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## **Vikings win 9<sup>th</sup> Straight Title!**

### **Hanson becomes 4-timer!**

**Boldmaa OW**

By Johnnie Johnson

No. 1 Grand View men's wrestling sent 12 individuals to the 2020 NAIA Wrestling National Championship in Wichita, Kansas, where the Vikings were in search of their ninth-straight team title. The Vikings full contingency of 12 student-athletes had half of their competitors ranked in the top two, and eleven wrestlers ranked in the top 5!!! ninth-straight NAIA national team championship. The Vikings amassed 157 points to beat out second-place Menlo (84.5) and third-place Rhinehardt (83). They finished with 10 All-Americans and two national champions inside Hartman Arena in Park City, Kansas.

GV has either tied or set a new scoring record in six out of the last seven years. The Vikings are the first team in NAIA Wrestling history to win nine-consecutive national titles. Also, the Vikings are only the second program in collegiate wrestling history (NAIA, NJCAA, NCAA) to garner nine straight titles. The other program to do so are NCAA Division I Iowa (six-straight (1995-2000) and nine-straight (1978-1986). Grand View "over-took" NCAA Division I Oklahoma State (seven-straight (1937-1949)) and NCAA Division II Cal Poly (seven-straight (1968-1974)) with their eight titled last March (2019), and are now tied with the Hawkeyes for the most consecutive titles in any division!

Anchoring the Vikings is Senior Evan Hansen. A Three-time NAIA National Champion, Hansen looked to go for his fourth title at 197 pounds in Kansas. Hansen won his third individual national title on last March, defeating Montana State-Northern's Isaac Bartel, 6-4, at 197 thanks to takedowns in the second and third period. Hansen would win his fourth title this year, with only seven other wrestlers have done that in NAIA history. The last one was Southern Oregon's Brock Gutches, who won four-straight at 174 from 2012-15. For all of Grand View's success, the Vikings have never had a four-time champ, until NOW!

Hansen went 5-0 and outscored his opponents 45-7. In Saturday night's final, he pinned Montana State-Northern's Isaac Bartel, to secure his spot in NAIA history. He caps his Grand View career with a 96-7 overall record. Renaldo Rodriguez-Spencer was Grand View's other champion, winning at 157 pounds. He defeated

Providence's Casey Dobson, 7-5, in overtime to win on Saturday night, scoring a takedown midway through the sudden-victory period. He went 4-0 on the week.

Josh Portillo (125) and Kendon Lee (141) were the other Viking wrestlers to make the finals. Six others also finished on the podium: Tanner Abbas (fourth at 149), Dalton Jensen (sixth at 157), Kyle Caldwell (third at 165), Giovanni Bonilla (sixth at 165), Kendrick Jones (fifth at 184) and Matt Kent (eighth at 285).

Renaldo Rodriguez-Spencer (SR/Buffalo, NY) earned his first national title at his respective weight, 157, after defeating Casey Dobson of Providence in sudden victory, 4-2. Justin Portillo (JR/Clarion, IA) made his first national championship final appearance where he fell to Nick Kunz of Montana-State by decision 4-1. Portillo finishes the 2020 season 25-7. Kendon Lee (JR/Addis, LA) also made his first championship final appearance where he was pinned in the third period at 6:46. Lee recorded a 22-5 record. Tanner Abbas (FR/Kanawha, IA) fell in the third-place match by decision 4-1 from Devin Everk of Menlo. Abbas finished the tournament in fourth. Teammate Dalton Jensen (FR/Downs, IL) finished 6th while earning All-American honors. Both Portillo and Abbas wrestled at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows HS in Iowa.

