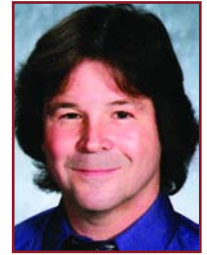


## 2012 Top 20 Team College RECRUITING CLASSES



By Dan Fickel, National Editor

### Here's a look at the top 20 college recruiting classes:

**1. CORNELL** - Under the tutelage of highly-regarded Head Coach Rob Koll, the perennially strong Cornell Big Red have become a recruiting dynamo and one of the prime teams in the nation by every measure. Eleven Cornell grapplers have captured NCAA titles. They include Cam Simaz, Steve Bosak, Kyle Dake, Troy Nickerson, Jordan Leen, Travis Lee, David Hirsch, Dave Auble, Don Dickason, Frank Bettucci, and Glenn Stafford. With the signing of an extraordinary group of incoming freshmen, the Big Red program will continue to flourish as they bring in the nation's number 1 recruiting class. The recruiting crop is headed by number 1 ranked Mark Grey (133) of New Jersey, number 1 ranked Brian Realbuto (149) of New York, number 3 ranked Alex Cisneros (141) of California, and number 6 ranked Dylan Palacio (157) of New York. Other rugged incoming freshmen include number 8 ranked Steve Congenie (184) of Illinois, number 9 ranked Gabe Dean (197) of Michigan, number 18 ranked T aylor Simaz (157) of Michigan, and number 22 ranked Anjelo Silvestro (149) of Illinois.

**2. IOWA** - Recognized throughout the legacy of wrestling circles across America as a highly-successful and dominant force on the collegiate wrestling scene, the University of Iowa continues its long-standing tradition of respect and excellence. Some of the finest wrestlers to ever take the collegiate mats have become legends at Iowa, including multiple NCAA champions Royce Alger, Ed Banach, Lou Banach, Terry Brands, Tom Brands, Chris Campbell, Barry Davis, Mark Ironside, Eric Juergens, Marty Kistler, Randy Lewis, Terry McCann, Matt McDonough, Jeff McGinness, Brent Metcalf, Lincoln McIlravy, Mark Perry, Joe Scarpello, Joe Williams, T.J. Williams, Chuck Yagla, and Jim Zalesky. Seventh-year Head Coach Tom Brands, a 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist, has led the Hawkeye's to three NCAA Championships crowns (2008, 2009, and 2010) and brings in a magnificent recruiting class that ranks a very close second to Cornell University. Leading the way are number 2 ranked Thomas Gilman (125) of Nebraska, number 2 ranked Nate Skonieczny (141) of Ohio, number 3 ranked Cory Clark (125) of Iowa, number 4 ranked Sam Brooks (184) of Illinois, and number 6 ranked Alex Meyer (165) of Iowa. Two additional in-state Iowa prospects are number 24 ranked Topher Carton (141) and number 25 ranked Connor Ryan (149). Another exceptional newcomer is 2011 graduate Nathan Burak (197) of Colorado. Burak, a previous state champion and Junior National freestyle All-American, will join the team after a year at the Olympic Training Center.

**3. LEHIGH** - An elite force in the collegiate wrestling scene, Lehigh University boasts a strong tradition of excellence both on and off the mat. Former Mountain Hawks stars include NCAA champi-

