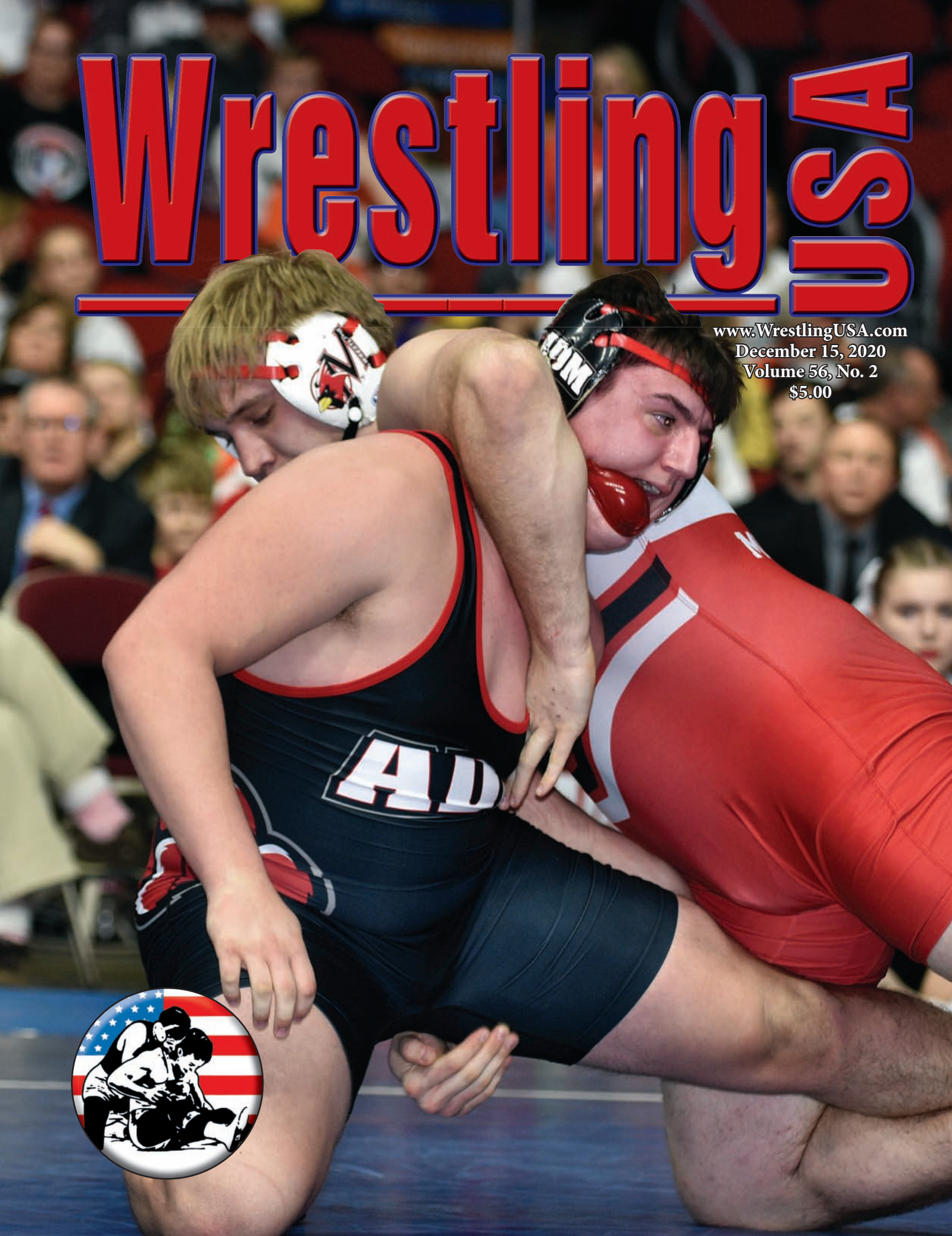


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December 15, 2020
Volume 56, No. 2
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Wrestling USA Magazine

