

# NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION

## NWCA Release

### **Lock Haven's upset over Rutgers vaults Bald Eagles into USA Today/NWCA Division I Top 25 for first time in 15 years**

*Social Media Link:* <http://www.nwcaonline.com/coachespoll120517>

**Manheim, Pennsylvania** -- With a large portion of the nation's ranked Division I teams competing at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational, dual meet action was limited, but a small school in central Pennsylvania returned to the rankings after a decade and a half as the USA Today/NWCA Division I Coaches Poll was released on Tuesday.

Lock Haven (1-0) upset Rutgers (3-1) 22-16 at a sold-out Thomas Fieldhouse in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania to push the Bald Eagles into the Top 25 for the first time since November 26, 2002. Four of the five Lock Haven wins in the dual were by bonus points. Heavyweight Thomas Haines provided the exclamation point with a fall to clinch the team victory.

The Top 10 teams remained the same from last week, but there were some close calls in a pair of duals featuring ranked teams.

No. 1 Penn State (4-0) survived a scare from fifth-ranked Lehigh (4-1) at the PPL Center in Allentown. The dual set a "home" attendance record for the Mountain Hawks as it drew 9,896 fans. Nittany Lion heavyweight Nick Nevills earned a 2-0 win over Jordan Wood to clinch the 23-19 dual win for Penn State, its 35th in a row. Lehigh opened up the weekend with a 25-13 win at Princeton in EIWA

action.

Iowa improved to 5-0 with a come-from-behind 18-17 win over visiting Illinois (1-2) at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Friday. Iowa's Sam Stoll proved to be the hero as his fall over Deuce Rachal at 285 pounds gave Iowa the six points it needed to avoid the upset from the 15th-ranked Fighting Illini. Iowa's won eight straight over Illinois.

Fourth-ranked Missouri improved to 7-0 after opening up the Mid-American Conference schedule with a 36-3 win over visiting Old Dominion. North Carolina State (8-0) stayed unbeaten, topping Old Dominion 25-15 and Chattanooga 41-(-1). South Dakota State (3-2) won three duals over non-Division I programs in Spearfish, South Dakota at the Dakota Showcase. The Jackrabbits topped Dakota Wesleyan 51-4, Northern State 45-4 and Augustana (S.D.) 49-0.

No. 22 Rider improved to 2-1 with a 19-15 win over Penn on Friday. The Broncos remained at No. 22 this week, ahead of two other EWL schools, Edinboro and Lock Haven. Stanford fell out of the Top 25.

The USA Today/NWCA Division I Wrestling Coaches Poll is comprised of two voting coaches from each Division I wrestling conference. Points are 25 for each first-place vote, 24 for second, 23 for third all the way to a 25<sup>th</sup>-place vote is one point.

**Future Poll Dates (Tuesdays unless otherwise noted):** December 12, December 19, January 3 (Wednesday), January 9, January 16, January 23, January 30, February 6, February 13, February 20, February, 27.

Rank	Team (First)	Record	Points	Conference	Previous
1	Penn State (13)	4-0	397	Big Ten	1
2	Ohio State (3)	3-0	386	Big Ten	2
3	Oklahoma State	3-0	368	Big 12	3
4	Missouri	7-0	349	MAC	4
5	Lehigh	4-1	337	EIWA	5
6	NC State	8-0	321	ACC	6
7	Iowa	5-0	290	Big Ten	7
8	Minnesota	2-1	288	Big Ten	8
9	Michigan	1-1	266	Big Ten	9
10	Virginia Tech	3-1	257	ACC	10

11	Arizona State	2-2	231	Pac-12	12
12	Nebraska	2-0	229	Big Ten	13
13	Cornell	1-0	206	EIWA	14
14	Illinois	1-2	183	Big Ten	15
15	Northern Iowa	1-1	177	Big 12	16
16	Rutgers	3-1	155	Big Ten	11
17	South Dakota State	3-2	140	Big 12	17
19	Central Michigan	1-1	133	MAC	19
19	Wisconsin	2-0	131	Big Ten	18
20	Purdue	3-0	92	Big Ten	20
21	Oklahoma	1-2	72	Big 12	21
22	Rider	2-1	54	EWL	22
23	Edinboro	2-1	47	EWL	23
24	Lock Haven	1-0	24	EWL	NR
25	Pittsburgh	1-2	20	ACC	24

**Others Receiving Votes:** Wyoming 10, Utah Valley 5, American 4, Northwestern 4, Drexel 3, Kent State 3, North Carolina 2

**Dropped out:** No. 25 Stanford (2-2)

*Questions about historical polls can be sent to [Jason Bryant](#)*

The NWCA brings the wrestling coaching community together to advance the sport and ensure that current and future generations have the opportunity to engage in a safe and educationally based wrestling experience. This is primarily done by strengthening existing programs, creating new programs, and providing coaches with progressive educational opportunities.



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