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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.

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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**

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# Editorial

By Dan Fickel, National Editor

## 2004 WRESTLING USA MAGAZINE ALL-AMERICAN TEAMS

One of our favorite features of the year is the annual *Wrestling USA Magazine* All-American Teams. Each year we are proud to recognize the top high school seniors in the country. There are 13 "Dream Teamers", 13 "Academic Teamers", 96 other All-Americans, and 120 Honorable Mention All-American selections. Forty-seven states are represented from the over 400 nominations received.

The 2004 Dream Team is an exceptional one led by four-time state champions Charlie Falck (119) of Minnesota, J. Jagers (135) of Ohio, Alex Tsirtsis (145) of Indiana, and Blake Maurer (171) of Indiana. The 13 team members represent 38 state titles and 2,280 match victories. They average an overall win-loss record of 175-8 and an average G.P.A. of 3.4. Steve Luke (160) of Ohio leads in G.P.A. with a 4.2 followed by Troy Tirapelle (140) of California with a 4.0. Tsirtsis, with a phenomenal 236-0 win-loss record, leads in winning percentage and career wins as well as 144 career falls. Six individuals won prestigious National High School Senior Championships. Paul Donohoe (112) of Michigan leads the team with two Junior National Freestyle Championships.

The Academic Team features two more four-time state champions in Cody Grant (119) of Wyoming and Jordan Leen (135) of Tennessee. The thirteen members of the team have an astounding 4.1 average G.P.A. and an average overall win-loss record of 156-14. Eight carry 4.0 or better grade points and all have great wrestling statistics to go along with their academic excellence. Andrew Gold (112) of Maryland leads in G.P.A. with a 4.82 followed closely by Chris Gifford (189) of Nevada with a 4.68. Trevor Chinn (145) of New York leads in career wins with 230 while Luke Lofthouse (215) of Utah amassed the most falls with 123.

Unfortunately, we did not receive nominations from some deserving young men. We also received some incomplete nominations that lacked necessary information or photos and received some nominations well after the April 1st deadline.

Seven factors were considered in determining the All-American Teams. They include:

- (1) Overall varsity high school record and accomplishments at the State High School Championships (folkstyle);
- (2) National Junior Freestyle and Greco-Roman success;
- (3) National High School Senior Wrestling Championships;
- (4) Cadet National placement;
- (5) Performances at prestigious regular season high school tournaments;
- (6) Nomination forms and letters of recommendation sent by coaches and parents; and
- (7) Academic excellence and citizenship.

**Special Note:** Congratulations to Paul Donohoe from Davison High School in Michigan who has been selected as our 2004 Outstanding Wrestler. Not only has Paul won two Junior National Freestyle Championships, he also won in the Dream Team Classic, Dapper Dan Classic and the National High School Senior Championships.

### Cover Photo

Virginia's three-time Virginia State Champion Hunter Davenport, Great Bridge High, gets in deep on Ryan Hord, Colonial Forge High, during the 145 pound Virginia 3A State Championship. Photo by Paul Swisher.

### NATIONAL ACTION WRESTLING PHOTO CONTEST

Send your best action wrestling photos. The best photos will be recognized each issue. The outstanding color photo will be featured on the cover, poster or T-shirt. Cover photos to be submitted as 5x7 print.

