

## 2013 Top 25 Team College RECRUITING CLASSES



By Dan Fickel, National Editor

**H**ere's a look at the top 25 college recruiting classes:

**1. MICHIGAN** – The tradition-rich University of Michigan wrestling program remains highly-regarded amongst wrestling circles. The list of past superstar performers is seemingly infinite. Previous NCAA champions include Kellen Russell, Steve Luke, Ryan Bertin, Kirk Trost, Mark Churella, Jarrett Hubbard, David Porter, Jim Kamman, Jack Barnden, Norvard Nalen, William Courtwright, Donald Nichols, Harold Nichols, Carl Dougovito, and Otto Kelly. Highly successful Head Coach Joe McFarland brings in another prolific recruiting class that ranks as number 1 in the nation. Leading the way are number 1 ranked Dominic Abounader (184) of Ohio, number 1 ranked Adam Coon (285) of Michigan, number 6 ranked Brian Murphy (157) of Illinois, number 9 ranked George Fisher (141) of Illinois, number 10 ranked Cameron Kennedy (133) of Illinois, and number 16 ranked Payne Hayden (197) of Michigan. Four other incoming freshmen are two-time Michigan state placer Jordan Amine (149), three-time All-Academic selection Ernest Battaglia (157) of Illinois, 2012 Michigan state champion Aaron Calderon (157), and Wisconsin state runner-up Ayoola Olapo (184).

**2. PITTSBURGH** – Jason Peters officially took over as head coach of the storied University of Pittsburgh wrestling program in April of 2013, after 10 successful seasons on the Panthers coaching staff as a top assistant. He has a sterling national reputation as a tireless worker and trainer and has been instrumental in helping the Panthers regain its place as one of the finest programs in the country. Peters is poised to add to the list of 111 different wrestlers who have won a total of 16 individual NCAA Championships while competing for Pittsburgh. They include Keith Gavin, Pat Santoro, Jim Harrison, Larry Lauche, Paul Powell, Ron Schirf, Tom Alberts, Ed Perry, Ed DeWitt, Joe Solomon, and Hugh Perry. Heading this year's tremendous recruiting class are number 1 ranked Ryan Solomon (197) of Pennsylvania, number 2 ranked Cody Wierciach (174) of Pennsylvania, number 3 ranked Mikey Racciato (149) of Pennsylvania, number 8 ranked Edgar Bright (149) of Ohio, and number 14 ranked Nick Zanetta (133) of Pennsylvania. Rounding out the list of newcomers are Wisconsin state champion Aaron Rothwell (197) and Super 32 Challenge runner-up Luke Fleck (285) of Pennsylvania.

**3. VIRGINIA TECH** – Head Coach Kevin Drusser and Associate Head Coach Tony Robie continue to bring in some high-level talent to Blacksburg, Virginia. This year's outstanding class is led by five valiant performers with illustrious backgrounds and huge expectations. High school stars include number 1 ranked Joey Dance (125) of Virginia, number 3 ranked Kevin Norstrom (141) of

Florida, number 3 ranked Zach Epperly (174) of Virginia, number 6 ranked Dennis Gustafson (133) of Virginia, and number 13 ranked Jared Haught (184) of West Virginia. Two transfer students looking to make an impact are two-time Virginia state champion David Wesley (157) and 2012 Virginia state champion David Reck (184). Other new recruits include New Jersey state placer Nick Anderson (133), Illinois state placer Ryan Holzrichter (133), Virginia state placer Jerry Ronnau (141), two-time Virginia Independent School state champion Richard Rumley (141), and National Prep Championships placer Harry Mauk (197).

**4. MISSOURI** – An elite force in the collegiate wrestling scene, the University of Missouri boasts a strong tradition of excellence both athletically and academically. Former Tiger stars include NCAA champions Ben Askren, Mark Ellis, and Maxwell Askren, NCAA runner-ups Shaon Fry and Scott Barker, and multiple All-Americans Khris Whelan, Dave Young, Kenny Liddell, Tyrone Woodley, Matt Pell, Tyler McCormick, Nick Marable, Raymond Jordan, and Dom Bradley. Highly respected Head Coach Brian Smith brings in an exciting recruiting class that is led by number 1 ranked J'Den Cox (285) of Missouri, number 4 ranked B.J. McGhee (125) of Illinois, number 8 ranked B.J. Toal (184) of Ohio, number 9 ranked Joey Lavalle (157) of Nevada, and number 10 ranked Parker Von Egidy (174) of North Carolina. Two exciting transfer students are 2013 National Junior College Championships winner Le'Roy Barnes (133) and 2010 Iowa state champion Mikey England (174).