ons Zach Rey, Troy Letters, Rob Rohn, Matt Ruppel, Peter Yozzo, Darryl Burley, Mark Lieberman, Mike Frick, Mike Lieberman, Tom Sculley, Mike Caruso, Bill Stuart, Kirk Pendelton, Ed Hamer, Joe Gratto, Ed Eichelberger, Harold Masem, Henry Matthes, Howell Scobey, Ben Bishop, and Johnny Engel. Head Coach Pat Santoro, a former two-time NCAA champion at the University of Pittsburgh, signed 15 brilliant student/athletes from all across the country that will provide some immediate and future firepower. The class features number 2 ranked Brandon Griffin (184) of Oregon, number 3 ranked Mitch Minotti (149) of Pennsylvania, number 5 ranked Randy Cruz (141) of Pennsylvania, number 5 ranked Brian Brill (165) of Pennsylvania, number 9 ranked Elliott Riddick (174) of Pennsylvania, number 17 ranked Laike Gardner (141) of Pennsylvania, number 19 ranked Ben Haas (157) of New York, number 24 ranked David Jeffrey (125) of West Virginia, and number 28 ranked Arty Walsh (133) of Pennsylvania. Another highly-decorated performer with expectations of greatness is 2010 Florida state champion and 2012 NHSCA Senior National Championships winner Doug Vollaro (285). Rounding out the list of newcomers are three-time Pennsylvania district placer Cody Kievman (133), Maryland state champion Will Switzer (149), Pennsylvania state placer Sam Scheib (165), New York state champion Zach Diekel (197), and California state qualifier Tim Glauning (285).

**4. OKLAHOMA STATE** - Few schools in the country have a history of excellence in any sport as celebrated as the one Oklahoma State University has achieved in wrestling. The list of Cowboy stars is seemingly endless. Names like Kendall Cross, John Smith, Ricky Stewart, Eric Guerrero, Doug Blubaugh, Jack VanBebber, Rex Perry, Conrad Caldwell, Ross Flood, Stanley Henson, Joe McDaniel, Buddy Arndt, Earl McCready, Myron Roderick, Richard Hutton, Joe James, Pat Smith, Yojiro Uetake, Tadaaki Hatta, Dwayne Keller, Darrell Keller, Mike Sheets, Jimmy Jackson, Mark Branch, Chris Barnes, Alan Fried, Johnny Thompson, Lee Roy Smith, Kenny Monday, Johnny Hendricks, Coleman Scott and a multitude of others became legends in Stillwater during their college careers. Highly-regarded Head Coach John Smith and top-flight Head Assistant Coach Eric Guerrero signed another stellar recruiting class with the potential for greatness. They are headed by number 1 ranked Jordan Rogers (184) of Washington, number 3 ranked Kyle Crutchmer (174) of Oklahoma, number 4 ranked Eddie Klimara (125) of Illinois, number 13 ranked Nolan Boyd (184) of Oklahoma, number 21 ranked Austin Hood (125) of Kansas, number 22 ranked Conner Cline (125) of Oklahoma, and number 22 ranked Brian Crutchmer (141) of Oklahoma. Two other gifted incoming freshmen are 2011 Ohio state runner-up Case Garrison (141) and 2011 Oklahoma state champion Landry Chappell (285). A multi-talented transfer student with the ability to help tremendously is 2011 NCAA runner-up Tyler Caldwell (165).

**5. OKLAHOMA** - The Sooners have a storied, long-standing

tradition of producing exceptional wrestlers. Previous greats include NCAA champions Teyon Ware, Robbie Waller, Michael Lightner, Byron Tucker, John Kading, Melvin Douglas, Joe Reynolds, Dan Chaid, Dave Schultz, Mark Schultz, Andre Metzger, Keith Stearns, Rod Kilgore, Shawn Garel, Gary Breece, Mike Grant, Cleo McGlory, David McGuire, Wayne Wells, Gre Ruth, Jerry Stanley, Mike Sager, Mickey Martin, Wayne Baughman, Billy Carter, Dale Lewis, Duwayne Keller, George Goodner, Stan Abel, Paul Aubrey, Dick Delgado, Danny Hodge, Tommy Evans, Gordon Roesler, Bill Borders, Phil Smith, Harold Byrd, David C. Matthews, Bill Keas, Wayne Martin, Harry Broadbent, Vernon Sisney, Marion Foreman, Hardee Lewis, and Lawrence Mantooth. This season, highly-respected Head Coach Mark Cody brings in seven accomplished high school stars and two premier transfer students. Incoming freshmen include number 3 ranked Clark Glass (165) of Florida, number 4 ranked Brad Johnson (197) of Illinois, number 6 ranked Ross Larson (197) of Iowa, number 7 ranked Matt Reed (174) of Kansas, number 11 ranked Kyle Garcia (133) of Oklahoma, number 15 ranked Tim Hamilton (149) of Oklahoma, and number 16 ranked Greg Wilson (184) of Texas. Transfer students from the University of Wisconsin are 2010 NCAA champion Andrew Howe (165) and 2011 All-American Travis Rutt (184).