Letter from the Editor

Having Faith for the Season

By Cody Bryant, Managing Editor

With the Holiday Season in full swing, there is no better feeling than having wrestling back! As it did with our Senior Rankings in our October 15th issue, the Super 32 Challenge tournament has affected our Junior Rankings too. This is the first high school tournament since last year's state tournaments. Without Junior or Cadet Nationals this summer, these early season tournaments will have a significant impact on our high school rankings. You will find in this issue our first Junior Rankings of the school year by Dan Fickel, our National Editor. In his rankings the Super 32 Challenge has three champions and two runner-ups ranked number one: Champions Nic Bouzakis (Wyoming Seminary, PA) at 132 lbs., Caleb Henson (Woodland, GA) at 152 lbs., and Manuel Rojas (Detroit Catholic Central, MI) at 170 lbs., and runner-ups Matthew Singleton (Woodward Academy, GA) at 160 lbs. and Chase Horne (West Laurens, GA) at 285 lbs. The states of Georgia and Pennsylvania lead the rankings with three number one wrestlers each. Other top ranked juniors include 106 lbs. Gabe Giampietro (Smyrna, DE), 113 lbs. Evan Mougalian (Kinnelon, NJ), 120 lbs. Joey Cruz (Bullard, CA), 126 lbs. Troy Spratley (Collinsville, OK), 138 lbs. Jesse Mendez (Crown Point, IN), 145 lbs. Kyle Dutton (Liberty, MO), 182 lbs. Rylan Rogers (Blair Academy, NJ), 195 lbs. Kolby Franklin (Wyoming Seminary, PA), and Nicholas Feldman (Malvern Prep, PA).

Also in this issue Dan Fickel has put together the NCAA Division I Pre-Season Rankings. This of course wasn't without challenges when in November unfortunately the Ivy League cancelled all winter sports including wrestling. The six Ivy League wrestling programs affected are Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and Princeton. Dan had two Cornell wrestlers ranked number one; Yianni Diakomihalis at 149 lbs. and Max Dean at 184 lbs., including several Ivy League wrestlers in the top 32 in each weight class.

Iowa leads the pack with three top ranked NCAA Division I wrestlers; 125 lbs. Spencer Lee, 141 lbs. Jaydin Eierman, and 174 lbs. Michael Kemerer. The other Pre-Season picks are 133 lbs. Nick Suriano (Rutgers), 149 lbs. Austin O'Connor (North Carolina), 157 lbs. Ryan Deakin (Northwestern), 165 lbs. Mehki Lewis (Virginia Tech), 184 lbs. Myles Amine (Michigan), 197 lbs. Noah Adams (West Virginia), and 285 lbs. Gable Steveson (Minnesota). Dan also ranked the top 25 NCAA Division I tournament teams and with Iowa with three pre-season number one picks comes in top ranked. Michigan, Oklahoma State, and four-time defending champion Penn State rounds out the top four teams.

Having faith for the Season is what makes wrestling so great. World of Wrestling was the first organization to run a wrestling tournament since March when they ran their Reno Worlds in Tulsa, Oklahoma, back at the end of July. Now they have ran their first leg of the "Big 3" Kickoff Classic in November and will follow up with Tulsa Nationals in January and plan to have their Reno Worlds back to Reno in April. This is just the beginning of a great wrestling season across the country!

I think having faith is more prevalent now than ever before since the first disciples of Jesus Christ. We have seen "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" in 2020, and yes it has affected so many families and businesses across this nation. I can't even imagine what this nation was like going through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II (any war for that matter) to preserve what makes these United States of American so great. We as a country have been so resilient over the centuries, and I believe this is no different. Many times we focus on the bad (in many cases creating fear) and definitely don't focus enough on the good.

God's Word says we should only fear Him but this fear of God is in the awe of Him, His power, and His love! Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

I do believe that God leads us down these different roads for a purpose. I have been surrounded by wrestling all my life, yet I live in the only wrestling state in the country that doesn't have sanctioned high school wrestling. Who would have ever thought that after coaching wrestling for 27 years! My plan wasn't to live in Mississippi, but here I am. I have to have faith in God and His plan for me.

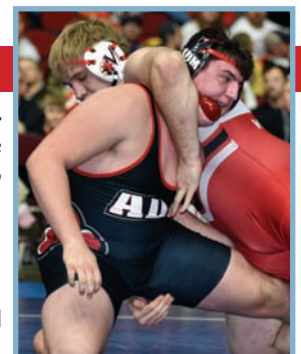
I continue to be thankful for all the opportunities this great sport of wrestling has given me. Sometimes it takes years to see the blessings of this sport, but I can guarantee you that they are there whether if it was a day or several years of being involved in the sport!