**5. 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 Hata, 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, Jordan Oliver 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 sterling recruiting class with the potential for excellence. They are headed by number 1 ranked Dean Heil (133) of Ohio, number 3 ranked Anthony Collica (149) of Ohio, number 3 ranked Keilan Torres (157) of Oklahoma, number 7 ranked Zac Gentzler (125) of Kansas, number 15 ranked Eli Hale (125) of Oklahoma, and number 27 ranked Davey Dolan (141) of Oklahoma. A talented transfer student from Bucknell University is 2012 NCAA qualifier Austin Miller (125).

**6. NORTH CAROLINA STATE** – Pat Popolizio enters his second year as head coach of the Wolfpack after six years at

Binghamton University, where he transformed the Bear cats into a national contender. In his first full year of recruiting at N.C. State, Popolizio and Assistant Coach Frank Beasley have assembled an exceptional group of highly-decorated prospects to come on board. Headlining the list of newcomers are number 2 ranked Scott DelVecchio (133) of New Jersey, number 5 ranked Pete Renda (174) of Pennsylvania, number 9 ranked Peter Santos (174) of California, number 11 ranked Chris Wilkes (133) of Missouri, number 12 ranked Brenden Calas (125) of New Jersey, number 14 ranked Micah Perez (125) of California, number 25 ranked Shayne Brady (184) of New York, and number 27 Michael Macchiavello (197) of North Carolina. Other incoming freshmen include Georgia state runner-up Marshall Brown (125), North Carolina state runner-up Mitch Goldbach (133), three-time Ohio state placer Max Rohskopf (141), Wisconsin state placer Randy Shine (141), North Carolina state champions Jake DeAngelo (141), Rodney Sheppard (157), and Jake Castagniero (197), four-time Virginia state champion Colby Dean (149), three-time Virginia state champion Beau Donahue (149), three-time New Jersey state placer Brian Hamann (149), New York state placer Joe Mastro (157), two-time Georgia state champion Chad Pyke (165), New England champion Mikey Amorando (165), and West Virginia state champion Dylan Ceravalo (174). A multi-talented transfer student with the ability to help tremendously is 2010 Pennsylvania state champion Nick Carr (149).

**7. PENN STATE** – Cael Sanderson, a 2004 Olympic champion, 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 third straight NCAA Championships crown last year in only his fourth season as head coach. He has developed a sterling national reputation and is poised to add to the list of 24 previous Nittany Lion wrestlers who have captured NCAA titles. The list of superstar performers include Howard 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 Ruth. Highlighting this year's recruiting class are four in-state Pennsylvania ranked prospects. They are number 1 Zain Retherford (141), number 7 Cody Law (165), number 7 Matt McCutcheon (197), and number 8 Garrett Hammond (157). A high-profile 2010 graduate with terrific skills is four-time Utah state champion Kade Moss (149). He enters the program after a two year Mormon Mission. Two other in-state Pennsylvania prospects are Devon Bentley (133) and number 28 ranked P.J. Steinmetz (197).

**8. NORTH DAKOTA STATE** – Roger Kish, a former four-time Michigan state high school champion and two-time NCAA All-American for the University of Minnesota, begins his third season as head coach of the North Dakota State University wrestling team. He has developed a fine reputation as a master motivator and energetic recruiter and is working diligently to push the Bison program to the upper echelon of Division I College wrestling. Kish brings in a highly-decorated recruiting class that will continue to inject new levels of excitement to the program. Leading the way are number 4 ranked Mitch Bengtson (141) of Minnesota, number 6 ranked Clayton Ream (149) of Missouri, number 7 ranked Tirso Lara (125) of California, number 7 ranked Preston Lehmann (184) of North Dakota, number 13 ranked Tommy Peterson (197) of Minnesota, number 24 ranked Kyle Gliva (133) of Minnesota, number 25 ranked Trevor Chavez (165) of Alaska, and number 26 ranked Mitch Friedman (141) of Wisconsin. Other exciting incoming freshmen include Wisconsin

state runner-ups Joe Umlauf (133) and Tyler Weyer (149), Minnesota state runner-up Cole Sladek (149), Minnesota state champion Grant Nehring (157), three-time Missouri state placer Nick Olejnik (165), and Minnesota state placer Jerrad Nieland (285). Transferring in from Old Dominion University is 2012 NCAA qualifier and two-time Minnesota state champion Justin LaValle (141). Another exceptional newcomer is 2010 graduate Tyler Lehmann (197) of North Dakota. Lehmann, a previous three-time state champion and Junior National Greco-Roman All-American, will join the team after a stint at the Olympic Training Center.

