

NCAA

DIVISION II

Back in the Saddle Again! David James and UCC Lasso's Another Division II Title; Naig gets Third Title and "OW"

By John Johnson

Kearney, Nebraska -- Coach David James and the wrestlers from Central Oklahoma came out of the shoot fast and furious during the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championships held at the Health and Sport Center on the University of Nebraska-Kearney campus March 9th and 10th, in front of a record crowd of 8,685 during the two day tournament.

The Bronco's were raked 3rd coming into the NCAA championships, and were paced by 10 Bronco's who had their site set higher than the ranking. No one could bust

these bronco's as UCO had 10 wrestler qualified for the tournament, eight were All-Americans, half of the team (5) made it to the finals, and they rode away with the title and an individual champion.

A large key to the Broncos success came from three wrestlers that were unseeded and fought to place in the top eight, and the fact that Coach Ray's team sent five wrestlers into the finals, which put UCO out of reach of the host and number one ranked team, UNK. The Bronco's outdistanced the Lopers by the score of 120.5-98.5 heading into the finals, with UCO having five finalists to UNK's two. The Bronco's

only champ, Evans, was helped to the team title by runner-up finishes by Tyler Zukerman (125 lbs.), Jared Henning (133 lbs.), Jason Leavitt (157 lbs.) and Josh LeadingFox (285). The Bronco's Shea Timothy was fourth at 149 lbs., Jared Hess was third at 184 lbs. and Heath Jolley was fifth at 197 lbs. Zukerman, Henning, and Jolley each came into the meet unranked and placed 2nd, 2nd, and 5th, respectively!

The Bronco unbridled success started at 125 pounds where the first unseeded wrestler, Tyler Zukerman (FR) dominated his competition as he pinned Mercyhurst's Payne Lint, a Sophomore rated 8th in the



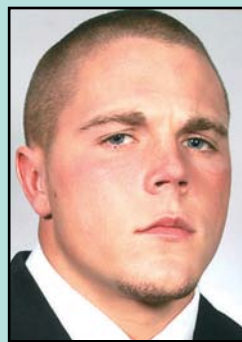
Trevor Charbonneau
125-Univ. of Nebraska-Kearney



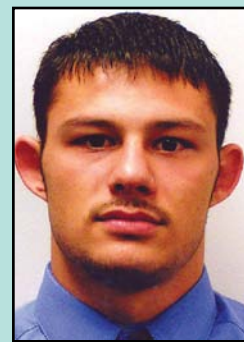
Joe Kemmerer
133-Kutztown University



Kyle Evans
141-Univ of Central Oklahoma



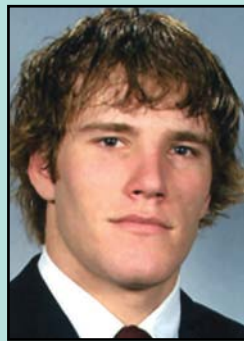
Todd Meneely
149-Univ of Nebraska-Omaha



Antonio Guerra
157-Univ of Findlay



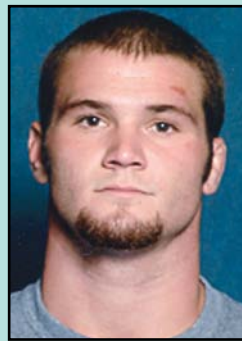
Brett Hunter
165-Chadron State College



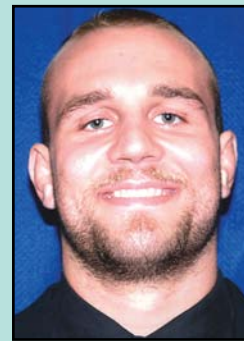
Jeremiah Naig
174-Univ of Nebraska-Omaha



