



# 2003 USGWA National Championships

## Biggest Ever USGWA National Championships

-By Kent Bailo-  
Photos by Dave Myers

**T**he biggest ever USGWA National Championships had exactly 600 wrestlers take to the mats on March 29-30, 2003, at Lake Orion High School in Lake Orion, Michigan. High School Age Division had 283 entries, Elementary School Age Division had 97 entries, Middle School Age Division had 105 entries, Collegiate Freestyle Division had 68 entries, and Collegiate Folkstyle Division had 47 entries. The most dramatic jumps were in the middle school and elementary divisions.

Elementary used 21 round-robin format divisions. Middle School had set weight class again this year and they may be revised to accommodate a more even distribution of entries per weight class.

California again won the team title, Michigan was second, and Hawaii third. Those were preliminary scores. Complete, official scores will appear in the next issue of *Wrestling USA Magazine* along with the *Annual Wrestling USA Magazine/USGWA All-American Girls High School Wrestling Team*. Girls earn "All American" honors that place 8th or higher in their senior year, or who finish 12th or higher in their senior year who have had previous 8th or higher finishes, or those seniors of special circum-

stance, such as high placers in previous years who can not compete in their senior season because of illness or injury. We recognize only graduating high school seniors for "All American" honors.

The finals were the best ever according to most wrestling aficionados. At 100 lbs. Damaris Barrios, a new comer to the Nationals scene, took a hard fought 3-3 OT win with a great ride-out.

At 105, Sara Fulp-Allen repeated as National Champ with an 8-2 decision over fellow Californian Jessica Hsieh of Napa. Hsieh was second as a freshman, was hurt last year, and wrestled tough to get her second runner-up finish.

At 110, Debbie Sakai of Hawaii overcame two Caitlyn Chase takedowns in the first period. Sakai hit a hard reverse, caught Chase on her back, applied a double grapevine and finished the match early in the second period. Chase, from Illinois, only a freshman, now has two runner-up finishes.

At 114, Hawaiian Caylene Valdez topped off four Hawaii State Championships with her first USGWA National Championship. She beat Rachel Groft of Pennsylvania 4-2 in the finals.

At 118 lbs, Maine sophomore Deanna Rix wrestled a solid bout in besting Oregon

freshman Manuelita Swartzlender, 7-0.

122 lbs. saw two-time finalist Na'Tasha Umemoto get her first championship in her sophomore campaign. Tasha trailed PA's Jen Chu going into the third, but a spectacular reverse put Chu on her back and ended the match. Chu finishes her high school career with consecutive runner-up places. The 126 final between Iris Mucha of Anchorage, Alaska, and Hilary Lucarelli of Ishpeming, Michigan, had a controversial ending. Mucha, 3rd last year, and Lucarelli, previously a two-time runner-up, battled to a 1-1 draw entering the sudden victory overtime period. Lucarelli attempted a double, Mucha sprawled, came up to a duck under and was locked around Lucarelli's waist in the middle of the mat. Lucarelli appeared to go straight out of bounds. One point fleeing the mat penalty was assessed and the match was over. It was a tough call to make, but most refs in attendance agreed that it was the correct call. They also agreed that they hated to see a national championship match end in this manner. Final score: 2-1 OT.

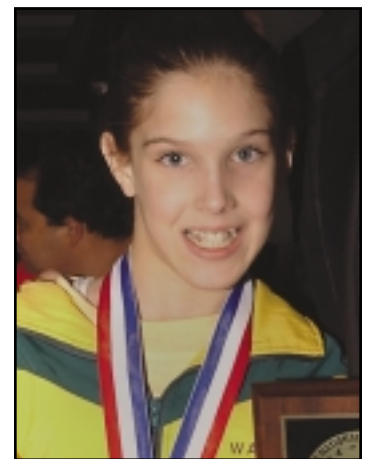
Madeleine Briones, of San Leandro, California pinned fellow Californian Othello Lucas of San Diego at the 3:47 mark to capture the 130 lbs. title.