**9. OHIO STATE** – Under the guidance of eighth-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. This

**2013 TOP 25 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 2013 High School Seniors. The final rankings appeared on Wrestling USA Magazine's web site. The web site address is [www.wrestlingusa.com](http://www.wrestlingusa.com)

*The letter "T" refers to a transfer with immediate impact potential while the letter "O" stands for a wrestler from the Olympic Training Center.*

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Michigan             | (1-1-6-9-10-16)           |
| 2. Pittsburgh           | (1-2-3-8-14)              |
| 3. Virginia Tech        | (1-3-3-6-13)              |
| 4. Missouri             | (1-4-8-9-10-T-T)          |
| 5. Oklahoma State       | (1-3-3-7-15-27)           |
| 6. North Carolina State | (2-5-9-11-12-14-25-27-T)  |
| 7. Penn State           | (1-7-7-8)                 |
| 8. North Dakota State   | (4-6-7-7-13-24-25-26-T-O) |
| 9. Ohio State           | (1-1-25)                  |
| 10. Illinois            | (2-2-5)                   |
| 11. Nebraska            | (17-T-T-O-O)              |
| 12. Iowa                | (4-7-7-8-T)               |
| 13. Stanford            | (2-3-5-10-24)             |
| 14. Harvard             | (2-4-5-26)                |
| 15. Oklahoma            | (1-6-18-28-O)             |
| 16. Rutgers             | (2-6-9-20-28)             |
| 17. Rider               | (2-10-14-T)               |
| 18. Princeton           | (3-6-11-16-20)            |
| 19. Minnesota           | (3-7-18-19)               |
| 20. South Dakota State  | (5-8-9)                   |
| 21. Virginia            | (4-12-12-13-26)           |
| 22. Michigan State      | (5-5-19-19)               |
| 23. Purdue              | (2-11-15-17-25)           |
| 24. Clarion             | (4-14-19-T)               |
| 25T. Wyoming            | (1-9-14)                  |
| 25T. Utah Valley        | (5-12-14-24-29-T)         |
| 25T. Wisconsin          | (4-13-15-22-25)           |





2013 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Final - 125 lbs. Jesse Delgado (Illinois) fighting off a single leg attack by Nicholas Megaludis (Penn St). Delgado decisioned Megaludis 7-4. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.

year's recruiting class is highlighted by a pair of sensational number 1 ranked performers with strong skill sets and huge upsides. They are four-time Ohio state champions Nathan Tomasello (125) and Bo Jordan (165). Two additional newcomers are number 25 ranked Jake Ryan (149) of Ohio and West Virginia University transfer and 2009 Cadet National Freestyle Championships runner-up Dominic Prezzia (165).

**10. ILLINOIS** – Eighteen wrestlers have won individual NCAA Championships while proudly competing for the University of Illinois Fighting Illini. They include Joe Sapora, George Minot, Joe Puerta, Ralph Silverstein, John Ginay, Allen Sapora, Archie Deutschman, David Shapiro, Larry Tenpas, Bob Norman, Jon Llewellyn, Steve Marianetti, Ernest Benion, Eric Siebert, Carl Perry, John Lockhart, Adam Tirapelle, Matt Lackey, and Jesse Delgado. Fifth-year Head Coach Jim Hefernan, Associate Head Coach Mark Perry, and Assistant Coach Jeremy Hunter combined their efforts to bring in three valiant performers with illustrious backgrounds and huge expectations. High school stars include number 2 ranked Isaiah Martinez (157) of California, number 2 ranked Brooks Black (285) of New Jersey, and number 5 ranked Kyle Langenderfer (149) of Illinois.

**11. 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 four impact newcomers with a considerable amount of post-high school experience and accolades. Five-time Minnesota state champion Destin McCauley (149) and 2011 Junior National Freestyle Championships winner Patrick Downey (184) of Maryland are pro-

lific 2011 high school graduates who enter the collegiate ranks after spending time at the Olympic Training Center. Two rugged transfer students are 2013 NCAA qualifier Eric Montoya (125) and 2012 National Junior College Championships winner Anthony Abidin (133). Other newcomers include number 17 ranked Colton McCrystal (133) of Iowa, Nebraska state placers Mitch Maginnis (125) and Alex Metzler (149), Nebraska state champions Eric Engler (174) and D.J. Castillo (285), and Wisconsin state champion Joey Dedick (197).