Jared Deaguero
184-Adams State



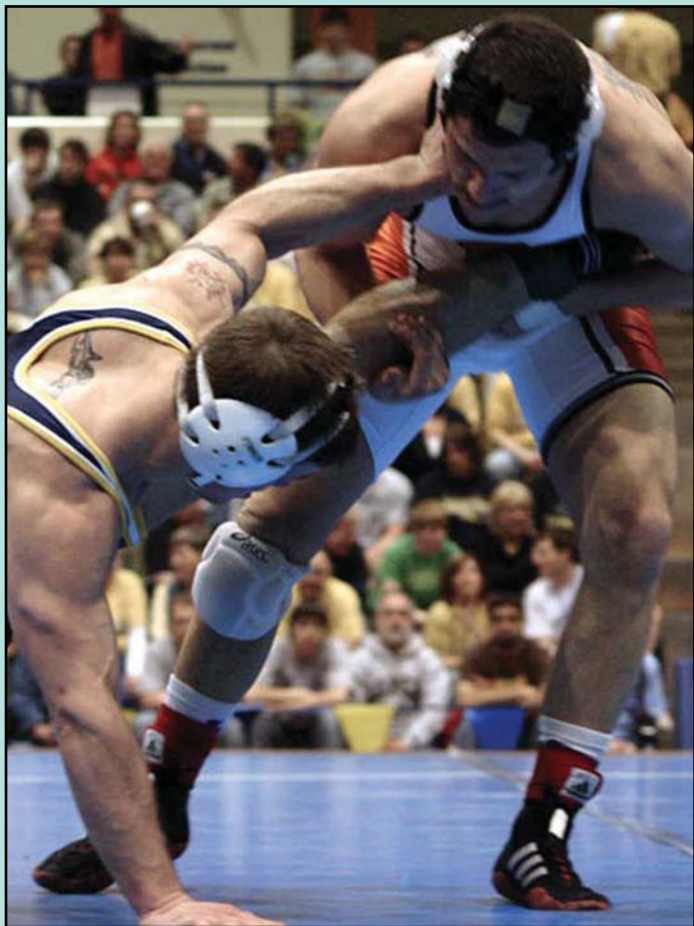
Ryan Phillips
197-Upper Iowa University



Tervel Dlagnev
285-Univ of Nebraska-Kearney



Trevor Charbonneau (Nebraska-Kearney) dec. Tyler Zukerman (Central Oklahoma), 5-2. Photo by Peter Yazvac.



Antonio Guerrero (Findlay) dec. (3) Jason Leavitt (Central Oklahoma), 2-1 2OT. Photo by Peter Yazvac.



Joe Kemmerer (Kutztown) dec. Jared Henning (Central Oklahoma), 1-0. Photo by Peter Yazvac.



Brett Hunter (Chadron State) pinned (1) Andy Pickar (MSU-Mankato), 2:37. Photo by Peter Yazvac.



Todd Meneely (Nebraska-Omaha) dec. (6) Mike Rogers (Carson-Newman), 3-2. Photo by Peter Yazvac.

2007 NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships Final Team Standings

Rank	Pts.	School
1	124.5	Univ of Central Oklahoma
2	108.5	Univ of Nebraska-Kearney
3	67.5	Univ of Nebraska-Omaha
4	63.0	Minnesota State Mankato
5	58.5	Adams State 0 1
6	58.0	Chadron State College
7	56.5	U. Pittsburgh-Johnstown
8	51.5	Upper Iowa University
9	48.5	Augustana College SD
10	46.5	Western State College
11	44.5	Univ of Indianapolis
12	40.5	Univ of Findlay
13	33.0	Shippensburg University
14	31.5	Fort Hays State University
15	23.0	Mercyhurst College
16	21.5	Kutztown University
17	21.0	Carson-Newman College
18	20.5	Minnesota State Moorhead
19	20.0	Ashland University
20	19.0	Univ of Wisconsin-Parkside
21	16.0	West Liberty State College
22	11.5	Truman State University
23	11.0	Belmont Abbey University
24	9.0	UNC-Pembroke
25	3.5	Newberry College
26	2.5	Gannon University
27	1.5	SIU-Edwardsville
28	0.5	Cent Missouri State Unvers
	0.5	Limestone College
	0.5	New Mexico Highlands Univ
	0.5	Northern State University
32	0.0	Colorado School of Mines
	0.0	Saint Cloud State Univ.
	0.0	San Francisco State