Brandy Rosenbrock of Montrose,



### "Elementary School Age" National Champions

Front Row: 39 lbs. Taylor Shirley, Ohio; 44 lbs. Katie Agey, Iowa; 48 lbs. Erin Golston, Illinois; 53 lbs. Taylor Cooley, Michigan; 56 lbs. Alycia Guzman, Ohio; 59 lbs. Sarah Anderson, New York; 61 lbs. Jayde King, Missouri; 63 lbs. Makeba Elliott, Illinois; 64 lbs. Kaylee Gillen, New York; 66 lbs. Jasmine Plummer, Illinois; 69 lbs. Sarah Dorsay, New Jersey. BACK ROW: 70 lbs. Eryn Wynkoop, Michigan; 73 lbs. Sydney Atkinson, North Carolina; 75 lbs. Shelby Shirley, Ohio; 79 lbs. Kelsey Hanson, Washington; 83 lbs. Courtney Merschat, Pennsylvania; 88 lbs. Erin Shaffer, West Virginia; 94 lbs. Kathrine Williams, Iowa; 103 lbs. Tiffany Mason, Minnesota; 136 lbs. Trisha Jenkins, Michigan; 155 lbs. Heather Miracle, Wisconsin.

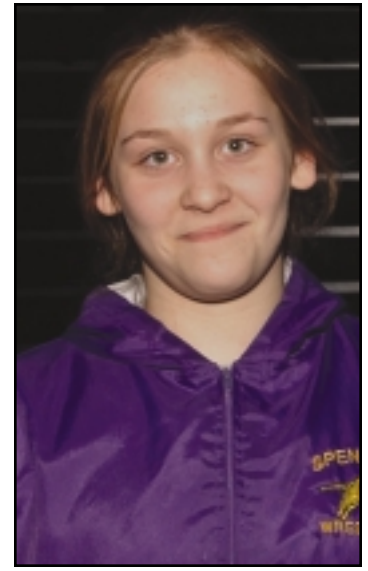


Kelsey Hanson  
Most Outstanding Wrestler  
"Elementary School Age" Division.  
Kelsey is from Washougal, WA



**"Middle School Age" National Champions**

Front Row: (L to R) 70 lbs. Logan Howard, New York; 75 lbs. C.C. Weber, Michigan; 80 lbs. Misty Corwin, Oregon; 85 lbs. Nicole Woody, Maryland; 100 lbs. Adeline Gray, Colorado; 105 lbs. Sara Tausch, Michigan; 115 lbs. Chelsea Maslowsky, Nebraska. Back Row: 120 lbs. Chandra Peterson, Iowa; 125 lbs. Amber Miracle, Wisconsin; 130 lbs. Samantha Gorman, Michigan; 137 lbs. Paige Storm, Iowa; 145 lbs. Stacey Maloney, Michigan; 154 lbs. Caitlin Dammann, Iowa; Over-154 lbs. Lindsey Poraczky, Pennsylvania. Missing: 90 lbs. Firen Gassman, Virginia; 95 lbs. Joey Miller, Oklahoma; 110 lbs. Brittany Woodall, West Virginia.



"Middle School Age" Division  
Most Outstanding Wrestler  
Paige Storm  
Spencer, Iowa  
She won the National Championship at  
137 lbs. by pinning a four opponents

Michigan became the first female wrestler to win four consecutive USGWA National Championships with an 8-5 win over tough Ohio sophomore Vanessa Oswald.

Alaina Berube was the first 4-time champ, but she won her first title as an 8th grader, lost in the finals as a freshman, before finishing with a string of three championships.

At 138 lbs Stefanie Shaw gave Connecticut its first National Championship with a 10-5 decision over Minnesota's Chelonne Pringle. Both are sophomores.

145 lbs. saw Heather Martin get her first title in her third finals appearance. She avenged her only loss of the year, twice, pinning Anna Jenkins of Lake Orion, Michigan, in the finals of the Great Lakes Championships and then doing the deed again in the Nationals finals at the 1:27 mark. Jenkins upset two-time defending National Champion Wendy Casey of New York, on a reverse with 2 seconds left for a 5-4 semi-finals victory. Jenkins had only three losses this season, going 57-3,



"High School Age" Division  
upper weights (144 lbs.)  
Most Outstanding  
Wrestler, Heather Martin  
Wellington, Ohio. Heather was a  
two-time runner-up before taking  
the title this year with four pins.



"High School Age" Division  
lower weights (122 lbs.)  
Most Outstanding Wrestler,  
Na'Tasha Umemoto  
Portland, Oregon.  
Tasha was runner-up last  
year, came from behind in the  
championship match to pin Jen  
Chu of Philadelphia, PA. Chu was  
a 2-time runner-up.

"Belt Championship Series" Winners: L to R:  
"Elementary School Age" Division Champ,  
Trisha Jenkins, Lake Orion, Michigan; "Middle  
School Age" Division Champ Chandra Peterson,  
Lake Mills, Iowa; "High School Age" Division  
Champion Anna Jenkins, Lake Orion, Michigan.





with two losses to National Champ Martin, and one loss to 152 lbs. National Champ, Ali Bernard. Speaking of Bernard, she took her second consecutive title, besting another two-time National Champ, Shawn Swartzlender of Burns, Oregon, by a 7-3 score.

