

# Rutgers Wrestling Puts Two on Podium at NCAA Championships

## *Ashnault, Perrotti become two-time All-Americans at Madison Square Garden*

**NEW YORK, N.Y. (March 19, 2016)** – Rutgers wrestling wrapped up the 2016 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships with two All-Americans for the second time in program history over the weekend at Madison Square Garden. Fourth-place finisher **Anthony Ashnault (South Plainfield, N.J.)** and eighth-place finisher **Anthony Perrotti (Roseland, N.J.)** both reached the national podium for the second time in their careers. Ashnault’s finish ties the second-highest in the history of Rutgers wrestling.

Entering the championship session Saturday night, Rutgers is in 15<sup>th</sup> place with 30 team points.

### 2016 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships

Thursday, March 17 – Saturday, March 19

Madison Square Garden | New York City

Brackets: [Session V](#) | [Session IV](#) | [Session III](#) | [Session II](#) | [Session I](#)

Team Scores: [Session V](#) | [Session IV](#) | [Session III](#) | [Session II](#) | [Session I](#)

Day One Attendance: 35,569

Day Two Attendance: 36,208

Session Five Attendance: 19,147

Total Attendance: 90,924

“Never satisfied leaving this tournament. It’s the toughest tournament in the world, it’s a hard thing to let go of,” said head coach **Scott Goodale**. “We feel like we left some points out on the board, but we leave here with two All-Americans. I understand the expectations right now with this program and our staff understands the expectations. It’s an exciting time. We just want to keep getting better. We want to keep winning at the highest level, and we’ll do that.”

Ashnault concludes his sophomore campaign with a 32-4 record and his second consecutive All-America honor. He fell in a battle of a third-place match against No. 2 Joey McKenna (Stanford), 7-6. The Cardinal wrestler took a 7-5 lead in the third period, but Ashnault got away to make it 7-6 with a minute to go. McKenna warded Ashnault off over the next 60 seconds and the match ended in a scramble.

“A two-time All-American as a sophomore, that’s pretty cool,” Ashnault said. “I guess I’ll be looking back at it later on and thinking it’s a great accomplishment. Right now it’s a little disappointing.”

Perrotti dropped his seventh-place match against Nebraska’s Austin Wilson by a 4-2 score. Wilson reversed Perrotti to begin the final period and the Scarlet Knight faced an uphill climb from there, unable to connect on an attack to send the match to overtime. Perrotti ends his Rutgers career with an 85-46 record and as the third two-time All-American in program history.

“We want to keep getting better. We want to keep winning at the highest level, and we’ll do that.”

“It’s pretty cool to be able to finish your career on the podium after I had such a bad taste in my mouth last year. It’s good to get back on it,” Perrotti said. “I didn’t come here to take eighth, or third, but life will throw a curve ball at you all the time and you just have to get back up and keep it moving.”

Ashnault got right to work in his consolation semifinal matchup with No. 7 Solomon Chisko of Virginia Tech. The South Plainfield HS product took a 2-1 lead in the first period and forced a Chisko stall warning, escaped and scored two as time expired in the second period, then converted another two takedowns in the 11-3 major decision.

“Yea I wanted to win a national title, but you never know, things happen. It’s so close in so many weight classes,” Ashnault said. “It stung a lot, but I knew this morning I was going to come ready to wrestle. No matter what the deal was I was going to wrestle hard.

“Even in the third-place match I felt like I wrestled pretty hard with really good pace, just made a few mistakes and he’s a really good wrestler. You wrestle the tournament again and me and him could be in the finals, you never know.”

Rutgers has two All-Americans in the same season for just the second time in history and first time since 1952. Perrotti (2014, 16) is the third two-time time All-American in history joining Ashnault (2015, 16) and Anthony Surage (1980, 83).

Perrotti is the first Scarlet Knight to All-American at two different weight classes, while Ashnault is the first RU grappler to start his career with consecutive All-America honors. RU has produced four All-Americans in Goodale's tenure, the second-most in history. Former head coach Dick Voliva coached five from 1946-69. The four All-America honors in the last three years are the most for the program in a three-year span.

“I’ve waited five years to have a really good team. This was really special,” Perrotti said of his senior season. “My individual accomplishments are awesome, I like them. But I’m a big team guy, like I said. I care about everything the team does. We finished so awesome and to be considered a leader of it, it’s crazy, it’s awesome. I’m honored.”

The 2015-16 season concludes as the most successful in Rutgers wrestling history. The Scarlet Knights sent all 10 weight classes to the NCAA Championships for the first time, wrestling to a fifth-place finish at the 2016 Big Ten Championships. Ashnault won the Big Ten title at 141 pounds to become Rutgers’ first B1G champ.