nation in 6:10, then downed another Sophomore in Upper Iowa's Tyler Mumbulo 5-1 who was ranked 4th, and then top the second ranked wrestler from Adam's State, Arsenia Barksdale, by a 10-2 major decision in the semi-finals.

Following the lead set by a freshman teammate, UCO's Senior Jared Henning, who was seventh in 2005, had a tough draw in the host school's Brett Allgood, a returning national champion, but used sudden victory to down the UNK wrestler 7-5. Henning then downed Pitt-Johnstown's Brandon Reasy (JR) by the score of 8-5 in the quarters, to move into the semi-finals. In the UCO wrestler faced Findlay's two-time finalist Andy Uhl, who was a runner-up in 2006, and a champ in 2005, by the score of 6-4 to also move into the finals for Coach David Ray. Henning would face Joe Kremmer of Kirtztown who

advanced to the finals with a 3-0 decision over Shane Perkey of the University of Indianapolis.

Kemmerer (JR./Mountaintop) a state titlelist from Crestwood High School, transferred to Kurtztown from UNC-Greensboro in 2004-05, would take a 31-3 record into the finals against UCO second finalist of the night.

Kemmerer claimed the title with a 1-0 decision over UCO's Jared Henning. Scoreless after the first two periods, Kemmerer scored the only point of the match with about a minute thirty remaining in the match. The Golden Bear was able to counter the Bronco for the title. Joe is Kutztown's first-ever wrestling national champion, and helped Golden Bears to their best NCAA with 21.5 team points, finishing in 16th. The Pennsylvania and NCAA champion finished the season undefeated against D-II opponents.

UCO's third finalist of the night, 141-pounder Kyle Evans, made it to the title match by downing Doug Surra of West Liberty State, 3-1 (SV) in the semifinals. The Bronco would go on to handle Steven Fittery of Shippensburg's, 7-0, for UCO's only individual title for the evening. A

three-time All-American, Evans, a three-time All-American finished the season undefeated with a 39-0 record, winning 61 of his last 63 matches.

The fourth of five Broncos' in the finals was Jason Leavitt at 157, where he faced the 149-pound defending champion Tony Guerra of Findlay, who moved up a weight for the 2007 championships. Guerra didn't allow Leavitt to escape and won the 157-pound title by tiebreaker, 2-1. Guerra, a junior, now a two-time champion, lead the 20th ranked to a 12th place finish with a total of 40.5 points.

Findlay had two additional All-Americans in Andy Uhl and Travis Clark. Senior Andy Uhl, the 125 pound champion in 2005, placed sixth at 133, after losing his semi-final round to UCO champ Henning, taking sixth in the 133 pound weight class. After dropping to the consolation bracket, Andy lost to the defending national champion, Brett Allgood of Nebraska-Kearney (3-2), and lost by the identical score for 5th place against Brandon Reasy of Pitt-Johnstown. Sophomore Travis Clark made it to the consolation finals, dropping a 4-2 decision to Andrew Ubben of Fort Hayes State, to take fourth.