**12. IOWA** – Recognized within 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 to 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 Jurgens, Marty Kistler, Randy Lewis, Terry McCann,

Matt McDonough, Jeff McGinness, Brent Metcalf, Lincoln McClravy, Mark Perry, Joe Scarpello, Joe Williams, T.J. Williams, Chuck Yagla, and Jim Zalesky. Eighth-year Head Coach Tom Brands, a 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist, has led the Hawkeyes to three NCAA Championships crowns (2008, 2009, and 2010) and brings in another exceptional recruiting class. Leading the way are number 4 ranked Aaron Bradley (285) of Pennsylvania, number 7 ranked Jake Marlin (141) of Iowa, number 7 ranked Brandon Sorensen (149) of Iowa, and number 8 ranked Broc Berge (197) of Minnesota. A high-profile transfer student with immediate impact potential is two-time Iowa state champion Phillip Laux (125).

**13. STANFORD** – Historically, 16 Stanford wrestlers have combined their efforts for 23 All-American awards. The multi-talented group includes 2004 NCAA champion Matt Gentry, two-time NCAA runner-up Nick Amuchastegui, and All-Americans Len Borchers, Terry Crenshaw, Chris Horpel, Doug Perkins, Jeff Wilson, Scott Wiggen, Dave Lee, Steve Buddie, Tod Surmon, Beau Weiner, Tanner Gardner, Josh Zupancic, Zack Giesen, and Ryan Mango. For the fourth time in the last five years, Head Coach Jason Borcelli has brought in an accomplished, highly-promising incoming freshman class with hopes of adding more grapplers to the impressive All-American list. Headlining the group of newcomers are number 2 ranked Connor Schram (133) of Pennsylvania, number 3 ranked Nathan Butler (285) of Kansas, number 5 ranked Garrett Krohn (197) of Colorado, number 10 ranked Tommy Pawelski (125) of Illinois, and number 24 ranked Keaton Subjeck (165) of California. Another incoming freshman is California state qualifier Eric Cramer (125).

**14. HARVARD** – An exceptional force in the collegiate wrestling scene, Harvard University boasts a strong tradition of excellence both athletically and academically. Former Crimson stars include NCAA champions, J.P. O'Connor, Jesse Jantzen, and John Harkness

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and multiple All-Americans Walter Peppelman, Louis Caputo, Joey Killar, Dustin DeNunzio, and John Lee. Highly-respected Head Coach Jay Weiss brings in an exciting recruiting class that is led by number 2 ranked Eric Morris (184) of Pennsylvania, number 4 ranked Brad Perkins (133) of Missouri, number 5 ranked Tyler Grimaldi (165) of New York, and number 26 ranked Colby Knight (141) of Iowa. Three additional incoming freshmen are New York State Private School champion Zachary Dinan (141), Pennsylvania state placer Colton Peppelman (174), and Michigan state placer Samuel Ekanem (174).

**15. OKLAHOMA** – The Sooners have a storied, long-standing tradition of producing exceptional wrestlers. Previous greats include NCAA champions Kendrick Maple, 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, Greg 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 Mantoath. This season, highly-respected Head Coach Mark Cody brings in number 1 ranked Oliver Pierce (157) of Texas, number 6 ranked Sean Williams (125) of California, number 18 ranked Shayne Tucker (157) of California, and number 28 ranked Jon Townsend (133) of Oklahoma. Two others with great potential are two-time California state placer Danny Chaid (285) and Texas state champion Stone



2013 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Final - 141 lbs. Kendrick Maple (Oklahoma) working to control Mitchell Port (Edinboro). Maple decided Port 4-3. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.

Drulman (285). Chaid is the son of 1985 Oklahoma University NCAA champion Dan Chaid and joins the Sooners after a year at the Olympic Training Center.

**16. RUTGERS** – Scott Goodale enters his seventh year as the Rutgers University head wrestling coach and has brought the Scarlet Knights into the forefront of collegiate wrestling. With the influx of predominately homegrown New Jersey talent, Goodale continues to bring in solid recruiting classes. Leading the way this year are number 2 ranked Anthony Ashnault (141) of New Jersey, number 6 ranked Tyson Dippery (149) of Pennsylvania, number 9 ranked Corey Stasencko (133) of New Jersey, number 20 ranked Taylor Jackson (184) of Florida, and number 28 ranked Nick Gravina (157) of New Jersey. Other new recruits include Joshua Patrick (125) of Pennsylvania, Greg McCrystal (141) of New Jersey, Dylan Painton (149) of New Jersey, Mike Underwood (149) of Illinois, Garrett Conner (184) of Ohio, and Anthony Messner (197) of New Jersey.





