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BILL WELKER

Advertising/Promotion

LANNY BRYANT

National Office

109 Apple House Lane

Missoula, MT 59802

406-549-4448 FAX 406-549-4879

Wrestling USA (ISSN) 0199-6258

Wrestling USA, Inc. is published 12 times yearly as follows: twice a month in October, March and May; once a month in September, November, December, January, February and April.

Editorial Office: 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802, 1-406-549-4448. All contributions are welcome. Please enclose postage with manuscripts, illustrations and photographs submitted if they are to be returned. We assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials. All rights, in letters and photos sent to *Wrestling USA*, will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes. They are subject to *Wrestling USA's* unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. Printed in USA; entire contents © 2004 *Wrestling USA*; reprinting in whole or in part is forbidden except by written permission of publisher.

Subscriptions: One year (12 issues) \$31 in United States and Possessions. Bundle rate for 10-subscriptions, \$24. All other countries \$41 in US currency or international money order. Send to Subscription Department, Wrestling USA, 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802.

Send National Record Proposals: Cal Johnson, 4708 E. Jaremko, Mead, WA 99021. 509-464-3117. ckjohnson@spocom.com

Send All-American Nominations or Correspondence on High School and College Wrestling: Dan Fickel, 10757 Woodrun Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136, 440-878-1150 (phone and fax). E-Mail: dfickel@msn.com

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Advertising: Rates available upon request. Contact Lanny Bryant at the National Office. 406-549-4448.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Wrestling USA, Inc., 109 Apple House Lane, Missoula, MT 59802. Periodicals postage paid at Missoula, MT 59802 and at additional offices.

PRINTED IN THE USA

E Mail: wrestling@montana.com

Web Site: http://www.wrestlingusa.com

Username: wusa Password: brandon

Editorial

By Cody Bryant

For the second time in five years the Savvis Center (formerly the Kiel Center) in Saint Louis, Missouri played host to the NCAA 2004 Division I Wrestling Championships on March 18-20th. Wrestling fans (86,675 paid attendance) witnessed another year of great wrestling and upsets. Oklahoma State lead after the second round and never looked back as they claimed their 32nd National Championship with seven All-Americans including one champion. The real race was for second place with Iowa in the drivers seat going into the finals. It didn't take long for Iowa to clinch 2nd place when Cliff Moore won at 141 lbs. Lehigh moved into sole third place after Troy Letters big win over Tyrone Lewis at 165 lbs. Ohio State moved back into a tie with Lehigh when Tommy Rowlands decisioned Pat Cummins 6-2. Illinois was leaped frogged by Nebraska and Iowa State for 5th and 6th place respectively and Minnesota jumped over Oklahoma for 8th place with Damon Hahn's win at 197 lbs. Michigan rounded out the top ten teams.

The Championships began with eight returning NCAA Champions; Travis Lee, Cornell, Johnny Thompson, Oklahoma State, Teyon Ware, Oklahoma, Ryan Bertin, Michigan, Jake Rosholt, Oklahoma State, Greg Jones (2002), West Virginia, Damion Hahn, Minnesota and Tommy Rowlands (2002), Ohio State. Four of the eight returning champions lost in the semifinals (Johnny Thompson lost in the quarterfinals). Jones, Hahn and Rowlands were able to repeat. Five wrestlers entered the tournament undefeated; Scott Moore, Virginia 46-0 at 141 lbs., Alex Tirapelle, Illinois 30-0 at 157 lbs., Jake Perival (2nd time), Ohio University 34-0 at 157 lbs., Matt Gentry, Stanford 36-0 at 157 lbs. and Greg Jones (2nd time), West Virginia 21-0 at 184 lbs. This year produced another solid crop of freshmen qualifiers with 52 out of the 330 wrestlers entered. Eight became All-Americans and Ben Askren, Missouri was the lone freshman in the finals.

Two seeded wrestlers (#8 Joe Dubuque, Indiana and #9 Cory Cooperman, Lehigh) lost in the opening round pigtailed but were able to come back and place (8th and 7th respectively). Two of the biggest upsets of the Championships occurred when two-time defending champion Johnny Thompson, Oklahoma State was upset in the quarterfinals round by Josh Moore, Penn State 8-7. Then Josh's brother, Scott Moore, Virginia was dominated by Cliff Moore, Iowa in the semifinals 14-2. Thompson and Scott Moore both fought back to place third.

The 80 All-Americans came from the following states that they call home; Pennsylvania (14), Ohio (10), New Jersey (8), Oklahoma (8), Iowa (6), California (5), Kansas (4), Wisconsin (4), New York (3), Illinois (2), Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington each with one All-American.

See complete results of the NCAA Division I, II, III, NAIA and NJCAA starting on page 6.

Championship Finals

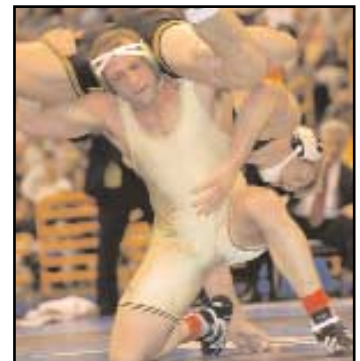
- 125 - Jason Powell, Nebraska dec. Kyle Ott, Illinois 17-2
- 133 - Zach Roberson, Iowa St. dec. Josh Moore, Penn St. 7-3
- 141 - Cliff Moore, Iowa dec. Matt Murray, Nebraska 5-2
- 149 - Jesse Jantzen, Harvard dec. Zack Esposito, Okla. St. 9-3
- 157 - Matt Gentry, Stanford dec. Jake Percival, Ohio 4-2
- 165 - Troy Letters, Lehigh dec. Tyrone Lewis, Okla. St. 5-2
- 174 - Chris Pendleton, Okla. St. dec. Ben Askren, MO11-4
- 184 - Greg Jones, West VA dec. Ben Heizer, No. Illinois 10-5
- 197 - Damion Hahn, Minnesota dec. Ryan Fulsas, Iowa 7-2
- 275 - Tommy Rowlands, Ohio St. dec. Pat Cummins, Penn St. 6-2

Outstanding Wrestler - Jesse Jantzen, Harvard
Gorrierian Award - Scott Moore, Virginia

Top Ten

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Oklahoma St. | 123.5 |
| 2. Iowa | 82 |
| 3. Lehigh | 77.5 |
| Ohio State | 77.5 |
| 5. Nebraska | 74 |
| 6. Iowa State | 70 |
| 7. Illinois | 69.5 |
| 8. Minnesota | 65.5 |
| 9. Oklahoma | 62.5 |
| 10. Michigan | 60.5 |

NCAA Division I 197 - Damion Hahn, Minnesota, was the only champion to defend his title from last with a 7-2 decision over Ryan Fulsas, Iowa. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.



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