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2007 NCAA Division II All-Americans

Coach of the Year: Mr. David James (Univ. of Central Oklahoma)

Outstanding Wrestler: Jeremiah Naig (Univ. of NE-Omaha)

Most Pins in Fastest Time: Mike Rogers (Carson-Newman College)

125 pounds

- 1st Trevor Charbonneau
- 2nd Tyler Zukerman (Univ of Central OK)
- 3rd Arsenia Barksdale (Adams State)
- 4th Eddie Lopez (Western State College)
- 5th Chris Neidermeier (Belmont Abbey Univ.)
- 6th Derek Bosso (Univ of Pittsburgh-Johnstown)
- 7th Chris Trampe (Augustana College SD)
- 8th Tyler Mumbulo (Upper Iowa University)

133 pounds

- 1st Joe Kemmerer (Kutztown University)
- 2nd Jared Henning (Univ of Central OK)
- 3rd Brett Allgood (Univ of Nebraska-Kearney)
- 4th Shane Perkey (Univ of Indianapolis)
- 5th Brandon Reasy (Univ Pittsburgh-Johnstown)
- 6th Andy Uhl (Univ of Findlay)
- 7th Marques Bravo (Western State College)
- 8th Derek Patterson (Fort Hays State Univ)

141 pounds

- 1st Kyle Evans (Univ of Central Oklahoma)
- 2nd Steven Fittery (Shippensburg University)
- 3rd John Gamble (Upper Iowa University)
- 4th Doug Surra (West Liberty State College)
- 5th Jeff Rutledge (Univ of Nebraska-Kearney)
- 6th Joseph Deaguero (Adams State)
- 7th JJ Zanetta (Mercyhurst College)
- 8th Yasiim Bribieseca (Univ of NB-Omaha)

149 pounds

- 1st Todd Meneely (Univ of Nebraska-Omaha)
- 2nd Mike Rogers (Carson-Newman College)
- 3rd Jason Rhoten (Minnesota State Mankato)
- 4th Shea Timothy (Univ of Central Oklahoma)
- 5th Mark Pfeifer (Chadron State College)
- 6th Mikel Delk (Fort Hays State University)
- 7th Charlie Pingleton (Univ of Indianapolis)
- 8th Willie Hilton (UNC-Pembroke)

157 pounds

- 1st Antonio Guerra (Univ of Findlay)
- 2nd Jason Leavitt (Univ of Central Oklahoma)
- 3rd Joe Ellenberger (Univ of NB-Kearney)
- 4th Austin Scarset (Augustana College SD)
- 5th Bradley Becker (Univ of WI-Parkside)
- 6th Andrew Lamancusa (Mercyhurst College)
- 7th Brandon Girtz (Minnesota State Mankato)
- 8th Kyle Trout (Minnesota State Moorhead)

165 pounds

- 1st Brett Hunter (Chadron State College)
- 2nd Andy Pickar (Minnesota State Mankato)
- 3rd Nathan Baker (MN State Moorhead)
- 4th Eric Lokia (Ashland University)
- 5th Blake Peterson (Truman State University)
- 6th Zachary Lee (Western State College)
- 7th Evan Copeland (Adams State)
- 8th Taylor May (Univ of Nebraska-Kearney)

174 pounds

- 1st Jeremiah Naig (Univ of Nebraska-Omaha)
- 2nd Michael Jackson (Univ of Indianapolis)
- 3rd Cody Henriksen (Augustana College SD)
- 4th Larry Wilbanks (Western State College)
- 5th Eli Garshnick (Univ of Pittsburgh-Johnstown)
- 6th Matt Weingart (Chadron State College)
- 7th Zach Schafer (Mercyhurst College)
- 8th Justin Ferguson (Ashland University)

184 pounds

- 1st Jared Deaguero (Adams State)
- 2nd Austin Boehm (Univ of Nebraska-Omaha)
- 3rd Jared Hess (Univ of Central Oklahoma)
- 4th Mike Corcetti (Univ of Pittsburgh-Johnstown)
- 5th Matt Farrell (Univ of Nebraska-Kearney)
- 6th Mark Murphy (Shippensburg University)
- 7th Travis Krinkie (Minnesota State Mankato)
- 8th Charlie Pipher (Western State College)