At 165, both Kyle Caldwell (JR/Willard, MO) and Giovanni Bonilla (SO/Kissimmee, FL) fell in the semi-finals. Bonilla went on to the consolation no. 5 match where he was injured. In the 5th place matchup, he withdrew due to medical forfeit. Caldwell went on to grab the third-place finish after taking down Isaiah Luellen of Baker by decision 9-3. Kendrick Jones (SR/New Orleans, LA) represented the Vikings in the 184 bracket. Jones advanced to the semi-finals where he fell to Anthony Orozco by decision 4-3. Jones finished 5th at the national championship after defeating Colton Gonzalex of Marian by decision 8-4. Falling in the quarter-finals, Matt Kent (SR/Edwardsville, IL) fought back in the blood round to earn All-American honors and move onto the second day. Kent finished the championship placing 8th.

Joining Hansen as repeat national champions were Lucas Lovvorn of Baker (174), Anthony Orozco of Menlo (184) and Brandon Reed of Lindsey Wilson (285). Other individual NAIA champions were 125-pound Nick Kunz of Montana State Northern seeded 10th, Baterdene Boldmaa of Doane (Neb.) at 141 as the 3rd seed, top ranked Tres Leon of Cumberland (Ky.) won at 149, and No. 2 seed Brennan Swafford of Graceland (Iowa) at 165. Boldmaa was named the

Coming into the NAIA's- the number of qualifiers had a direct relationship to the top finishers in the tournament. Reinhardt (Ga.) joins the Vikings with a full roster of 12. Menlo (Calif.) brought in the third-most wrestlers with 11, while Campbellsville (Ky.), Life (Ga.), Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) and Southeastern (Fla.) were a close fourth, bringing ten. In the final team race, Menlo (Calif.) was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 84.5, taking the bronze was Reinhardt (Ga.) with 83.0 points, in at 4 was Cumberland's (Ky.) 78.5, 5<sup>th</sup> was Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) 76.5, and 6<sup>th</sup> was Baker (Kan.) 75.0.

The Oaks of Menlo (CA) finished in second place as a team, their highest finish in 16 years when they were national runners-up in 2004. Menlo Head Coach Joey Martinez was named the NAIA Coach of the Year, adding to his CCC Coach of the Year title, and the team earned the Champions of Character Team Award to round out a phenomenal weekend for the Oaks. For just the second time in program history, two Menlo wrestlers claimed individual national titles in the same season. Blaysen Terukina and Anthony Orozco join Jesse Ruiz (285) and Robert Davis (165) who each won individual nation titles in 2008. Terukina claimed the 133-pound title

by defeating previous #1 Austin Wallace-Lister for the second time in two weeks in the finals. In addition to Orozco and Terukina, Devin Everk, Jacob Mendoza and Riley Siason all placed and earned All-American honors.

The Oaks also claimed the "Team Champions of Character Award" which goes to the team that best represents Character and the NAIA Five Core Values. The Oaks are one of the most active teams in the country as it relates to service to the community. They created a program in which members of the wrestling team partner with a local moving company to help elderly individuals move to senior living centers, free of charge. Additionally, they started a "Pinning for Cancer" initiative which saw the team donate money every time a wrestler won by pin or bonus points during the month of February. Additionally, the squad was active in the annual Redwood City/ San Mateo County Toy and Book Drive which helps local families in need during the holiday season.

Second ranked Reinhardt finished in third place out of 53 competing teams with 83 points, their best finish in program history. Additionally, they surpassed last year's mark for NAIA All-Americans (five) with their top three finish and seven All-Americans this season. Justin George (165 pounds) made individual history for Reinhardt after becoming the first student-athlete in the program to ever make a national final. The junior from Buford, Ga., nearly earned a national championship before falling in a close 4-2 decision to second-seeded Brennan Swafford of Graceland (Iowa). Nolan Saxton lost in overtime in the national semifinals, but fought his way back to a sudden victory in the third-place match at 157 pounds. In the 184-pound bracket, Antonio Stewart came in fourth overall after being narrowly defeated in the third-place bout, 2-1. Reinhardt additional AA's included Koby Milner (7th-place; 125 pounds), Trent Leon (5th-place; 141), Jody McAlister (7th-place; 141) and Michael Carew (6th-place; 174)