As Always, Let's be "On The Go Together,"

Cody

COVER PHOTO

2020 Iowa High School State 2A Wrestling Championship Finals - 285 lbs. Taven Rich (Maquoketa) trying to hook up a nearside cradle on Kaden Sutton (ADM - Adel). Sutton won by decision 4-2. Photo by G Wyatt Schultz.



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Wrestling USA Magazine

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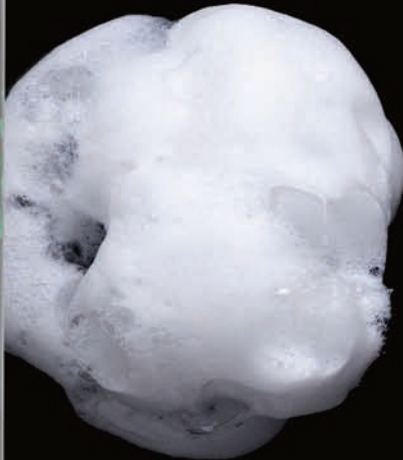
2020 NJCAA National Wrestling Championship Finals - 133 lbs. Jason Shaner (Clackamas) working to score on Ladamien Sturdivant (Iowa Western) as he holds on. Shaner on by decision 5-3 to help Clackamas win back to back national titles. Photo by Johnnie Johnson.



2020 NAIA National Wrestling Championship Finals - 157 lbs. Casey Dodson (Providence) with a single leg on Renaldo Rodriquez-Spencer (Grand View). Rodriquez-Spencer won by decision in sudden victory 7-5. Photo by G Wyatt Schultz.



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a Wrestler
the Whole
Season



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Defying Disability: Ian Malesiewski

By Anna Malesiewski

Life is fragile. It is not a prequel - there is not always more time. No one is immune to trials and tribulations.

But according to 20-year-old Ian Malesiewski, it is when things get real, when we have come to the end of the road and our lives are in shambles, that we are invincible.

Ian became invincible not despite his struggles, but through them. In a situation that many thought he would not survive, Ian found a way to not only survive, but thrive. He now strives to show others how to do the same.

If you asked friends and family to describe Ian, they would use words like "driven," "compassionate" or "confident." But many know that these words don't even scratch the surface of who Ian Malesiewski is.

Ian has always been able to impact others, even in his youth. According to Adam Malesiewski, Ian's older brother, people were naturally drawn to Ian, especially in high school at Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie.

"Most kids in high school were trying to be his friend because they knew he would look out for them," Adam Malesiewski said.

Halli Reid, Ian's mother, said that Ian has always had a vibrant personality, even in his youth.

"Growing up Ian was feisty and full of fun," Reid said. "He played rough and hard, he was insanely competitive, but with that being said he was also kind, generous and helpful throughout."

Ian always found it important to defend not only his friends, but also those who might not be able to defend themselves, according to Nick Carneval, one of Ian's best friends.

"He grew up always trying to stick up for the little guy," Carneval said. "He was getting in the face of seniors as a sophomore in high school because he found it disrespectful if others were disrespected."

Ian is also extremely honest. According to Joe Campbell, another one of his best friends, he is honest no matter the situation, even if it is difficult.

"He tells you what he feels and will give you feedback, and most times it's right," Campbell said. "You can always count on him to say what you need to hear, whether you want to hear it or not."

Ian thought he was untouchable. A Division I prospect in both wrestling and football, Ian thought he had the world at his fingertips. Until one day life came crashing down, and within a second all of his plans were unraveled.

In 2016, while wrestling at a match to compete for a spot on the cadet world team for freestyle wrestling, Ian's life was turned upside down. This single moment would change the course of his life and thereafter, the lives of so many others.

With one swift wrestling move, Ian broke his neck and was flung into full body paralysis. According to anyone involved in Ian's story, what followed was a whirlwind of fear and uncertainty - the fear of what would happen in the future, if there was to be one for him.