197 pounds

- 1st Ryan Phillips (Upper Iowa University)
- 2nd Josh Majerus (Chadron State College)
- 3rd Nate Buys (Augustana College SD)
- 4th Michael Fowler (Univ of Pittsburgh-Johnst)
- 5th Heath Jolley (Univ of Central Oklahoma)
- 6th Casey Woodall (Adams State)
- 7th Derek Brunson (UNC-Pembroke)
- 8th Kelsey Empting (Univ of NB-Kearney)

285 pounds

- 1st Tervel Dlagnev (Univ of NB-Kearney)
- 2nd Josh Leadingfox (Univ of Central OK)
- 3rd Andrew Ubben (Fort Hays State Univ)
- 4th Travis Clark (Univ of Findlay)
- 5th Brady Wilson (Minnesota State Mankato)
- 6th Jason Groller (Shippensburg University)
- 7th Jose Navarro (Univ of Indianapolis)
- 8th Dan Goodson (Upper Iowa University)

UCO's last of five finalist was at 285 where second rated Josh LeadingFox would face top rated Tervel Dlagnev. Dlagnev came into the finals with a career record of 4-2 against LeadingFox. The Loper proved why he was the top seed as he scored four early points, and then flattened the Bronco in 3:16.

Dlagnev completes his junior year at 49-1 with 21 falls and five majors. He improves his career record to 129-19 (87.1 win pct.) and is now a three-time All-American, and

will try to become a four-time All-American in 2008! In the opinion of this writer, Tervel was a legitimate "Hodge Trophy" candidate, and next season should have a shot at being only the second non-D-I wrestler to be featured in the NWCA All-Star meet in November. The other non-D-I wrestler featured in the All-Star meet was Turk Lords from Montana State Northern (NAIA).

UNK set new school records for points at an NCAA meet (108.5) and number of All-

Americans (eight). The 2003 and 2006 Loper teams each had six All-Americans with last year's team scoring 98.5 points.

Besides their two champs, UNK's other AA was Allgood at 133, 157 pounder, junior Joe Ellenberger, of Omaha, bounced back from a tough loss in the semifinals to the eventual champion, Guerra (6-5), to place third where he scored a major decision over Augustana's Austin Scarset, 14-6. 141-pound junior Jeff Rutledge, and 184 pound sophomore Matt Farrell, each placed fifth with redshirt freshmen Taylor May (165 lbs.) and Kelsey Empting (197 lbs.) each finishing eighth. Rutledge is now a two-time All-American, and teammate Allgood, a NJCAA and D-II Champion, is also a two-time Division II All-American with a career Loper record of 69-11.

The three-time defending national champions, UNO, were ranked 4th heading into the tournament, and that's how it stood heading into the finals, just behind second ranked Minnesota State - Mankato. The Mavericks lead by head coach Mike Denny had four All-Americans, three finalist, two of which were champions, scoring 58.5 point to move ahead of the other Mavericks, MS-M, who ended up fourth with 53 points.

UNO's first finalist was Todd Meneely at 149. The top ranked Meneely got a first period takedown and held on to edge Carson-Newman's sophomore, Mike Rogers, 3-2. Todd finished the year at 35-3. The 149-pound field was shocked by the super sophomore Rogers, as he earned the "Most Falls in Least Amount of Time" award by pinning his way to the finals. Mike had three falls in a total of 11:20 in the first three rounds for the pin award.

At 174, J.D. Naig (Emmetsburg HS) earned his gold as well as the "Outstanding Wrestler" award in Kearney. Naig finished his year at 42-7 and his Maverick career at 140-26, fourth-best all-time at UNO, controlling Michael Jackson of Indianapolis with a 13-1 major decision to earn his "third" NCAA title. This was the second consecutive year that Naig defeated Jackson in the finals. Naig, third as a freshman, won his first title as a sophomore at 165. Naig had a more difficult time making the finals, than he did winning the title, as the UNO wrestler battled for a 7-5 win over Western State's Larry Wilbanks in the semis.

