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**Subject:** Wrestling: Papadatos Announces Hofstra's 2019 Recruiting Class  
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## **Wrestling: Papadatos Announces Hofstra's 2019 Recruiting Class**

Courtesy: Hofstra Athletic Communications  
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Hempstead, NY - Hofstra Head Wrestling Coach [Dennis Papadatos](#) today announced four student-athletes who have signed National Letters of Intent to attend Hofstra University for the 2019-20 season. Hofstra, which lost five student-athletes to graduation this spring, adds student-athletes who hail from Illinois, Washington, Florida and New York.

Papadatos, who will be entering his sixth season as the Pride's head wrestling coach in 2019-20, is excited about his newest recruiting class. "We have added four stellar student-athletes to our program with this class," Papadatos said. "While we are excited with these four wrestlers, we are still looking to add a few more student-athletes to the roster for next season."

### **Hofstra Wrestling 2019 Recruits**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School/Junior College</u>
Reece Heller	157	6-0	Fr.	Riverwoods, IL/Deerfield/Marian Catholic
Justin Hoyle	141	5-9	Fr.	Maple Valley, WA/Wyoming Seminary
Ross McFarland	165/174	6-0	Fr.	Pennellville, NY/ Phoenix
Charles Small	184	5-10	Jr.	Bradenton, FL/Manatee/NW Kansas Technical College

#### **Reece Heller**

**Freshman, 6-0, 157**

**Riverwoods, IL/Deerfield/Marian Catholic**

Comes to Hofstra from Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, Illinois...Three-time Illinois State Championship qualifier...Posted a 3-1 record and placed second in the 3A state championship as a senior...Named Daily Southtown All-Area first team...Ranked 18<sup>th</sup> at 152-pounds by InterMat in their final high school poll...Won the IHSA 3A Regional and Sectional titles as a senior...Grabbed the title at the 2018-19 Red Schmitt Tournament...Voted Marian Catholic's Most Outstanding Wrestler...Placed fifth at the Illinois State Championships at 132 pounds after winning regional and sectional titles as a junior...Voted the team's Most Improved Wrestler...Placed third in the IHSA Regionals and second at the Sectionals as a freshman but did not place in the state championships...

**Personal:** Has three siblings including brothers Sage and Holden, who are members of the Hofstra Wrestling team...Enjoys reading and working out in his free time...Lists Ben Askren as his favorite athlete...Undecided major.

**Papadatos on Heller:** "We have always kept it a family affair here at Hofstra Wrestling. With Sage and Holden being important pieces of our team, we thought it was important to get the youngest brother here too. It doesn't hurt that he is nationally ranked at 152 pounds, had a stellar senior season and has a strong academic profile. He competes hard in all situations and has a very high will to win. Reece being here will help his brothers as well. He will make an immediate impact when he steps on campus."

#### **Justin Hoyle**

**Freshman, 5-9, 141**

**Maple Valley, WA/Wyoming Seminary**

Comes to Hofstra from Wyoming Preparatory Seminary Upper School in Kingston, Pennsylvania...

Recorded a 5-1 record as a senior...Finished in second-place four times at the Prep Nationals...Placed fifth in the Prep Nationals in 2015...Dean's List student.

**Personal:** Has one sibling...Lists favorite athletes as Jordan Burroughs, David Taylor and Russell Wilson...Aspires to a career as a business owner or investor...Undecided business major.

**Papadatos on Hoyle:** *"Hofstra has a long standing relationship with Wyoming Seminary. They are one of the top three high school wrestling programs in the nation year annually. Justin represents another one of their Prep All-Americans that we brought in here. He has won matches at the college level at open tournaments, has outstanding grades, and will compete at 133 or 141 for a starting spot. He is also from the west coast, and brings some new perspectives to our program."*

**Ross McFarland**  
**Freshman, 6-0, 165/174**  
**Pennellville, NY/ Phoenix**

Comes to Hofstra from Phoenix (NY) High School...Was a six-year member of the wrestling program, played two years of basketball and ran on the cross country team for two years in high school...Four-time New York State High School Championship finalist including state champion as a junior...Posted 43-1 record as a senior...Named Section 3 Wrestler of the Year...Posted a 40-2 record as a junior on his way to the Section 3 title and the New York State championship at 170 pounds...Recorded a 43-5 record and was a Section 3 finalist, a New York State finalist and a NHSCA National finalist...Section 3 and New York State finalist with a 39-9 record as a freshman...Member of the 2014 New York State Class B Championship team.

**Personal:** Has two siblings...Enjoys fishing and spending time with his family in his free time...Lists Gene Mills and Kyle Dake as his favorite athletes...Aspires to be physical education team and wrestling coach...Physical education major.

**Papadatos on McFarland:** *"A four-time New York State finalist and 2018 state champion who pins people, sounds perfect to me. His high school coach (Gene Mills) is a legendary wrestler, and speaks so highly of him. Ross competes and practices so hard, he brings a tenacity and toughness that every room needs. He has high expectations of himself and they match up with the goals of our program. He has a big frame and athletic build. He could wrestle anywhere from 165 to 184, depending on how his body matures. We didn't care what weight class he was at, we loved his attitude on succeeding in practice and in competition. He is a great addition to our room and for the future."*

**Charles Small**  
**Junior, 5-10, 184**  
**Bradenton, FL/Manatee/NW Kansas Technical College**

**Junior College:** Comes to Hofstra from Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Kansas...2019 National Junior College Athletic Association Champion at 184 pounds in 2019...Posted a 34-12 record for the Mavericks of Northwest Tech...Member of the fourth-place team in the 2019 NJCAA Championships...Won the 184-pound title at the Battle of the Rockies in 2018-19.

**High School:** Wrestled at Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida...2017 Florida High School 3A State Champion at 160 pounds as a senior...Also was a state place-winner as a junior, placing sixth after capturing district and regional championships in 2016...State qualifier as a sophomore in 2015...Placed first in the Ippolito Tournament as a junior and second as a senior...Placed third in the Florida Super 32 Qualifier as a senior.

**Personal:** Has one sibling...Enjoys playing video games in his free time...Aspires to go to graduate school or join the military after graduation...Criminology major.

**Papadatos on Small:** *"While we got involved with Charles late, when I watched his wrestling videos including his Junior College National Championship match, I was excited about the amount of talent he possessed, and his will to win. Then I started speaking to him, and I liked him as a person even more than his wrestling ability. We had to get him here, and we are thankful he is coming. We beat several very high profile programs to get him with us, which is a victory in itself. Anytime you can add a National Champion at the college level in any division, it's a good grab. We are excited to get him and we expect him to make an immediate impact at 174 or 184."*