He is masterful on his feet with big-time point-producing skills. Lulloff is a tremendously talented true freshman destined for greatness. He was the 2002 Wisconsin state champion for Kiel High School. Fordyce possesses great athleticism is a takedown artist with a wide assortment of set-ups and slick moves. He placed fifth at the 2001 National Junior College Championships while attending Niagara County Community College. Kittredge has a lot of experience and has been impressive this year with champi-

onship performances at the Red Dragon Invitational and Roger Williams Invitational. Ware qualified for the NCAA Championships last season at 174-pounds with a runner-up finish at the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He has a reputation as a pinning specialist and is fun to watch because of his exciting, unorthodox style. Schmauss earned All-American status at the 1999 National Junior College Championships while attending powerful Iowa Central Community College. Rissmiller placed second at this year's Ithaca Invitational and is the reigning Metropolitan Conference champion.

Some additional wrestlers with valuable collegiate experience are Centennial Conference champion Levi McVey (McDaniel), Jeff Tierney (Lycoming), Roy Forsyth (WI-Platteville), Empire Wrestling Conference placer Gino Giannettino (Oswego State), Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference runner-up Aaron Barthel (St. John's), Ohio Athletic Conference placer Artie Mauser (John Carroll), Mike Perry (Bridgewater State), Tom Medonis (Springfield), and Spartan Invitational champion Josh Pavlov (New Jersey).

Darkhorse contenders include Doug Parker Invitational champion Ryan Lenhardt (Johnson & Wales), Tim Pentz

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