**6. MICHIGAN** - The tradition-rich University of Michigan wrestling program remains highly-regarded amongst wrestling circles. The list of superstar performers of the past is seemingly infinite. Previous NCAA champions include Kellen Russell, Steve Luke, Ryan Bertin, Kirk Trost, Mark Churella, Jarrett Hubbard, David Porter, Jim Kamman, Jack Bardeen, Norvard Nalen, William Courtwright, Donald Nichols, Harold Nichols, Carl Dougovito, and Otto Kelly. Head Coach Joe McFarland continues to bring in some of the country's top talent to Ann Arbor. Leading the way are number 1 ranked Taylor Massa (165) of Michigan, number 2 ranked Rossi Bruno (133) of Florida, and number 8 ranked Jordan Thomas (184) of Michigan. Two other incoming freshmen are number 29 ranked Angelo Latora (149) of Michigan and 2010 Missouri state champion Cory Lester (125). Two exciting transfer students are former three-time Michigan state champion Conor Youtsey (125) and two-time NCAA qualifier Steve Dutton (141).

**7. NEBRASKA** - Head Coach Mark Manning is a masterful, highly-respected recruiter who constantly attracts five-star talent from all across the nation. Previous NCAA champions for the Huskers include Jordan Burroughs, Paul Donahoe, Jason Powell, Brad Vering, Tolly Thompson, Tony Purler, Jason Kelber, Bill Scherr, Jim Scherr, and Mike Nissen. This year's outstanding recruiting class is led by number 1 ranked T.J. Dudley (184) of South Carolina, number 3 ranked Tim Lambert (125) of Michigan, number 7 ranked Ben Morgan (133) of Minnesota, number 7 ranked Shaun "Qua" McMurtry (165) of Illinois, and number 11 ranked Micah Barnes (174) of Minnesota. Other top-notch incoming freshmen include four-time Nebraska state champion Eric Coufal (133), three-time Missouri state champion Skyler Wood (133), Colorado state champion Nick Babcock (157), two-time Nebraska state champion Jed Fenske (165), two-time Tennessee state champion McCoy Newberg (174), two-time Missouri state champion Joe Zimmer (184), and South Dakota state champion Collin Jensen (285).

**8. MINNESOTA** - In 26 years as the head coach of the Golden Gophers, J Robinson has built a legacy of excellence around the University of Minnesota wrestling program. He has led Minnesota to three national team championships in the past twelve years and

## 2012 TOP 30 DIVISION I COLLEGE RECRUITING CLASSES

**Editor's Note:** Numbers on right reflect the placing of recruits from Dan Fickel's final rankings of the Best 2012 High School Seniors. The final rankings appeared on Wrestling USA Magazine's web site at [www.wrestlingusa.com](http://www.wrestlingusa.com)

*The letter "T" refers to a transfer with immediate impact potential.*

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Cornell            | (1-1-3-6-8-9-18-22)     |
| 2. Iowa               | (2-2-3-4-6-24-25)       |
| 3. Lehigh             | (2-3-5-9-9-17-19-24-28) |
| 4. Oklahoma State     | (1-3-4-13-21-22-22-T)   |
| 5. Oklahoma           | (3-4-6-7-11-15-16-T-T)  |
| 6. Michigan           | (1-2-8-29-T)            |
| 7. Nebraska           | (1-3-7-7-11-T)          |
| 8. Minnesota          | (1-4-5-7-9-10-19-30)    |
| 9. Illinois           | (2-3-4-13-T)            |
| 10. Iowa State        | (1-2-10-16-21)          |
| 11. Wisconsin         | (2-3-4-9-15-18)         |
| 12. Ohio State        | (2-3-4-T)               |
| 13. Stanford          | (2-6-8-13-15-16-30)     |
| 14. Cal Poly          | (2-6-9-10-27)           |
| 15. North Carolina    | (6-6-8-10-12-23)        |
| 16. Northwestern      | (1-5-20)                |
| 17. Penn State        | (1-9-10-T)              |
| 18. Northern Iowa     | (4-5-12-14-18)          |
| 19. Ohio              | (5-12-12-14-14-T)       |
| 20. Oregon State      | (8-9-13-13-17-T)        |
| 21. Virginia          | (1-13-15-19-19-23-26)   |
| 22. Wyoming           | (3-9-17-18)             |
| 23. Missouri          | (1-10-26)               |
| 24. Drexel            | (5-8-20-24-29)          |
| 25. Old Dominion      | (4-10-14-21)            |
| 26. Northern Illinois | (5-9-15)                |
| 27. Maryland          | (2-18-23-27)            |
| 28. Indiana           | (3-11)                  |
| 29. Harvard           | (4-14-26-28)            |
| 30. Central Michigan  | (10-11-16)              |