**17. RIDER** – For over 30 years, the Rider University wrestling program has enjoyed national recognition and success under Head Coach Gary Taylor. Previous All-American Broncs wrestlers include Lou DiSerafino, Tim Morrison, John Lucerne, Leo Giel, John Hangey, Adam Derangowski, Shawn Scannell, Jason Nase, Doug Umbehauer, John Carvalheira,

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 <p><b>ZEKE JONES</b> - Head Freestyle Coach - Team USA              * World Freestyle Champion &amp; Outstanding Wrestler              * Olympic Games Silver Medalist              * 6 X National Freestyle Champion              * 4 X World Cup Freestyle Champion              * 3X NCAA All-American - ASU</p>	 <p><b>MIKE KRAUSE</b> - Head Coach NXTLVL Wrestling Academy              * Coach Team Shamrock - Detroit Catholic Central Club              * National Youth Coach of the Year              * Michigan State University 4X Letterman</p>	

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Francis Dunn, and Don Fisch. Taylor and Associate Head Coach John Hangey signed an exceptional recruiting class that will provide a foundation for future success. Headlining the list of newcomers are number 2 ranked B.J. Clagon (141) of New Jersey, number 10 ranked J.R. Wert (125) of Virginia, and number 14 ranked Wayne Stinson (149) of New Jersey. Four other solid in-state New Jersey prospects are Johnny Gentile (125), Zach Valcarce (125), Andrew Recca (157), and Ali Yildiz (184). Transferring in from Old Dominion University is 2013 NCAA qualifier Robert Deutsch (125).

**18. PRINCETON** – Head Coach Chris Ayres and Assistant Coach Sean Gray did a phenomenal job by signing a host of multi-talented performers with numerous state and national accolades to their credit. Heading the list of highly-touted incoming freshmen are number 3 ranked Ray O'Donnell (197) of Pennsylvania, number 6 ranked Brett Harner (174) of Pennsylvania, number 11 ranked Trey Aslanian (125) of New York, number 16 ranked Jordan Laster (133) of Illinois, and number 20 ranked Matthew Gancayco (165) of Maryland. Two additional exceptional newcomers are two-time National Prep Championships placer Troy Murtha (174) of Maryland and Ohio state champion Jake Moore (285).

**19. MINNESOTA** – With 27 years as the head coach of the Golden Gophers, J Robinson has built a legacy of excellence around the University of Minnesota wrestling program. 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. The class features number 3 ranked Nick Wanzek (174) of Minnesota, number 7 ranked Jake Short (149) of Minnesota, number 18 ranked Judson Preskitt (125) of Pennsylvania, and number 19 ranked Nate Thomas (125) of Minnesota. Two other in-state Minnesota recruits are state placers Chris Pfarr (157) and Jordan Rothers (165).

**20. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE** – Former Iowa State University NCAA champion Chris Bono officially took over as head coach of the South Dakota State University wrestling program in the spring of 2012. He is quickly moving the Jackrabbits program into the national spotlight bringing in a sterling group of incoming freshmen owning impressive credentials. The recruiting crop is headed by number 5 ranked Paul Mascarenas (125) of New Mexico, number 8 ranked Colin Holler (165) of Illinois, and number 9 ranked Nate Rotert (197) of South Dakota. Other incoming freshmen include Iowa state runner-up Kyle White (125), California state qualifier Zeke Andrade (125), two-time South Dakota state champion Austin Oyen (133), three-time Tennessee state champion Brandon Brunner (149), two-time Minnesota state champions Coltan Laganieri (141) and Brady Ayers (165), Nevada state champion Kyle Leet (141), Arizona state runner-up Hank Goettl (141), Minnesota state placers Luke Zilverberg (149), Aaron Bates (174), and Corben Hansen (174), Arizona state placer

Dalton Moran (149), Illinois state champion Jake Turk (184), Iowa state champion Matthew Seabold (184), Iowa state placer Alex Macki (197), and North Carolina state champion Chaas Delgado (285).