Naig is just the third "three-time national champion" in UNO history, following Roy Washington in 1968-70 and Les Sigman,

2003-06. Naig's win propelled UNO past Minnesota State in the team race, and solidified third for Mike Denney's Mavericks as Minnesota State had no finalist to counter UNO.

UNO's third finalist was Austin Boehm at 184, here the Maverick faced Adam States Jared Deaguero. Boehm, the first true freshman to wrestle for UNO in a championship finals, lost to Deaguero of Adams State, 9-1. UNO's fourth All-American came at 141 pounds where Yasiim Bribieseca defaulted to eighth place after suffering a knee injury in the third round of the consolations.

UNO's Boehm was not the only one to make history with the 184-pound title match. 184-pound champion Jared Deaguero (Commerce City, Colo.), up 8-1 in the finals, used riding time to claim the major decision win (9-1), which edged the Grizzlies past RMAC conference foes Chadron State College into fifth place. Adams State finished with 58.5 points, to CSC's 58 points, a half point ahead of the Eagles. That finish is the best in ASC's Division II history (1992-present).

The Grizzlies crowned five All-

Americans at the national event, including freshman Arsenia Barksdale (Norfolk, Va.), who claimed third place in the 125,

Joey Deaguero (Commerce City, Colo.) and Casey Woodall (Morenci, Ariz.) finished sixth at 141 and 197 pounds, respectively, and Evan Copeland (Las Cruces, N.M.) placed seventh at 165.

Earlier in the finals, Adam's State was trailing Chadron State after the 165 pound match, that's when CSC's sophomore Brett Hunter (Rushville) got in a scramble and pinned top-seeded Andy Pickar of Minnesota State-Mankato in 2:38 to claim the title.

In 1972, Bob Lynch of Broken Bow, won the 158-pound NAIA title, going a perfect 30-0 to become Chadron State's only previous national champ. Hunter, a two-time state champion at Rushville H.S., finished the year with a 35-7 record, 66-18 overall as an Eagle, after he went 31-11 as a redshirt freshman last year.

The Eagles also had another sophomore finalist, Josh Majerus of Albion, who finished second at 197, Mark Pfeifer (Garden Valley, Calif.), decisioned Mikel Delk, Fort Hays State, 14-6, for fifth at 149 pounds,


and Matt Weingart of Alliance at 174, who was pinned by Eli Garshnick of Pittsburgh-Johnstown in the fifth place match. The Eagles finished sixth with 58.5 points, four All-Americans, two finalists, and an individual champ. Chadron State had never scored more than 25 points or finished higher than 14th in the nationals.

In the finals at 197, Majerus faced Upper Iowa's Ryan Phillips.

Phillips was awesome and dominating in his finals match with Josh Majerus of Chadron State. Phillips registered a takedown just 13 seconds into the match; he then spent the next 2:47 on top and in control. Phillips used his strength to pick his moves as he continued to apply more and more pressure to Majerus. Phillips was able to lock in a move that earned him three near fall points. Phillips finished the first period with a 5-0 lead and 2:47 in ride time. Phillips earned an escape in the second and added another takedown while keeping his ride time above 2:40. He moved to the final round with an 8-0 lead and added another escape and a third takedown as the match closed out. The accumulated ride time gave Phillips his final point and a 12-0 major


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decision victory.

Phillips finished his National Championship run with a 4-0 record and won his matches by a combined 43-6. Phillips performance was even more impressive as he did not surrender an offensive point throughout the championship.

Phillips came into the Championships ranked #3 in the country. He finished his collegiate career with a 16-match win streak that included a NCAA Regional Championship and an NCAA National Championship. Phillips defeated four of the top eight ranked wrestlers in the country over the course of the NCAA Regional and National Championships.

Phillips becomes the first Upper Iowa University National Champion at the Division II level. He is the ninth Peacock to win a National Championship; the last Peacock champion was Brent Meyers in the 2003 NCAA Division III National Championships.