"Prior to my injury, I thought I was bulletproof, but something like this happens and it wakes you up," Ian Malesiewski said. "Prior to my injury I looked at sports as a given and I've realized how much of a blessing it is to be able to play the games you love every day."

Doctors said he would never walk again, that he would never live a normal life and that he would never do the things that are often taken for granted or seen as routine. The simplest luxuries of life were lost in an instant freak of fate that can never be reversed, and Ian had to grow up faster than he ever expected.

Seeing Ian after his injury was difficult for many. But even fighting for

his life in the hospital, Carneval said Ian showed immense emotional strength.

"You could tell he was emotionally keeping it together, not for himself but for everyone else," Carneval said. "I saw in his face how he wanted to let his emotions out, but he refused to do it. He didn't want to be a burden on anyone, even though we all welcomed that."

No one knew what survival would look like.

But now, Ian is doing more than just surviving - he is thriving. He now is in his third year at the University of Miami studying neuroscience, with the hopes of going to law school to help make a change in the lives of those with disabilities. He hopes to one day influence public policy that affects Americans with disabilities.

Ian has also set up a scholarship fund to help those with disabilities receive higher education. With "The DeflANt Scholarship Fund," Ian hopes to help give those in similar positions opportunities that they may not always have as a person with a disability.

"A lot of the time, people with spinal cord injuries don't get the chance to receive higher education, so I've been really lucky," Ian Malesiewski said.

Carneval has known about this project from the beginning stages of its development.

"When Ian first approached me about this, he said, 'I was so lucky to have the resources I did to get a college education despite my disability. I want other kids to do the same, and I don't want something such as a physical disability preventing them from being able to exercise whatever their mind is able to do,'" Carneval said.

Reid emphasized Ian's commitment to helping other students with disabilities reach their goals and fulfill their potential.

"He is working toward a better future for people with disabilities and guiding the newly injured along their new life journeys," Reid said.

According to Ian, since his accident he has come to realize that life is invaluable. He stopped living his life as a prequel and has been able to fully inhabit the person he is and is to become. He has sunk fully into the reality that this is his life now, and he has begun to manifest his destiny in a way he was unable to pre-injury.

"Even though I had a life-altering injury, it's been beneficial in some ways," Ian Malesiewski said. "A lot of people think being paralyzed would suck, but it's given me a lot of opportunities that wouldn't have been possible without being injured."

According to TJ Malesiewski, Ian's father, Ian does not take a single day for granted.

"He truly lives every day like it could be his last," TJ Malesiewski said. "He's taught me not to take anything for granted, that tomorrow is not guaranteed and has encouraged me to do as much positive as I can with the time I'm given."

Ian knows that he has been able to fearlessly own his story for everything it is, without editing. Ian has used his struggles to write a narrative that he believes will withstand as a testament to the unlimited potential that is in all of us, and the triumph that can exist within tragedy. Tim Malesiewski, Ian's uncle, knows it is Ian's destiny to do this.

"I think his calling in life is to inspire others," Tim Malesiewski said.

Ian strives to show the honesty of the human condition. He is dedicated to illustrating that even with complications, life is more simple than it may seem. Someone always has it worse, and any trial can be overcome with positivity. Reid has learned that by doing so, we can make our lives mean

NATION'S BEST 2020-2021 HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR CLASS



By Dan Fickel, National Editor

Editor's Note: Here are pre-season rankings of the Nation's Best 2020-21 High School Juniors as of 11-8-20. Seven factors were considered in determining these rankings. They include: (1) Accomplishments at the state high school championships (folkstyle); (2) National Cadet and Junior Freestyle and Greco-Roman Championships; (3) Performances at prestigious regular season high school tournaments; (4) Super 32 Challenge Tournament; (5) Grappler Fall Classic; (6) USAW Brian Keck Memorial Preseason Nationals; (7) Elite 8 Duals. **Weights are projected and subject to change.** Please e-mail credentials, projected weights for this season, and color head-shot photos of listed or deserving wrestlers to: dfickel@netlink.net.

106 lbs.