**21. VIRGINIA** – Steve Garland, a former NCAA runner-up at the University of Virginia, enters his eighth season as the head coach of his alma mater. He has developed a fine reputation as a master motivator and energetic recruiter and has worked diligently to push the Cavaliers to among the nation's elite. Along with Garland, other previous University of Virginia standouts include Jedd Moore, Derek Valenti, Chris Henrich, Scott Moore, Jim Harshaw, Tim Foley, Matt Roth, Mike Krafchick, John Matyiko, Derek Capanna, Henry Jordan, Buddy Kerr, Kevin Michaels, John Parr, and current All-American Nick Sulzer. This year's incoming freshman class is very accomplished, featuring number 4 ranked Tyler Askey (174) of Georgia, number 12 ranked Emilio Martinez (125) of Colorado, number 12 ranked Andrew Atkinson (141) of Virginia, number 13 ranked T.J. Miller (149) of New Jersey, and number 26 ranked Drew Hull (157) of New York. Three other high-quality recruits are National Prep Championships placers Greg Bacci (165) of Pennsylvania and Addison Kneppshield (184) of New Jersey and two-time North Carolina state champion and Penn State University transfer Collin Campbell (285).

**22. MICHIGAN STATE** – Nineteen wrestlers have won individual NCAA Championships while proudly competing for the Spartans of Michigan State University. They include Walter Jacobs, William Maxwell, Burl Jennings, Merle Jennings, Gale Miklus, Richard Dickenson, Gene Gibbons, Bob Hoke, Jim Sinadinos, Ken Maidlow, Norman Young, Richard Cook, Dale Anderson, George Radman, Greg Johnson, Tom Milkovich, Pat Milkovich, Kelvin Jackson, and Franklin Gomez. Head Coach Tom Minkel brings in an exciting incoming freshman class that is highlighted by four decorated performers. They are number 5 ranked Javier Gasca (133) of California, number 5 ranked Christian Pagdilao (149) of California, number 19 ranked Mitch Rogaliner (125) of Michigan, and number 19 ranked Josh Pennell (141) of Michigan.

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2013 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Final - 197 lbs. Dustin Kilgore (Kent St) working to score on Quentin Wright (Penn St). Wright decided Kilgore 8-6. Photo by Wyatt Schultz.

**23. PURDUE** – Three Purdue University grapplers have won NCAA championships while representing the Boilermakers. They are Arnold Plaza, who won national titles in 1948 and 1949, Joe Patacsil (1950) and Charles Jones (1992). Scott Hinkel, a former All-American at Purdue University, enters his seventh season as the head coach at his alma mater. He will bring in an outstanding recruiting class highlighted by number 2 ranked Aaron Assad (125) of Ohio, number 11 ranked Jacob Morrissey (174) of Wisconsin, number 15 ranked Josh Farrell (157) of Indiana, number 17 ranked Andrew Geers (285) of Illinois, and number 25 ranked Luke Welch (133) of Indiana. Another talented newcomer is Missouri state champion Cody Pae (133).

**24. CLARION** – The Golden Eagles, coached by 2004 Lehigh University NCAA champion Troy Letters, have established an impressive history of producing exceptional wrestlers. Previous greats include NCAA champions Sheldon Thomas, Kurt Angle, Don Rohn, Bill Mitchell, Wade Schalles, and Gary Barton. This year's outstanding recruiting class features six valiant performers. They include number 4 ranked Austin Matthews (149) of Pennsylvania, number 14 ranked Justin Arthur (149) of West Virginia, number 19 ranked Seth Carr (125) of Pennsylvania, and multiple Pennsylvania state placers Dustin Conti (174), Cam Cyphert (197), and Evan Daley (285). A premier transfer student with the ability to help tremendously is four-time New York state champion Quinton Murphy (141). Other newcomers to look for soon include Pennsylvania state placers Jarray Norris (125), Adam Smith (141), Tyler Dibert (174), Dominic Rigous (174), and Nick Shawley (184), New Jersey state placer Jonathan Mele (125), New York state runner-up Tim Schaefer (174), Connecticut state runner-up Ryan Whittle (174), and 2008 Cadet National Freestyle runner-up Josh Davis (285) of New Jersey.

