



4th Annual Dream Team Classic

Minnesota Champs Fall Short Against Some Of Nation's Best

-By Michael Rand-
Photos by Wyatt Schultz



Minnesota's best high school wrestlers weren't quite good enough in their matchups with state championships from around the country at the Dream Team Classic in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

Of course, that says nothing about the three non-state champion Minnesota wrestlers who competed in the USA Dream Team's 32-18 victory. The 11 Minnesota state champions who wrestled won only two matches, while Lukas Christianson, Mike Cunningham and Eli Ross—the three who have not won a state title—each won their matches.

Perhaps it proved Minnesota—which was host to the fourth annual event for the first time—has a deep pool of talented wrestlers. Almost all of the matches were close, with several of the state's most recognized wrestlers losing by narrow margins.

Among the victims: Apple Valley's two-time state champion Matt Shankey, who lost 9-8 to Mark Hangsleben at 199 pounds; three-time state champion 152-pounder Nate Baker of Jackson, who lost 7-6 to another Ohio wrestler, Ryan Bertin;



Wrestling USA Dream Team & Minnesota Dream Team

and Apple Valley heavyweight Chad Redmann, who went 43-0 this season but lost to Maryland three-time champion Mike Faust 3-2.

"It was something to see where your at," Baker said. "My guy was tough. I wrestled him last year, but he was coming off winning nationals. I wasn't as aggressive as I should have been."

In the team competition, those close losses hurt Minnesota. After falling behind 11-0 early, Minnesota rallied within 14-12 with three victories in its four matches.

Among those was an injury default victory from Simley's Mike Verdeja, who was leading four-time Nebraska state champion Kasey Kohl 7-4 at 130 pounds before Kohl had to retire with a shoulder injury. Kohl's career high school record was 139-1 with 89 pins.

But the momentum didn't carry over as Minnesota dug itself back into a 23-12 hole by losing its next two matches. That margin was too great to overcome in the last five matches.

Still, the event served a couple of pur-



103-Terrance Clendenin
Toms River, New Jersey



112-Robert Aralza
Chandler, Arizona



119-Mark Hangsleben
Urbandale, Iowa



125-Mark Jayne
Elyria, Ohio



130-Paul Collum
Bollingbrook, Illinois



135-Kasey Kohl
Omaha, Nebraska



140-Dusty Spaulding
Council, Kansas



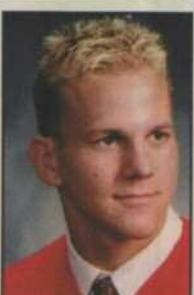
145-Mike Pirozzola
Levittown, Pennsylvania



152-Ryan Bertin
Broadview, Ohio



160-James Woodall
Scranton, Pennsylvania



171-Wes Roberts
Oklahoma City, OK



189-Travis Pascoe
Rathdrum, Idaho



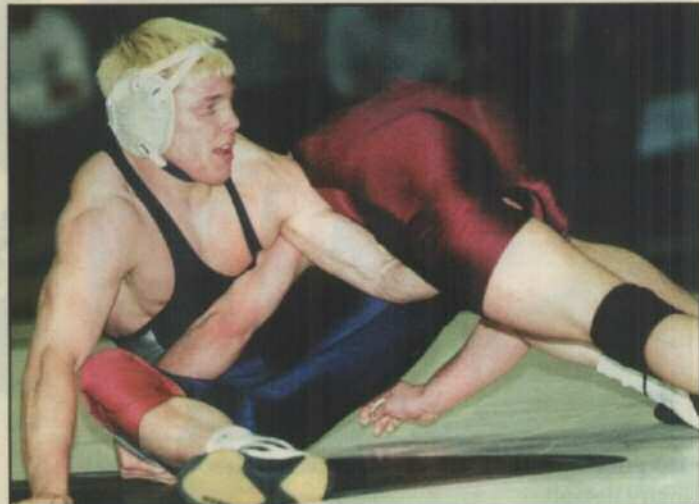
215-Quint Swanberg
Scottsdale, Arizona



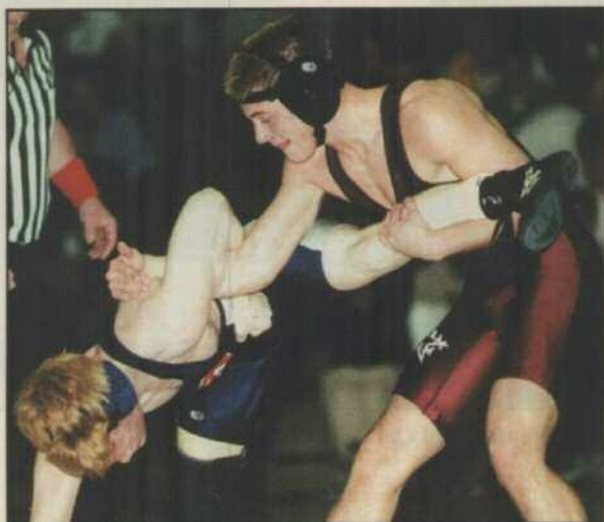
275-Mike Faust
Baltimore, Maryland



112 pounds - Robert Araiza (USA), defeated John Schermerhorn 11-8.



119 pounds - Mark Hangsleben (USA), defeated Matt Shankey 9-8.