## TOP 20 NON-DIVISION I RECRUITING CLASSES

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Notre Dame College | (1-15-17-22-T-T-T-T) |
| 2. Iowa Western CC    | (1-7-11-18)          |
| 3. Ashland            | (8-11-14-16-16)      |
| 4. Grand Canyon       | (T-T-T-T-T)          |
| 5. Labette CC         | (7-22-22-27-T)       |
| 6. St. Cloud State    | (4-23)               |
| 7. Newman             | (13-15)              |
| 8. MSU-Northern       | (18-20-28)           |
| 9. Great Falls        | (12-27-T-T)          |
| 10. Nebraska-Kearney  | (29-29-T-T)          |
| 11. Augustana (SD)    | (12-22-29)           |
| 12. Maryville         | (17-26)              |
| 13. Southern Oregon   | (T-T-T)              |
| 14. Lindenwood        | (T-T)                |
| 15. Indiana Tech      | (1)                  |
| 16. Clackamas CC      | (14-T)               |
| 17. Kutztown          | (18-T)               |
| 18. Iowa Central CC   | (5)                  |
| 19. Northwest College | (20-T)               |
| 20. Oklahoma City     | (24-T)               |



2012 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Final - 125 lbs. three-time finalist Matt McDonough (Iowa) going for his 2nd title against Penn State freshman Nicholas Megaludis. McDonough decision Megaludis 4-1. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.

has earned the Golden Gophers a sterling reputation as a recruiting dynamo. NCAA champions developed and mentored by Robinson include Marty Morgan, Tim Hartung, Brock Lesnar, Luke Becker, Jared Lawrence, Damion Hahn, Cole Konrad, Dustin Schlatter, Jayson Ness, and Tony Nelson. With the signing of a fine group of incoming freshmen, the proud Minnesota program will continue to flourish. Headlining the list of newcomers are number 1 ranked Michael Kroells (285), number 4 ranked Brandon Kingsley (157) of Minnesota, number 5 ranked Jordan Bremer (125) of Iowa, number 7 ranked Sam Brancale (133) of Minnesota, number 9 ranked Dakota Trom (133) of Minnesota, number 10 ranked Dylan Reel (165) of Illinois, number 19 ranked Jarod Donar (141) of Wisconsin, and number 30 ranked Zane Zeman (157) of Ohio. Two other incoming freshmen are two-time Indiana state champion Cody Phillips (125) and Minnesota state champion Brett Pfarr (174). Transferring in from Fresno City College is two-time California Community College State Championships winner Conrad Rangell (149).

**9. ILLINOIS** – Seventeen wrestlers have won individual NCAA Championships while proudly competing for the University of Illinois Fighting Illini. They include Joe Sapor, George Minot, Joe Puerta, Ralph Silverstein, John Ginay, Allen Sapor, Archie Deutschman, David Shapiro, Larry Tenpas, Bob Norman, Jon Llewellyn, Steve Marianetti, Ernest Benion, Eric Siebert, Carl Perry, John Lockhart, Adam Tirapelle, and Matt Lackey. Fourth-year Head Coach Jim Hefernan, Associate Head Coach Mark Perry, and Assistant Coach Jeremy Hunter combined their efforts to bring in five valiant performers with illustrious backgrounds and huge expectations. High school stars include number 2 ranked Zac Brunson (174) of Oregon, number 3 ranked Nikko Reyes (184) of California, number 4 ranked Zane Richards (133) of Illinois, and number 13 ranked John Fahy (149) of Kentucky. An exceptional transfer student from Rutgers University is 2011 New York state champion Steven Rodriguez (141).