**25T. WYOMING** – Previous two-time Oklahoma State University NCAA champion Mark Branch enters his sixth season at the helm of the University of Wyoming wrestling program. He has orchestrated a turnaround and has led the Cowboys back to a level of national prominence and respect. With a fine group of incoming freshmen owning impressive credentials, Branch hopes to have a few grapplers join the formidable list of past Wyoming greats which includes Bob Mason, Dick Ballinger, Jerry Frude, Dave Hansen, Wes Gasner, Craig Walters, Steven Suder, Reese Andy, Alfonso Hernandez, Joe LeBlanc, and Brent Voorhees. Leading the way are number 1 ranked Zach Beard (165) of Oklahoma, number 9 ranked Archie Colgan (157) of Colorado, and number 14 ranked Eric Hoffman (149) of Maryland. Three other incoming freshmen are two-time California state placer Kyle Pope (174), Montana state champion Luke Paine (174), and Oklahoma state champion Finn Higgins (197).

**25T. UTAH VALLEY** – Greg Williams, a former California state high school champion and NCAA All-American for Utah State University, begins his eighth season as head coach at Utah Valley University. He has taken Wolverine grapplers to the NCAA Championships in each of the past five seasons. In 2011, Williams produced the school's first-ever All-American wrestler in 125-pounder Ben Kjar. This year's sensational recruiting class is led by number 5 ranked Dalton Brady (141) of Arizona, number 14 ranked Jed Mellen (133) of Utah, number 12 ranked Grant LaMont (157) of Utah, number 24 ranked Tyler Scott (125) of Oregon, number 24 ranked Alex Anicete (141) of Nevada, and number 29 ranked Ben Andrews (197) of Arizona. Other incoming freshmen include Nevada state champions Abel Gomez (174) and Jordan Karst (285) and Utah state runner-up Richard Larsen (285). Two highly-regarded transfer students are two-time Arizona state champion Trevor Willson (149) and National Junior College Championships placer Ross Taylor (184).

**25T. WISCONSIN** – The list of past Wisconsin University stars is highly impressive. 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 newcomers with great potential. They include number 4 ranked Ricky Robertson (197) of Illinois, number 13 ranked Jake Stilling (174) of Wisconsin, number 15 ranked Andrew Crone (141) of Wisconsin, number 22 ranked Seth Liegel (157) of Wisconsin, and number 25 ranked Gabe Grahek (149) of Wisconsin. An exceptional transfer student is previous four-time Wisconsin state champion Jarod Donar (157). Rounding out the list of new recruits are Wisconsin state runner-up Austin Moe (157), Illinois state placer Justin Weber (165), and Wisconsin state champion Eric Peissig (197).

## Top 5 Non-Division I Recruiting Classes

By Dan Fickel

**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 Coach Anthony Ralph signed five highly-regarded high school standouts with accomplished backgrounds. They are number 7 ranked Ivan McClay (125) of Ohio, number 8 ranked Jonas Gaytan (125) of California, number 19 ranked Garrett Lineberger (182) of Maryland, number 20 ranked Kyle Sether (133) of Oregon, and number 20 ranked Michael Burkhardt (285) of Minnesota. Other tough incoming freshmen include Ohio state runner-up Joey Miller (125), Ohio state placers Zon Fields (125) and Anthony Craig (133), Virginia state placer Aaron Bright (133), four-time Michigan state placer Hunter Machus (133), Indiana state placer Tyler Hupp (141), Florida state runner-up Jayden Semrad (149), and Ohio state qualifiers Lee Wilson (141) and Tyrone McGuinea (152). Eight exceptional transfer students with the ability to help tremendously are three-time National Prep Championships placers Jacob Goodwin (125) and Andrew Bannister (133), California State Community College Championships winner Abel Avila (141), Ohio state champions Tucker Armstrong (149) and Mitch Newhouse (157), two-time Illinois state champion Gage Harrah (197), two-time Ohio state placer Irayel Williams (197), and National Junior College Championships runner-up Yaseen Mudasser (285).

**2. ST. CLOUD STATE** — The Huskies, coached admirably by Steve Costanzo, have finished as NCAA Division II national runner-ups for three straight seasons. This year's outstanding recruiting class features number 3 ranked Jarred Oftedahl (125) of Minnesota, number 12 ranked Joel Salomon (125) of Colorado, and number 19 ranked Taner Trembley (141) of Minnesota. Three key transfer students with big-time scoring potential are 2010 Pennsylvania state runner-up Mike Rhone (125) and two-time National Junior College All-Americans Dylon Braun (184) and Ryan Zumwalt (165). Other high-quality recruits include Iowa state champion Andrew Foutch (133), three-time Hawaii state placer Dallas Collier (133), Minnesota state runner-ups Tanner Johnshoy (133), Travis Holt (157), Tim Moore (174), and Trae Story (197), Wisconsin state placer Fritz Vogel (133), Minnesota state placers Jonah Gahm (141) and Jordan Hanan (149), Minnesota state champion Bret Stolarzyk (149), Illinois state placer Alex Anaya (149), Iowa state placer Tanner Schaefer (157), and North Dakota state champion Bryce Fish (165).