Tres Leon ran the 149-pound bracket to become an NAIA National Champion collecting his fourth career All-American honors helping the Cumberland's Patriots to a 4th place finish. Leon opened the first period on the national stage taking down Denver Stonecheck of Mid-South rival Life University, in the initial 20 seconds. He controlled the entire match, spreading out five takedowns total through the three periods with over two-minutes of ride time to take the championship bout 11-5. He previously placed fourth, third and second in the NAIA Tournament through the first three years of his collegiate career, this year besting the entire weight class in a perfect 5-0 run. Leon is the first National Champion on the Patriots squad since Hayden Lee and Jake Sinkovics won in 2018. He is the ninth titlist in program history.

Additionally, for the Patriots, Jacob Seto ran the consolation bracket to take third, now two-time All-American at 133. Ramsey Bloy fought well in the 197 semifinals but fell out of the championship bracket to four-time national champion Evan Hansen of Grand View. The senior earned All-American honors for the first time in his career, finishing the weekend in fourth and a 3-2 record. Eric Deluse took 8th, becoming a 2X AA.

The Lindsey Wilson wrestling team finishes fifth in the NAIA where the Blue Raiders earned 76.5 team lead by national champion Brandon Reed. Reed captured his second national title at 285. Three other Lindsey Wilson wrestlers earned a top-eight spot while earning All-American honors. Trevor Lawson finished in third place at 184-pounds as Trent Johnson and Derrick Smallwood both finished in fourth place at 141 and 157-pounds, respectively.

6<sup>th</sup> Completing a feat that has never been done at Baker University, senior Lucas Lovvorn won his third-consecutive NAIA title, while the Baker wrestling team tied their highest finish at the National Championships in team history. Along with winning his third straight NAIA National Championship, Lovvorn was also named an NAIA All-American for the third consecutive year and also won his second straight NAIA Wrestler of the Year award after going undefeated in the last two seasons. With five wins on the weekend, Lucas Lovvorn finished the season with a 41-0 record. In his time at Baker, Lovvorn has a record of 114-4, and finishes his career with a 107-match winning streak.

The Baker wrestling team had five All-Americans, marking a program best in a single season, and also marking the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive season that Baker wrestling has had at least one NAIA All-American. The five All-Americans include, Lovvorn, Emmanuel Browne, Isaiah Luellen, David Dow and Jacob Smith.

Brennan Swafford, a Mediapolis High School (Iowa) graduate and Graceland University sophomore secured his spot in history and realized his dream with a 4-1 win over top-ranked and top seed Justin George of Reinhardt (Georgia) in the 165-pound championship. Swafford said watching former Mediapolis teammate Drew Foster win the 184-pound NCAA Division I national championship last year for the University of Northern Iowa was all the motivation he needed to win his own national championship this year. “Drew Foster is a huge inspiration to me,” Swafford said. “Watching him win that national title last year made me feel like, ‘Hey, I can do this, too.’ I can’t say enough about how much Foster inspired me.”

The highest seed to win a title was Montana State-Northern's Nick Kunz captured the 125-pound NAIA as the 10<sup>th</sup> seed. Kunz, a three-time state AA placer for Helena Capital, won the championship with a 4-1 decision over Justin Portillo of Grand View (Iowa) at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual NAIA Wrestling National Championships at Hartman Arena. Kunz, a junior, was wrestling in his third straight NAIA national meet. He finished the 2019 season 1-2 at nationals and just missed All-American honors in 2018 with a 2-2 showing at nationals. Also placing for the Lights was 197-pound junior Isaac Bartel, who placed second. Evan Hansen of Grand View pinned Bartel in 6:37 in the title bout. At last season's national tourney, Hansen scored a 6-4 decision over Bartel for the title.

