

FIGHTING ILLINI WRESTLING

Zac Brunson, Emery Parker Named NWCA All-Academic

Brunson 1 of 35 All-Americans to make All-Academic team

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Two of Illinois' top wrestlers excelled in the classroom as well as on the mat in 2016-17, as the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) named [Zac Brunson](#) and [Emery Parker](#) to its All-Academic team on Tuesday. Brunson earned his first All-America honor this season with a sixth-place finish at NCAA Championships, while Parker qualified for the national meet in his first year as a starter for the Illini.

Pursuing his master's degree in recreation, sport and tourism, [Zac Brunson](#) is one of 35 All-Americans to also earn the All-Academic honor. Finishing his senior season with a career-high 32 wins, including seven by fall, the four-time NCAA qualifier earned his first All-America honor with a sixth-place finish at NCAA Championships. Brunson finishes his Illinois career tied for 16th on the program's all-time wins list with 107 victories.

[Emery Parker](#), majoring in finance, broke on to the scene this season with 30 victories as a first-year starter for Coach Heffernan. After placing fifth at Big Ten Championships, the 184-pounder made his presence known on the national stage when he upset defending champion Myles Martin (Ohio State) in the second round of NCAA Championships.

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini wrestling, go to FIGHTINILLINI.com and follow @IlliniWrestling on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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