Upper Iowa finished the championships with 4 of their 8 qualifiers earning All-American honors. After Phillips' title, John Gamble finished third at 141; Tyler Mumbulo finished eighth at 125; and Dan

Goodson finished eighth at 285, giving the Peacocks 8th place, their highest finish in Division II competition.

A pair of schools, Chadron State and Upper Iowa, enjoyed their first-ever national champions in Division II competition, the Eagles' Brett Hunter at 165, and the Peacocks' Ryan Phillips at 197. Phillips also joined Adams State's Jared Deaguero (184 lbs.) as two of the champs to not give up any offensive points in the tournament.

This is coach Heath Grimm's and UIU's second year as an NCAA Division II school. Upper Iowa, the hosts of the 2008 championships, scored 51.5 points to finish 8th! See you in Cedar Rapids for the 2008 NCAA Championships and the record of 8,685 attendees is broken! Make plans now to attend the NCAA Division II Championships in the U.S. Cellular Center, and see what other records are broken!

FINAL-ROUND RESULTS

125

(1) Trevor Charbonneau (Nebraska-Kearney) dec. Tyler Zukerman (Central Oklahoma), 5-2

133

(4) Joe Kemmerer (Kutztown) dec. Jared Henning (Central Oklahoma), 1-0

141

(1) Kyle Evans (Central Oklahoma) dec. (3) Steven Fittery (Shippensburg), 7-0

149

(2) Todd Meneely (Nebraska-Omaha) dec. (6) Mike Rogers (Carson-Newman), 3-2

157

(1) Antonio Guerrero (Findlay) dec. (3) Jason Leavitt (Central Oklahoma), 2-1 2OT

165

(5) Brett Hunter (Chadron State) pinned (1) Andy Pickar (MSU-Mankato), 2:37

174

(1) J.D. Naig (Nebraska-Omaha) dec. (4) Michael Jackson (Indianapolis), 13-1


184

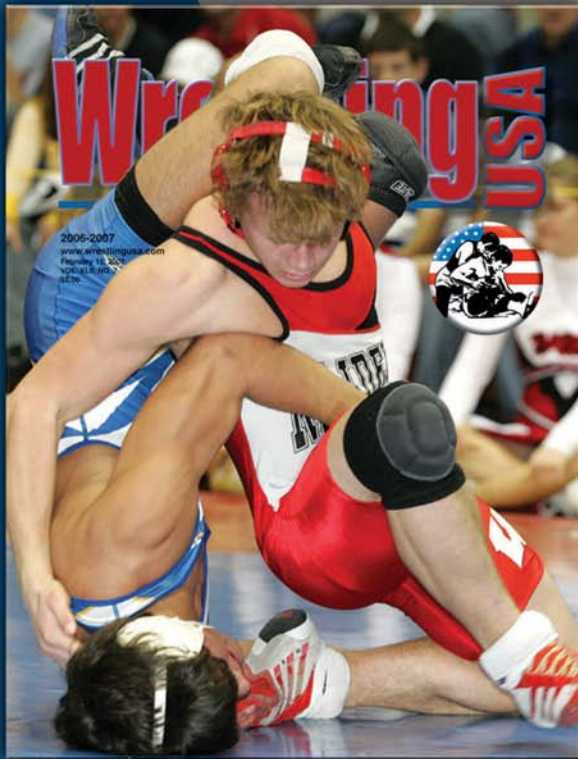
(2) Jared Deaguero (Adams State) dec. (7) Austin Boehm (Nebraska-Omaha), 9-1

197

(3) Ryan Phillips (Upper Iowa) dec. Josh Majerus (Chadron State), 12-0

Hwt.

(1) Tervel Dlagnev (Nebraska-Kearney) pinned (2) Josh LeadingFox (Central Oklahoma), 3:16 



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