125 pounds - Luke Christianson (M), defeated Mark Jayne 11-8.



130 pounds - Paul Collum (USA), defeated Chris McAlpine 7-4.



103-Mark Twardy
Litchfield, Minnesota



112-John Schermerhorn
Frazee, Minnesota



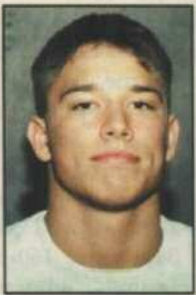
119-Matt Shankey
Apple Valley, Minnesota



125-Lucas Christianson
Apple Valley, Minnesota



130-Chris Alpine
Elk River, Minnesota



135-Mike Verdeja
Inver Grove Heights, MN



140-Mike Cunningham
Austin, Minnesota



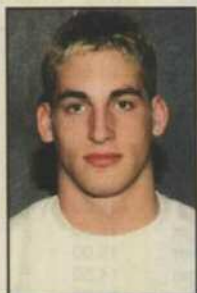
145-Paul Carlson
St. Francis, Minnesota



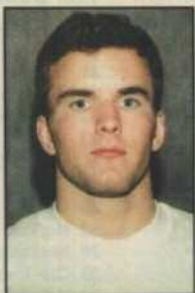
152-Nate Baker
Lakefield, Minnesota



160-Josh McLay
Hastings, Minnesota



171-Joe Moon
New Richland, Minnesota



189-Jordan Holm
Northfield, Minnesota



215-Eli Ross
Owatonna, Minnesota



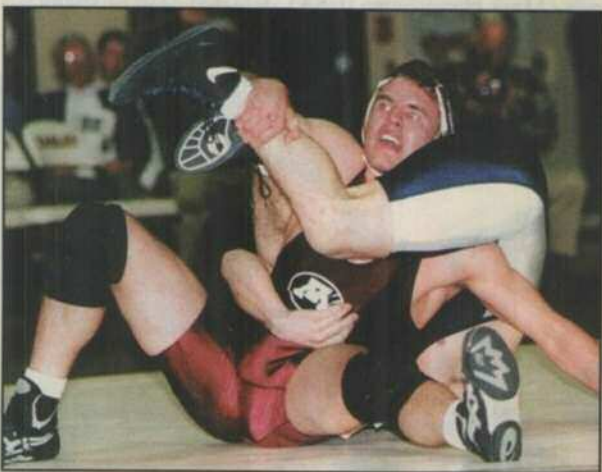
275-Chad Redmann
Apple Valley, Minnesota



135 pound - Mike Verdeja (M), defeated Kasey Kohl by injury default.



145 pounds - Mike Pirozzola (USA), pinned Paul Carlson :36.



189 pounds - Travis Pascoe (USA), defeated Jordan Holm 6-5.



215 pounds - Eli Ross (M), defeated Quint Swanberg 5-2.

poses. It gave several of Minnesota's best wrestlers a chance to face competition they had not seen, and vice versa.

It also helped to further expose wrestling in Minnesota. Several honored guests, including Verne Gagne, Senator Paul Wellstone and Gophers coach J Robinson were on hand, and the Apple Valley gym was three-fourths full.

Robinson had a chance to scout several unsigned wrestlers as well as watch Gophers signees Baker and 160-pounder Josh McLay of Hastings, who won his match.

"It was really good to host this event," Robinson said. "It shows how important

wrestling is in this state."

Results

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130 pounds - Paul Collum (USA), defeated Chris McAlpine 7-4.

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140 pounds - Mike Cunningham (M),

defeated Dusty Spaulding 11-9.

145 pounds - Mike Pirozzola (USA), pinned Paul Carlson :36.

152 pounds - Ryan Bertin (USA), defeated Nate Baker 7-6.

160 pounds - Josh McLay (M), defeated James Woodall 3-2.

171 pounds - Wes Roberts (USA), defeated Joe Moon 11-8.

189 pounds - Travis Pascoe (USA), defeated Jordan Holm 6-5.

215 pounds - Eli Ross (M), defeated Quint Swanberg 5-2.

275 pounds - Mike Faust (USA) defeated Chad Redmann 3-2.

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NCAA Division I Championships

Final Team Scores

12 Boise State	41.50
13 Michigan	38.00
14 Michigan State	36.50
15 Edinboro	36.00
16 Arizona St	32.00
16 Penn State	32.00
18 Pittsburgh	29.50
19 Va Tech	27.50
20 Cent Mich	25.50

21 Hofstra	21.50
22 West Va	21.00
23 Cal- Bakersfield	20.50
23 Virginia	20.50
25 Boston C	16.50
26 Clarion	16.00
26 Ohio U	16.00
28 Harvard	15.50
29 Northwestern	15.00
30 Cal- Fullerton	14.50
30 N Carolina	14.50
32 Oregon	13.00
33 Bloomsburg	12.00

34 Cornell	11.50
34 Ohio State	11.50
36 Oregon State	11.00
37 B.Y.U.	9.00
38 George Mason	7.50
38 Indiana	7.50
40 Lock Haven	7.00
41 E Michigan	6.00
41 James Madison	6.00
41 Missouri	6.00
41 N.C. State	6.00
45 Boston U	5.50
46 Purdue	5.00