RU (16-5) closed the dual season ranked No. 10 in the final *USA Today*/ NWCA Coaches Poll, defeating seven ranked opponents and three in the top-10, culminating with an 18-15 win over No. 7 Lehigh in the NWCA National Duals Championship Series. The top-10 finish was the second since 2009 and fifth top-25 finish in the Goodale era.

“I’m happy for this program, I’m happy for our guys, I’m happy for our staff. Those guys work really, really hard,” Goodale said. “We just want to keep winning. We want to keep getting better, we’re going to keep getting better, and we want to do it at the highest level.”

<b>Wrestler – Weight (Record)</b>	<b>Opponent (School)</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Sean McCabe – 125 Pounds Did Not Place (0-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	No. 16 Elijah Oliver (Indiana)	L-D, 8-2
Consolation First Round	Brandon Jeske (Old Dominion)	L-F, 3:20

<b>No. 16 Anthony Giraldo – 133 Pounds Did Not Place (0-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	Nathan Kraisser (Campbell)	L-F, 6:12
Consolation First Round	Mason Beckman (Lehigh)	L-MD, 13-3

<b>No. 4 Anthony Ashnault – 141 Pounds Fourth Place (4-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	Jamel Hudson (Hofstra)	W-TF, 16-0
Championship Second Round	Seth Gross (South Dakota State)	W-MD, 15-2
Championship Quarterfinal	No. 13 Chris Monte (Old Dominion)	W-D, 5-4

Championship Quarterfinals	No. 12 Chris Mielke (Old Dominion)	W-D, 5-4
Championship Semifinals	No. 1 Dean Heil (Oklahoma State)	L-D, 8-3
Consolation Semifinals	No. 7 Solomon Chisko (Virginia Tech)	W-MD, 11-3
Third Place Match	No. 2 Joey McKenna (Stanford)	L-D, 7-6

<b>Tyson Dippery – 149 Pounds</b> <b>Did Not Place (0-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	No. 16 Patricio Lugo (Edinboro)	L-D, 4-2
Consolation First Round	Coleman Hammond (CSU Bakersfield)	L-F, 3:57

<b>No. 9 Richie Lewis – 157 Pounds</b> <b>Did Not Place (1-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	Andrew Atkinson (Virginia)	W-D, 7-3
Championship Second Round	No. 8 Nick Brascetta (Virginia Tech)	L-D, 7-6
Consolation Second Round	Dylan Cottrell (West Virginia)	L-D, 4-0

<b>No. 7 Anthony Perrotti – 165 Pounds</b> <b>Eighth Place (4-3)</b>		
Championship First Round	Forrest Przybysz (Appalachian State)	W-F, 1:18
Championship Second Round	No. 10 Austin Wilson (Nebraska)	L-D, 4-1
Consolation Second Round	Seth Thomas (Oregon State)	W-MD, 15-6
Consolation Third Round	No. 15 Clark Glass (Oklahoma)	W-D, 5-2
Consolation Fourth Round	No. 12 Connor Brennan (Rider)	W-D, 5-4
Consolation Quarterfinals	No. 15 David McFadden (Virginia Tech)	L-MD, 10-2
Seventh Place Match	No. 10 Austin Wilson (Nebraska)	L-D, 4-2

<b>Phillip Bakuckas – 174 Pounds</b> <b>Did Not Place (0-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	No. 6 Bryce Hammond (CSU Bakersfield)	L-D, 7-0
Consolation First Round	Nick Wanzek (Minnesota)	L-D, 6-4 (SV)

<b>No. 15 Nicholas Gravina – 184 Pounds</b> <b>Did Not Place (1-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	Jordan Ellinwood (Central Michigan)	L-D, 9-3
Consolation First Round	John Lampe (Chattanooga)	W-D, 6-2
Consolation Second Round	Tom Sleigh (Bucknell)	L-D, 6-1

<b>Hayden Hrymack – 197 Pounds</b> <b>Did Not Place (0-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	No. 2 J'Den Cox (Missouri)	L-F, 1:17
Consolation First Round	Nate Rotert (South Dakota State)	L-MD, 11-3

<b>No. 12 Billy Smith – Heavyweight</b> <b>Did Not Place (4-2)</b>		
Championship First Round	Ross Larson (Oklahoma)	L-D, 8-4

Consolation Pigtail Round	Ryan Solomon (Pittsburgh)	W-D, 3-0
Consolation First Round	Patrick Gillen (Virginia)	W-D, 9-4
Consolation Second Round	Boyce Cornwell (Gardner-Webb)	W-D, 7-2
Consolation Third Round	Riley Shaw (Cleveland State)	W-F, 1:39
Consolation Fourth Round	No. 8 Max Wessell (Lehigh)	L-D, 3-2

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