**3. MARYVILLE** — Head Coach Mike Denney and Assistant Coach James Reynolds did an outstanding job in signing a host of talented performers with numerous state and national accolades to their credit. Heading the list of incoming freshmen is number 1 ranked Jaet Singh (125) of Missouri and number 12 ranked Darick Lapaglia (141) of Missouri. A formidable transfer with great expectations is four-time West Virginia state champion Josh Fisher (133). Other newcomers include Missouri state qualifiers Kodi Byrd (125) and Justin Czerniewski (133), Nebraska state qualifier Michael Gregerson (141), Missouri state placer Nic Smith (149), Iowa state placer Mickey Pelfrey (184), and Missouri state champion Ethan Sherertz (197).

**4. GRAND VIEW** — Nick Mitchell, a former three-time All-American wrestler at Wartburg College, started the first-ever wrestling team at Grand View University with the 2008-09 season and has built it into a dynasty. He has led the Vikings to two consecutive NIAA National Championships and has established a foundation for contin-

ued national prominence. Mitchell brings in a diverse, multi-talented group of newcomers with exciting resumes. Leading the way are four in-state Iowa ranked prospects. They include number 8 Clayton Eicher (125), number 9 Doug Miner (125), number 18 Dean Broghammer (285), and number 19, Dylan Blackford (174). Three tough transfer students are National Junior College Championships All-American Tristan Bundy (125), Wisconsin state champion Devin Peterson (184), and California state placer Derrick Hawkins (197). Four additional new recruits are three-time Montana state placer Tyler Forcella (133), Iowa state placer Grant Henderson (157), and Iowa state runner-ups Adam Walther (197) and Zach Renshaw (285).

**5. CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE** — Josh Rhoden finished his seventh season as head wrestling coach at Clackamas Community College last year and has firmly established the Cougars as a national powerhouse. He has led the program to seven straight top-8 finishes at the NJCAA Championships, including a National Championship in 2011. Highlighting this year's list of incoming freshmen are number 13 ranked Lawrence Otero (141) of New Mexico, number 16 ranked Brandon Johnson (285) of Washington, number 17 ranked Adrian Salas (184) of California, and number 20 ranked Kyle Bateman (165) of Oregon. Other exciting incoming freshmen include Pennsylvania state placer Robbie Rizzolino (133), Washington state champion Brandon Davidson (149), Nebraska state champion Kenny Martin (149), two-time Washington state champion Sisto Santana-Pina (174), and Oregon state champion Ihoghama Odighzuwa (197). Another highly-decorated newcomer is 2012 graduate Eleazar DeLuca (157) of Oregon. DeLuca, a previous three-time state champion and FILA Junior National Greco-Roman champion, will join the team after a stint at the Olympic Training Center.

### TOP 15 NON-DIVISION I RECRUITING CLASSES

**Editor's Note:** Numbers on right reflect the placing of recruits from Dan Fickel's final rankings of the Best 2013 High School Seniors. The final rankings appeared on Wrestling USA Magazine's web site. The web site address is [www.wrestlingusa.com](http://www.wrestlingusa.com)

*The letter "T" refers to a transfer with immediate impact potential while the letter "O" stands for a wrestler from the Olympic Training Center.*

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Notre Dame College  | (7-8-19-20-20-T-T-T-T) |
| 2. St. Cloud State     | (3-12-19-T-T)          |
| 3. Maryville           | (1-12-T)               |
| 4. Grand View          | (8-9-18-19-T)          |
| 5. Clackamas CC        | (13-16-17-20-O)        |
| 6. Iowa Western CC     | (1-2-21)               |
| 7. Newberry            | (5-29-30-T)            |
| 8. Lindenwood          | (25-T-T-T)             |
| 9. North Idaho College | (10-13-23-T)           |
| 10. Central Oklahoma   | (25-T-T)               |
| 11. Ashland            | (26-T-T)               |
| 12. Mercyhurst         | (9-13)                 |
| 13. California Baptist | (T-T-T)                |
| 14. Ellsworth CC       | (8-26-29)              |
| 15T. Minnesota State   | (8-25)                 |
| 15T. Ouachita Baptist  | (8-29)                 |