In the second week of March of 2021, Nick Mitchell and the Grand View Vikings stand poised to make history and to top “The Legend” Dan Gable and the University of Iowa Hawkeyes with 10 straight titles, the most consecutive titles by any wrestling team in ANY LEVEL!! Look for Grand View to “Set the Mark” X in Kansas TOTO! Unlike 1987- in College Park Maryland, it is highly unlikely that their will be any Clones (ISU) coming to Kansas next March, despite the fact that Kansas is known for their twister! GO VIKINGS!

### **NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS- Medal Results At Park City, Kansas**

125

1st - No. 10 Nick Kunz (Montana State - Northern) dec. No. 1 Justin Portillo (Grand View (Iowa)), 4-1  
3rd – No. 2 Emmanuel Browne (Baker (Kan.)) won by decision over Jacob Mendoza (Menlo (Calif.))  
(Dec 5-4)

5th - No. 4 Alexander Nunez (Life Pacific (Calif.)) won by fall over No. 6 Riley Siason (Menlo (Calif.))  
(Fall 4:49)

7th – No. 3 Koby Milner (Reinhardt (Ga.)) won in tie breaker - 1 over No. 11 Jordan Martinez (Campbellsville (Ky.)) (TB-1 3-2)

133

1st - No. 4 Blaysen Terukina (Menlo (Calif.) dec. No. 6 Austin Wallace-Lister (Warner Pacific (Ore.)), 2-0

3rd - No. 5 Jacob Seto (Cumberlands (Ky.)) won in sudden victory - 1 over No. 12 Drake Foster (Oklahoma City) (SV-1 3-1)

5th – No. 10 Alberto Garcia (Concordia (Neb.)) won by forfeit over No. 8 Sean Deshazer (Life (Ga.)) (FF)

7th – No. 11 Conner Gimson (Indiana Tech) won by forfeit over Matt Gimson (Indiana Tech) (FF)

141

1st - No. 3 Baterdene Boldmaa (Doane (Neb.)) pin No. 1 Kendon Lee (Grand View (Iowa)), 6:46

3rd - No. 4 Brandon James (Marian (Ind.)) won by fall over No. 12 Trent Johnson (Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)) (Fall 1:54)

5th - No. 10 Trent Leon (Reinhardt (Ga.)) won by fall over Connor Holman (Oklahoma City) (Fall 4:19)

7th - No. 9 Jody Mcalister (Reinhardt (Ga.)) won by decision over John Fox (York (Neb.)) (Dec 6-2)

149

1st - No. 1 Tres Leon (Cumberlands (Ky.)) dec. No. 10 Denver Stonecheck (Life (Ga.)), 12-5

3rd - No. 5 Devin Everk (Menlo (Calif.)) won by decision over No. 3 Tanner Abbas (Grand View (Iowa)) (Dec 4-1)

5th - No. 9 Michael Diemer (Campbellsville (Ky.)) won in sudden victory - 1 over No. 4 Richard Pocock (Missouri Valley) (SV-1 4-2)

7th - Joe Eads (William Penn (Iowa)) won by fall over Baltazar Loza (Oklahoma City) (Fall 1:34)

157

1st - No. 1 Renaldo Rodriguez-Spencer (Grand View (Iowa)) dec. No. 11 Casey Dobson (Providence (Mont)), 7-5, SV-1

3rd – No. 7 Nolan Saxton (Reinhardt (Ga.)) won in sudden victory - 1 over No. 2 Derrick Smallwood (Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)) (SV-1 8-6)

5th - No. 6 Dylan Chatterton (Southeastern (Fla.)) won by decision over No. 4 Dalton Jensen (Grand View (Iowa)) (Dec 5-2)

7th - No. 12 Jon McGowan (Oklahoma City) won by decision over Beau Blackham (Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)) (Dec 6-0)

165

1st - No. 2 Brennan Swafford (Graceland (Iowa) dec. No. 1 Justin George (Reinhardt (Ga.)), 4-2

3rd - No 4 Kyle Caldwell (Grand View (Iowa)) won by decision over No. 5 Isaiah Luellen (Baker (Kan.)) (Dec 9-3)