**10. IOWA STATE** – With over 95 seasons of success, few teams have developed the type of excellent legacy that is synonymous with Iowa State University wrestling. The list of premier performers who competed in Ames, Iowa is colorfully impressive. Thirty of their many greats include NCAA champions Dan Gable, Cael Sanderson, Tim Krieger, Nate Carr, Carl Adams, Les Anderson, Ron Gray, Larry Hayes, Chris Taylor, Ben Peterson, Eric Voelker, Al Nacin, Barry Weldon, Bill Kelly, Dale Bahr, Mike Land, Kevin Darkus, Nate Gallick, Trent Paulson, Chris Bono, Jim Gibbons, Joe Heskett, Aaron Holker, Zach Roberson, Kelly Ward, Chuck Jean, Mike Van Arsdale, Jake Varner, Jon Reader, and David Zabriskie. Kevin Jackson, a former Olympic Gold Medalist and two-time World Team Champion, enters his fourth year as the Cyclone head wrestling coach. This year's incoming freshmen class is highlighted by four in-state Iowa

ranked prospects. They are number 1 John Meeks (141), number 2 Gabriel Moreno (149), number 10 Dakota Bauer (149) and number 16 Kyle Larson (141). Two additional recruits are number 21 ranked Jesse Doyle (184) of North Carolina and Illinois state qualifier Cameron Thompson (174).

**11. WISCONSIN** – The list of past Wisconsin University stars is highly accomplished. Names like Andrew Howe, Donny Pritzlaff, Jeff Walter, Matt Demaray, Dave Lee, Jim Jordan, Andy Rein, Ron Jeidy, Jim Haines, Lee Kemp, Jack Reinwand, Pat Christenson, and Rick Lawlinger, plus a bevy of others have courageously worn the Badgers school colors of Cardinal and White. Head Coach Barry Davis continues to attract stellar recruiting classes. He brings in a diverse, multi-talented group of eight newcomers with the potential for greatness. They include number 2 ranked Isaac Jordan (165) of Ohio, number 3 ranked Phillip Laux (125) of Iowa, number 4 ranked Ryan Taylor (125) of Ohio, number 9 ranked Ryan Lubeck (149) of Wisconsin, number 15 ranked Kegan Gennrich (184) of Wisconsin, and number 18 ranked Justin Koethe (157) of Iowa. Another prime-time performer is 2011 graduate Jesse Thielke (133) of Wisconsin. A previous four-time state champion and 2011 Dream Team member, Thielke joins the team after a year at the Olympic Training Center. Rounding out the list of new recruits is 2011 Kentucky state champion T.J. Ruschell (133).

**12. OHIO STATE** – Under the guidance of seventh-year Head Coach Tom Ryan and his outstanding coaching staff, the traditionally strong Ohio State Buckeyes have become a recruiting powerhouse and one of the premier teams in the nation. Eleven wrestlers have captured NCAA titles while proudly wearing OSU's school colors of Scarlet and Gray. They include Tommy Rowlands, Mitch Clark, Rex Holman, Mark Coleman, Jude Skove, Dave Reinbolt, George Bollas, George Downes, J Jagers, Mike Pucillo, and Logan Stieber. Number

2 ranked Nick Roberts (125) of Pennsylvania high - lights this year 's recruiting class. Two additional potential stand-outs are number 3 ranked Nick Tavanello (285) of Ohio and number 4 ranked Mark Martin (174) of Ohio. A premier transfer student from North Carolina State University is previous four-time Ohio state champion Chris Phillips (165). Other newcomers include two-time Ohio state runner-up Trevor Fiorucci (141), Ohio state placers Matt Fee (149) and Patrick Campbell (157), and Florida state champion Josh Fox (197).

