

Rutgers Wrestling Puts Two on Podium at NCAA Championships

Theobold closes collegiate career with pin in seventh-place match

ST. LOUIS (March 18, 2017) – Rutgers wrestling closed out the 2017 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships with two All-Americans for the second consecutive year over the weekend at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis. Sixth-place finisher **Anthony Ashnault** and seventh-place finisher **Ken Theobold** will both represent the program on the podium Saturday night.

Ashnault became the first three-time All-American in Scarlet Knight history when he defeated Matthew Kolodzick (Princeton) to reach the championship semifinal on Friday. Theobold closed out his RU career with a first-round pin against Alex Kocer (South Dakota State) Saturday morning to finish seventh overall.

Rutgers has produced at least one All-American in each of the past four seasons and six overall under head coach **Scott Goodale**. It marked the second consecutive championships in which RU had two placewinners and just the third time the program has done it in its history.

2017 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships

Thursday, March 16 - Saturday, March 18

Scottrade Center | St. Louis

Brackets & Team Scores: Session 6 | [Session 5](#)

Team Score:

Final Attendance:

Theobold closed out his 2017 championship run with a pin of Kocer (1:37) in the seventh-place match. The Toms River, New Jersey, native led Rutgers with four victories over the weekend, highlighted by a decisive 9-3 sudden-victory upset of two-seeded Anthony Collica (Oklahoma State) in the championship second round. Theobold clinched All-America honors with his win against Andrew Crone (Wisconsin) on Friday night.

“It’s something I’ve done throughout my whole career,” Theobold said of his pin on Kocer. “I pin a lot of guys that way and I’m happy I can end my career that way with my signature pin. I’m really proud and excited, so I’m just going to enjoy this moment and embrace it.”

Ashnault closed his career with a pin of Kocer (1:37) in the seventh-place match. The Toms River, New Jersey, native led Rutgers with four victories over the weekend, highlighted by a decisive 9-3 sudden-victory upset of two-seeded Anthony Collica (Oklahoma State) in the championship second round. Ashnault clinched All-America honors with his win against Andrew Crone (Wisconsin) on Friday night.

Ashnault dropped his pair of Saturday morning bouts in the consolation bracket. In the consolation semifinal, Ashnault lost his rematch with two-seeded Kevin Jack (NC State), 4-1. In the fifth-place match, Ashnault fell by decision, 4-2, to No. 8 Jayden Eierman (Missouri).

The 2016-17 season concludes as one of the most notable in program history. Seven Scarlet Knights qualified for the NCAA Championships, making it three straight years RU had at least seven grapplers in the field. Rutgers had six placewinners at the 2017 Big Ten Championships, where Ashnault became a back-to-back conference champion at 141 pounds.

Rutgers (12-5) closed the dual season tied for 12th in the final USA Today/NWCA Coaches Poll, which included a 6-3 finish in Big Ten action and an undefeated 6-0 mark at home. The six conference wins marked the most since the Scarlet Knights joined the conference in 2014. This was the sixth top-25 finish during the Goodale era.

133 Scott DelVecchio

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	No. 3 Kaid Brock (OKST)	L-MD, 12-4	0-1
Consolation First Round	Rico Montoya (UNCO)	W-MD, 12-4	1-1
Consolation Second Round	Pat D'Arcy (PRIN)	W-D, 4-0	2-1
Consolation Third Round	No. 12 Josh Alber (UNI)	W-D, 4-3	3-1
Consolation Fourth Round	No. 7 Eric Montoya (NEB)	L-D, 4-3	3-2

141 No. 5 Anthony Ashnault (All-American: Sixth Place)

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	Mason Smith (CMU)	W-D, 8-3	1-0
Championship Second Round	No. 12 Luke Pletcher (OHST)	W-D, 8-7	2-0
Championship Quarterfinals	No. 4 Matthew Kolodzik (PRIN)	W-D, 6-2	3-0
Championship Semifinal	No. 1 Dean Heil (OKST)	L-D, 4-2	3-1
Consolation Semifinal	No. 2 Kevin Jack (NCST)	L-D, 3-1	3-2
Fifth Place Match	Jaydin Eierman (MIZZ)	L-D, 4-2	3-3

149 No. 15 Ken Theobald (All-American: Seventh Place)

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	Samuel Krivus (UVA)	W-D, 8-2	1-0
Championship Second Round	No. 2 Anthony Collica (OKST)	W-SV1, 9-3	2-0
Championship Quarterfinals	No. 7 Max Thomson (UNI)	L-D, 5-1	2-1
Consolation Fourth Round	Andrew Crone (WISC)	W-D, 7-4	3-1
Consolation Quarterfinal	No. 6 Solomon Chishko (VT)	L-D, 7-5	3-2
Seventh Place Match	Alex Kocer (SDST)	W-Fall (1:37)	4-2

157 No. 13 John Van Brill

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	Kyle Langenderfer (Ill.)	L-D, 11-4	0-1
Consolation First Round	Ryan Mosley (GW)	W-D, 1-0	1-1
Consolation Second Round	No. 14 Sal Mastriani (VT)	L-MD, 10-2	1-2

174 Jordan Pagano

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	No. 6 Ryan Preisch (LEH)	L-MD, 9-0	0-1
Consolation First Round	Alex Dewey (BSU)	W-D, 9-3	1-1
Consolation Second Round	Jaden Bernstein (Navy)	L-MD, 8-0	1-2

184 Nicholas Gravina

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	No. 3 Sammy Brooks (IOWA)	L-D, 7-3	0-1
Consolation First Round	Zach Nevills (STAN)	W-D, 5-0	1-1
Consolation Second Round	No. 13 Bryce Carr (CHAT)	Fall-8:30 (SV2)	2-1
Consolation Third Round	Hunter Gamble (GW)	W-D, 7-3	3-1

Consolation Fourth Round No. 7 TJ Dudley (NEB) L-D, 4-1 3-2

197 Matthew Correnti

Round	Opponent	Result	Record
Championship First Round	No. 2 Brett Pfarr (MINN)	L-MD, 11-3	0-1
Consolation First Round	Tanner Orndorff (UVU)	L-D, 11-6	0-2

Follow Rutgers Athletics on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RutgersAthletics) and Twitter ([@RUAthletics](https://twitter.com/RUAthletics)) for all of the latest news and updates. For specific updates regarding Rutgers wrestling, follow the program on Twitter ([@RUWrestling](https://twitter.com/RUWrestling)) and Instagram ([@RUWrestling](https://www.instagram.com/RUWrestling)). Fans can receive timely information, including special offers and giveaways throughout the year on our social media outlets along with www.ScarletKnights.com.

--RU--