At 165 lbs. Samantha Lang is untouchable. She's got three USGWA National titles in pocket and only the second coming of Godzilla can keep her from four!!!

The over-165 lbs. final pitted 6-time finalist (that's correct!!) Laura DiCesare against last year's third place finisher, Lizz Sanders. Sanders took a 7-2 lead into the third period. But, like last year, DiCesare got the reverse with a headlock and finished the match with a pin at 5:08.

DiCesare's only loss in the last four years was in her sophomore season when she lost a 7-5 overtime decision to Samantha Lang. Sanders has only two losses to females in her high school career -- both to DiCesare, and both when she seemingly had the match under control. Lizz (only one name for her, she's the Madonna of female wrestling) should own the over-165 class in the next two years.

Surprises? What about Amanda Chittenden? This Michigan sophomore had no idea she was any good. A 1-4 record against females didn't command any seeding consideration. What did she do? Promptly pinned the number four seed, pinned two more, lost to Champ Heather Martin in the semis, and former



USGWA High School Nationals - 105 lb. Finals. Sara Fulp-Allen (El Granada, CA) dec. Jessica Hsieh (Vallejo, CA) 8-2.

Champ Wendy Casey in the consy finals to finish fourth in the nation. Oh, those four losses, two to Heather Martin and two to Anna Jenkins. I guess Amanda will be okay!! And 8th grader Cheyenne Stokes of Oklahoma came back from being pinned and a dislocated shoulder to take third at 122 lbs. Corey Jablonski of Florida took 5th at 126 after winning the Florida title as a freshman.

New for next season: second day weigh-in. After the final bout of the Top 12 placers in the "High School Age" Division on Saturday night, wrestlers will be escorted to the locker room by the referees, where female attendants will conduct the second day weigh-in with a two pound allowance. Those not making weight will be eliminated from further competition.

Thanks to the great referee crew: Kevin Hall, Brad TerHaar, Cal TerHaar, Barb Brummet, Gary Kowalewski, Don Maskill, Scott Strickler, Ron Nagy, Chuck Barrett, Frank Olson, Dennis Harland, Ron Minoletti, Wayne Cupp, Eugene English, and Tom Arsenault. Jenn Boggio of Romeo and Bob Morrill of Birmingham took care of head table duties. Sharon Kline was announcer, Doug Kline, Lake Orion High School Coach, was Assistant Executive Director.

Next year's Nationals dates: March 27-28, 2004. See you then. Brent Bailo was Executive Director of Awards Stand Construction.

**USGWA High School Nationals  
Lake Orion High School MI  
March 29-30, 2003**

**The Championship Finals:**

**State Scores**

State	Points
California	181.5
Michigan	163.5
Hawaii	144

**Placers by weight class:**

**100 lbs.**

1st - Damaris Barrios (San Diego, CA) dec. Nicole Fonda (Kaaawa, Hawaii) 3-3 OT Tiebreaker; 3rd - Genevieve DiNatale (Lancaster, MA) maj.dec. Naomi Karlen (Honolulu, HI) 11-2; 5th - Alyssa Lampe (Tomahawk, WI) dec. Aquilla Hills (Bristol, PA) 10-5; 7th - Kelli Rasmussen (Winnebago, MN) pinned Bernadette Javier (Wahiawa, HI) 2:49; 9th - Sadie Kameda (Honolulu, HI) dec. Jen Hicks (Bellevue, OH) 13-6; 11th - Whitney Conder (Puyallup, WA) forfeit over Brianna DiLauri (Madison, NJ).

**105 lbs.**

1st - Sara Fulp-Allen (El Granada, CA) dec. Jessica Hsieh (Vallejo, CA) 8-2; 3rd - Elizabeth Torres (Kahuku, HI) pinned Madison Bangert (Midland, MI) 2:44; 5th - Roxanne Soesbe (Clarion, IA) dec. Susan Levitt (Danbury, CT) 4-0; 7th - Chelsea Arnhold (Marion, KS) dec. Amanda Breezley (Goshen, OH) 5-0; 9th - Shannon Reeves (Cuyahoga Falls, OH) dec. Victoria Gallardo

USGWA High School Nationals - 134 lb. Brandy Rosenbrock (Montrose, MI) dec. Vanessa Oswald (Mount Vernon, OH) 8-5.