1. Gabe Giampietro (Smyrna, DE)
2. Christian Forbes (Broken Arrow, OK)
3. Caleb Thoennes (St. Michael-Albertville, MN)
4. Codie Cuerdo (Aurora, OH)
5. Sammie Hayes (Sandburg, IL)
6. Benjamin Pope (East Anchorage, AK)
7. Christian Guzman (Christopher Columbus, FL)
8. Nolan Wertanen (St. Joseph's MI)
9. Kenneth Hendriksen (Creekview, TX)
10. Tristan Bremer (Lewiston, ID)
11. Michael Longo (Trumbull, CT)
12. Terrell Kinlicheenie (Joseph City, AZ)
13. Daniel Guanajuato (Valiant Prep, AZ)
14. Hunter Robison (General McClane, PA)
15. Isaac Ruble (Bellmont, IN)
16. Mark Samuel (Laney, NC)
17. Xavier DeJesus-Remchuk (Canisteo-Greenwood, NY)
18. Isaiah Medina (Vacaville, CA)
19. Mikey Manta (Hauppauge, NY)
20. Rhys Sellers (Miyamura, NM)
21. Christian Lievano (Ward Melville, NY)
22. Cyrus Bucsit (St. Louis, HI)
23. Roberto Estrada (Weld Central, CO)
24. Saoul Prado (Slam Academy, NV)
25. Isiac Paulino (Monty Tech, MA)
26. Jayden Rael (Sahuarita, AZ)
27. Andrew Martin (Pewaukee, WI)
28. Tyler Hisey (St. Marys Memorial, OH)
29. Jacob Ferguson (Austintown Fitch, OH)
30. Gatlin Taylor (Poplar Bluff, MO)

113 lbs.

1. Evan Mougalian (Kinnelon, NJ)
2. Jore Volk (Lakeville North, MN)
3. Kai Owen (Wyoming Seminary, PA)
4. Evan Tallmadge (Brick Memorial, NJ)
5. Kyle Montaperto (Central Academy, NC)
6. Anthony Walker (Detroit Catholic Central, MI)
7. Nick Corday (Baylor School, TN)
8. Joe Fernau (Montini Catholic, IL)
9. Jacob Van Dee (Erie Cathedral Prep, PA)

10. Dominic Mendez (Righetti, CA)
11. Logan Graf (Custer, SD)
12. Cole Hunt (Dalton, GA)
13. Camron Phetxoumphone (Webster City, IA)
14. Logan Miller (Brownsburg, IN)
15. Bubba Wright (Kapaun-Mt. Carmel, KS)
16. Cael Keck (Park Hill, MO)
17. Cooper Haase (Osceola, FL)
18. Kobi Johnson (Loveland, CO)
19. Quincy Hulverson (Tea, SD)
20. Guy Clevenger (Catoosa, OK)
21. Jacob Tangpricha (Washburn Rural, KS)
22. Mason Brugh (Wadsworth, OH)
23. Davian Guanajuato (Valiant Prep, AZ)
24. Ethan Perryman (Temecula Valley, CA)
25. Hunter Ketchem (Billings Skyview, MT)
26. Tyson Lane (Brandon, FL)
27. Matthew Rowland (Pinecrest, NC)
28. Brandon Baustert (Lincoln East, NE)
29. Yanni Vines (Thompson, AL)
30. Derek Glenn (Cherokee Trail, CO)

Special Mention:

- Oscar Alvarez (Granger, WA)
Brayden Boyd (Sprague, OR)
Gavin Caprella (Lima CC, OH)
Kaleb Casey (Spring Valley, WI)
Shane Corrigan (DePere, WI)
Logan Cravatas (Medina Buckeye, OH)
Nolan Frye (Walsh Jesuit, OH)
Lane Gilbert (Sullivan, IN)
Dallan Hunsacker (American Fork, UT)
Ben Miller (McQueen, NV)
Grant O'Dell (Iowa City West, IA)
Patrick Reineke (Hawken, OH)
Wyatt Richter (St. Edward, OH)
Santino Sanchez (San Marino, CA)
Zachary Silvis (Park, MN)

120 lbs.