5th - No. 12 Elias Vaoifi (Missouri Valley) won by medical forfeit over No. 3 Giovanni Bonilla (Grand View (Iowa)) (MFF)

7th - Taylor Owens (Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)) won by decision over No. 6 Andrew Null (Northwestern (Iowa)) (Dec 5-4)

174

1st - No. 1 Lucas Lovvorn (Baker (Kan.)) dec. No. 2 Chase Vincent (Oklahoma City), 6-1

3rd - No 5 Nathan Walton (Cumberland (Tenn.)) won by major decision over No. 4 Daniel Butler

(Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)) (Maj 10-0)

5th - No. 10 Mahlic Sallah (Campbellsville (Ky.)) won by medical forfeit over No. 3 Michael Carew (Reinhardt (Ga.)) (MFF)

7th - No. 11 Coleman Bryant (Southeastern (Fla.)) won in sudden victory - 1 over No. 9 Armon Fayyazi (Vanguard (Calif.)) (SV-1 7-5)

184

1st - No. 1 Anthony Orozco (Menlo (Calif.)) maj. dec. No. 7 Riley Jaramillo (Saint Mary (Kan.)), 8-0

3rd - No. 3 Trevor Lawson (Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)) won by decision over No. 2 Antonio Stewart (Reinhardt (Ga.)) (Dec 2-1)

5th - No. 5 Kendrick Jones (Grand View (Iowa)) won by decision over No. 4 Colton Gonzalez (Marian (Ind.)) (Dec 8-4)

7th - No. 6 Jacob Smith (Baker (Kan.)) won by decision over No. 8 Eric Vermillion (Indiana Tech) (Dec 8-5)

197

1st - No. 1 Evan Hansen (Grand View (Iowa)) pin No. 2 Isaac Bartel (Montana State - Northern), 6:37

3rd - No. 9 Owen Braungardt (Missouri Baptist) won by fall over No. 5 Ramsey Bloy (Cumberlands (Ky.)) (Fall 1:52)

5th - No. 3 David Dow (Baker (Kan.)) won by decision over No. 7 Zach Linton (Campbellsville (Ky.)) (Dec 8-4)

7th - No. 6 John Hensley (Providence (Mont.)) won in sudden victory - 1 over No. 4 Eric Deluse (Cumberlands (Ky.)) (SV-1 8-6)

285

1st - No. 1 Brandon Reed (Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)) dec. No. 2 Tanner Farmer (Concordia (Neb.)), 5-3, SV

3rd - No. 9 Ashton Mutuwa (Campbellsville (Ky.)) won by decision over No. 3 Shawn Beeson (Graceland (Iowa)) (Dec 7-5)

5th - No. 5 Nick Fowler (Calumet St. Joseph (Ind.)) won by fall over No. 6 Justin Harbison (Providence (Mont.)) (Fall 1:15)

7th - Patrick Depiazza (Cumberland (Tenn.)) won by decision over No. 4 Matt Kent (Grand View (Iowa)) (Dec 9-3)

### **Team Standings**

1 Grand View (Iowa), 157.0

2 Menlo (Calif.), 84.5

3 Reinhardt (Ga.), 83.0

4 Cumberlands (Ky.), 78.5

5 Lindsey Wilson (Ky.), 76.5

6 Baker (Kan.), 75.0

7 Campbellsville (Ky.), 68.0

8 Oklahoma City, 53.5

9 Southeastern (Fla.), 49.0

10 Life (Ga.), 43.5

11 Providence (Mont.), 43.0

12 Montana State - Northern, 40.0

13 Embry-Riddle (Ariz.), 38.5

14 Graceland (Iowa), 38.0

- 15 Concordia (Neb.), 37.5
- 16 Missouri Valley, 35.5
- 17 Marian (Ind.), 29.5
- 18 Cumberland (Tenn.), 26.5
- 19 Indiana Tech, 26.5
- 20 Doane (Neb.), 24.5

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