**13. STANFORD** - For the third time in the last four years, Head Coach Jason Bor elli has brought in an accomplished, highly-pr omising incoming fr eshman class to Stanford, California. Headlining the list of newcomers are number 2 ranked Josh Mar chok (285), number 6 ranked Matt Gar elli (125) of Illinois, number 8 ranked Zach Nevills (184) of California, number 13 ranked Jim W ilson (165) of California, number 15 ranked Max Hvolbek (141) of New Jersey, number 16 ranked Peter Galli (157) of Maryland, and number 30 ranked Peter Russo (133) of Oregon. Four other newcomers are two-time National Pr ep placer Colton Demspey (149) of Massachusetts, two-time Ohio state placer T ommy Kimbrell (174), and California state placers Dylan Morris (174) and R yan Davies (184).

**14. CAL POLY** - Brendan Buckley enters his second year as head coach at Cal Poly after eleven years at Columbia University. In his first full year of recruiting for the 'Stangs, Buckley has assembled an exceptional group of prospects to come on board. Leading the way are number 2 ranked Max Schneider (157) of Illinois, number 6 ranked Blake Kastl (149) of Ohio, number 9 ranked V ictor Pereira (165) of California, number 10 ranked J.T . Goodwin (285) of California, and number 27 ranked Devon Lotito (133) of Pennsylvania. Other high-quality r ecruits include 2011 Colorado state champion Connor King (184), two-time Pennsylvania state placer Colton Shorts (125), and California state placers Dillon Rocha (133), Jacob Leon (141), Adam Pain (141), and Justin Walker (197).

**15. NORTH CAROLINA** - C.D. Mock, a 1982 NCAA champion at the University of North Car olina, enters his tenth season as head coach at his alma mater . In addition to Mock, other pr evious Tar Heel greats include three-time NCAA champion T.J. Jaworsky, NCAA champion Rob Koll, NCAA runner-ups Dave Cooke, Al Palacio, Doug W yland, and Justin Harty , and multiple All-Americans Jan Michaels, Shane Camera, Stan Banks, and Evan Sola. With the signing of six brilliant incoming fr eshmen, the future looks very bright for the Light Blue and White. The group consists of number 6 ranked Nathan Kraisser (133) of Maryland, number 6 ranked Joey Ward (141) of Ohio, number 8 ranked Jacob Crawford (157) of Virginia, number 10 ranked R yan Harrington (174) of New Jersey , number 12 ranked Cody Klempay (285) of Pennsylvania, and num - ber 23 ranked Joey Moon (149) of North Car olina.

**16. NORTHWESTERN** - Seven wrestlers have captured individual NCAA championships while competing for the W ildcats. They include Ralph Lupton, Jack Riley, Art Kraft, Mark Massery, Jack Griffin, Jake Herbert, and Dustin Fox. Head Coach Dr ew Pariano and Associate Head Coach T im Cysewski signed an exceptional



2012 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Final - 133 lbs. Logan Stieber (Ohio State) in on a takedown attempt on defending champion Jordan Oliver (Oklahoma State). Freshman sensation Logan Stieber decided Oliver 4-3. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.

recruiting class that will pr ovide a foundation for futur e success. Headlining the list of newcomers are number 1 ranked Jason Tsirtsis (141) of Indiana, number 5 ranked Dominick Malone (133) of Pennsylvania, and number 20 ranked Garrison White (125) of North Carolina. Other incoming freshmen include New York state qualifier Matt Gr eene (133), thr ee-time Illinois state r unner-up Justin Meyers (141), two-time Massachusetts state finalist Robert Coukas (157), 2010 Alaska state champion Ben Sullivan (174), and New York state runner-up Jacob Berkowitz (184).

