

DIVISION II NCAA

Nebraska-Omaha Picks Up Title

Photos by John Johnson

While the individual honors were known immediately, the team title for the NCAA Division II Wrestling National Championships was not decided until the final match in the heavyweight division. In the end it was the University of Nebraska-Omaha that picked up the overall team title for 2004, as the Mavericks edged North Dakota State University 97.5 to 95.

The top individual performance at the 42nd annual championships was the University of Central Oklahoma's Cole Province, who won his fourth straight national title. Province became only the third wrestler in Division II history to run the table and win a national championship each year. Knowing it had just seen something special, the crowd rose to its feet to acknowledge his performance.

Championships are often decided by a missed free throw, a missed extra point, a throwing error or some other play that impacts the entire contest. North Dakota State University brought 10 wrestlers to the tournament. The Bison were ranked No. 1 in the nation. This would be their last Division II tournament since the school is moving up to Division I next year. Eight of the team's wrestlers survived the first day and three would make it to the finals.

For NDSU the key play of the evening was the match at 197 pounds. Brian Kraemer squared off against Jeff Sylvester from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Kraemer was second at last year's national championships while Sylvester was seventh. This year Sylvester was ranked second while Kraemer was ranked fourth. After the final whistle Sylvester had a national title, Kraemer was once again the

2004 NCAA Division II Team Scores

Nebraska-Omaha	97.5
North Dakota State	95.0
Central Oklahoma	88.5
Western State	76.0
Pittsburgh-Johnstown	69.0
Augustana (S.D.)	54.0
Findlay	52.5
Nebraska-Kearney	52.0
Adams State	47.5
Fort Hays State	43.0
Shippensburg	38.0
UNC-Pembroke	34.5
Central Missouri State	30.0
San Francisco State	30.0
Northern State	28.0
Truman State	27.5
Minnesota State-Mankato	26.5
Chadron State	24.5
Ashland	24.0
Wisconsin-Parkside	22.0