**17. PENN STATE** - Cael Sanderson, a 2004 Olympic champi- on, and the only undefeated (159-0) four -time NCAA champion in the history of the sport, led the tradition-rich Penn State University wrestling program to their second straight NCAA Championship's crown last year in only his third season as head coach. He has devel- oped a sterling national reputation and is poised to add to the list of 22 previous Nittany Lion wrestlers who have captured NCAA titles. The list of superstar performers include Howar d Johnston, Joe Lemyre, Hud Samson, Larry Fornicola, Bill Oberly , John Johnston, Andy Matter, John Fritz, Carl DeStefanis, Scott Lynch, Sanshiro Abe, Jim Martin, Jeff Prescott, John Hughes, Kerry McCoy, Glenn Pritzlaff, Jeremy Hunter, Phil Davis, Quentin Wright, Frank Molinaro, David Taylor, and Ed Rur h. Highlighting this year 's recruiting class are three in-state Pennsylvania ranked pr ospects. They are number 1 Jimmy Gulibon (125), number 9 Wes Phipps (184), and number 10 Zach Beitz (149). A high-profile transfer student with the ability to help tremendously is former three-time New Jersey state champion Jimmy Lawson (285).

**18. NORTHERN IOWA** - The Panthers, coached by 1999 University of Iowa NCAA champion Doug Sch wab, have estab- lished an impr essional history of pr oducing exceptional wr estlers. Previous greats include Gerald Leeman, Bill Koll, Bill Nelson, Keith

Young, Bill Smith, Bill Weick, Don Parker, Bill Dotson, Tony Davis, Kent Osboe, Jim Miller, Ken Snyder, Gary Bentrim, Kirk Myers, and Mike McCready. This year's outstanding recruiting class features five valiant performers. They include number 4 ranked Zach Witte (157) of Iowa, number 5 ranked Dylan Peters (125) of Iowa, number 12 ranked Jared Bartel (184) of Iowa, number 14 ranked Cooper Moore (174) of Minnesota, and number 18 ranked Curt Maas (165) of Minnesota.

**19. OHIO** – Four Ohio University Bobcat wrestlers have won individual NCAA Championships. They are Harry Houska, Kermit Blosser, Andy Daniels, and Dwight Gardner. Head Coach Joel Greenlee, a previous NCAA runner-up at Northern Iowa University, brings in a highly-decorated recruiting class that will continue to inject new levels of excitement to the program. Leading the way are number 5 ranked Chaz Gresham (184) of Ohio, number 12 ranked Kagan Squire (133) of Ohio, and number 12 ranked T. J. Fox (149) of Ohio. Three other potential stars are number 14 ranked KeVon Powell (125) of Illinois, number 14 ranked Joey Munos (133) of Minnesota, and Ohio state champion Thomas McLaughlin (125). An outstanding transfer student from Virginia Tech is three-time Ohio state champion Ty Mitch (125).

**20. OREGON STATE** – Historically, 8 different Oregon State University wrestlers have won a total of 12 individual NCAA Championships. They include former greats Les Gutches, Howard Harris, Dan Hicks, Larry Bielenberg, Greg Strobel, Roger Weigel, Jess Lewis, and Don Conway. With a top-notch, highly-credentialed incoming recruiting class, Head Coach Jim Zalesky hopes to add several more grapplers to the impressive list of NCAA champions. The class consists of number 8 ranked Jack Hathaway (133) of Iowa, number 9 ranked Joey Delgado (141) of Oregon, number 13 ranked Joey Palmer (141) of Washington, number 13 ranked Mick Dougharity (285) of Oregon, and number 17 ranked Jared Reis (157) of North Dakota. Another impact newcomer destined for stardom is 2012 FILA Junior National Freestyle Championships winner Pat Downey (184).

## Here's a look at the top 5 Non-Division I recruiting classes:

**1. NOTRE DAME COLLEGE** – Frank Romano has been the Falcons head coach since its inaugural 2006-07 season. He has enjoyed legendary success and has established the Notre Dame program as one of the crown jewels of small-college wrestling. Romano and Assistant Coaches Anthony Ralph and Jake Patacsil signed four highly-acclaimed high school stars destined for future greatness. They are number 1 ranked Joey Davis (165) of California, number 15 ranked Garrett Linton (197) of Ohio, number 17 ranked Michael Baker (184) of Ohio, and number 22 ranked Kyle Koziel (184). Other accomplished incoming freshmen include two-time Michigan state champion Stephen Ireland (125), two-time Florida state champion Anthony Wisdom (133), Ohio state runner-ups Ruben Burrows (149) and Kennedy Smith (197), Indiana state runner-up Connor Mullins (165), Ohio state placers Tyler Hardtke (165) and Connor Murray (184), and New York state runner-up Kacey Sauer (285). Four premier transfer students with the ability to help tremendously are 2011 NAIA runner-up Johnny Papesch (125), National Junior College Championships runner-up Brandon Wright (133), 2008 Ohio state champion Chase Skonieczny (141), and NAIA champion Eric Burgey (157).

**2. IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE** – Head Coach Josh Watts and Assistant Coaches Paul Reid and Kory Theil did a phenomenal job in signing a host of multi-talented performers with numerous state and national accolades to their credit. Heading the list of incoming freshmen are number 1 ranked Devin Peterson (184) of Wisconsin, number 7 ranked Roland Dunlap (197) of Wisconsin, number 11 ranked Mason Todd (125) of Indiana, and number 18 ranked Zak Benitz (165) of Wisconsin. Other exceptional newcomers include three-time Nebraska state champion Tyler Nation (141), Illinois state placers Bobby Zabel (141) and Greg Jacquez (141), four-time Wisconsin state placer Kasey Einerson (149), two-time Nebraska state champion Derek Geddings (184), and Wisconsin state champion John Jude (285).

**3. ASHLAND** – Tim Derrnan, a former three-time Ohio state high school champion and NCAA All-American for Purdue University, begins his fifth season as head coach at Ashland University. He is a tireless worker and master recruiter and has built a foundation for national prominence. Derrnan and Assistant Coach Marcus Gordon bring in a sensational incoming freshman class that is highlighted by five in-state Ohio ranked prospects. They are number 8 ranked Brent Fickel (141), number 11 ranked Mitch Newhouse (149), number 14 ranked Kyle Burns (157), number 16 ranked Max Byrd (125), and number 16 ranked Mike Labry (133). Fickel, Newhouse, and Burns were all state champions, while Byrd and Labry were state runner-ups. Other highly-regarded newcomers include Ohio state champion Zebulon Beam (174), Ohio state runner-ups Bobby Mason (125) and Brandon O'Neill (184), West Virginia state champion Tommy Dodd (149), Ohio state placers John Maurice (125) and Jacob Howarth (174), three-time Michigan state placer Nick Mason (165), European state champion Adam Franz (125), Pennsylvania state placer Randall Perkins (160), two-time Illinois state qualifier Michael DiFrisco (133), two-time Connecticut state placer Ed Hunt (149), and Ohio state qualifiers Andrew Globke (174) and Michael Blum (174).

**4. GRAND CANYON** – With the addition of a host of multi-talented transfer students, Head Coach R.C. Lahaye's Lopes has a formidable roster with great expectations. Big-time transfers include National Junior College champions John McCardle (184) and Tyrell Fortune (285), two-time California state champion Martin Gonzalez (133), four-time Arizona state champion Kory DeBerry (165), California Junior College state champion Fito Juarez (174), California Junior College state runner-up Gavin Ludwig (165), and Oregon state champion Tarrence Williams (174). Top incoming freshmen are Colorado state champion A.J. Salazar (125), Arizona state champions Kevin Hunt (125), Robert Sabrazo (141), and Steven Lopez (141), and California Masters champions Josh Miranda (125) and Jessie Taylor (157).

**5. LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** – The Cardinals, coached masterfully by Joe Renfro, are the defending National Junior College Athletic Association champions. This year's outstanding recruiting class features number 7 ranked Chase Ferman (141) of Oklahoma, number 22 ranked Josh Walker (125) of Oklahoma, number 22 ranked Jarrod Trotter (133) of Texas, and number 27 ranked Shelby Krout (184) of Oklahoma. Three additional accomplished newcomers are two-time Kansas state champion Aaron Seybold (149), three-time Ohio state champion Felipe Martinez (174), and two-time Oklahoma state champion Cody Johnson (197).