1. Joey Cruz (Bullard, CA)
2. Cory Land (Moody, AL)
3. Zeth Romney (Chaminade, CA)

4. Jack Gioffre (Buchanan, CA)
5. Brennen Cernus (Wyoming Seminary, PA)
6. Jacob Brya (St. Johns, MI)
7. Keveyon Roller (Lakeway Christian, TN)
8. Evan Frost (Holy Cross, LA)
9. Brady Pruett (Archbishop Spalding, MD)
10. Brock Bobzien (Poway, CA)
11. Christian Noble (Big Lake, MN)
12. Trever Andersen (Ankeny, IA)
13. Peyton Fenton (Elyria, OH)
14. Alexander Walker (Lake Gibson, FL)
15. Jacob Mactangay (Plainfield North, IL)
16. Michael Torres (Oakdale, CA)
17. Angelo Lozado (Jefferson, CO)
18. Cameron Steed (Collinsville, OK)
19. Kaden Smith (Bridge Creek, OK)
20. Keith Smith (Lincoln East, NE)
21. Jackson Polo (Cold Spring Harbor, NY)
22. Walker Bents (Belgrade-Broton-Elrosa, MN)
23. Zach Hanson (Lakeville North, MN)
24. Jackson Bond (Baylor School, TN)
25. Dante Frinzi (Bethlehem Catholic, PA)
26. Tyler Knox (Mt. Herman, MA)
27. Braxton Appello (Easton, PA)
28. Konrad Parker (Timberlane, NH)
29. Mason Stefanelli (Blair Academy, NJ)
30. Landon Smith (Bethel, AK)

Special Mention:

- Andrew Austin (Charlotte, FL)
Cameron Deiter (Bowling Green, OH)
Sefton Douglass (Lyman, WY)
Trace Eckman (Union County, KY)
Blaine Frazier (Notre Dame Burlington, IA)
Brody Gee (Skiatook, OK)
Braden Graff (Hawarden, IA)
Reese Jones (Ola, GA)
Derek Keen (Central Mountain, PA)
Sean Logue (Father Judge, PA)
Max Martin (Great Bridge, VA)
Brendan McCrone (Lake Catholic, OH)
Clayton McDonough (Central Springs, IA)
Mauro Michel (Cascade, OR)

Michael Shannon (New Smyrna Beach, FL)
Dylan Stroud (Manchester, IN)
Brett Umentum (Blue Valley Southwest, KS)
Isaiah Weber (Independence, IA)

138 lbs.

1. Jesse Mendez (Crown Point, IN)
2. Jordan Williams (Collinsville, OK)
3. Levi Haines (Biglerville, PA)
4. Hunter Garvin (Iowa City West, IA)
5. Jayden Scott (Rush Henrietta, NY)
6. Robert Avila (Lisbon, IA)
7. Kelvin Griffin (The Hill School, PA)
8. Zach Blankenship (Bixby, OK)
9. Alex Almeyda (St. Joseph Regional, NJ)
10. Jack Niffenegger (Cincinnati LaSalle, OH)
11. Brennan Van Hoecke (Palmetto Ridge, FL)
12. Richard Fedalen (McDonogh, MD)
13. Jack Crook (Tampa Jesuit, FL)
14. Gavin Drexler (Stratford, WI)
15. Justin Bartee (Point Pleasant, WV)
16. David Panone (Lassiter, GA)
17. Finn Solomon (Franklin Regional, PA)
18. Connor Pierce (Harbor Creek, PA)
19. Jordan Soriano (Clarke, NY)
20. Max Peterson (Byron, MN)
21. Anthony Aniciete (SLAM Academy, NV)
22. Aiden Riggins (Waverly-Shell Rock, IA)
23. Jerrdon Fisher (Goddard, KS)
24. Cole Homet (Waynesburg, PA)
25. Jaime Rivera (Sunnyside, AZ)
26. Jake Swink (Holy Innocents, GA)
27. Codey Wild (Timberlane, NH)
28. Isaac Church (Charlotte, FL)
29. Kaden Renner (Bismarck, ND)
30. Mason Cantu (Hart, MI)

Special Mention:

Josh Cady (Pulaski Academy, AR)
Pito Castro (Louisville, OH)
Andrew Cory (Creekview, GA)
Collin Creech (Ottawa, KS)

Carson DesRosier (Helena Capital, MT)
Dillon Dick (Uintah, UT)
Quentyn Frank (Amherst, NE)
Zander Graham (Teays Valley, OH)
Thomas Monn (North Hagerstown, MD)
Joshua Millward (Skyridge, UT)
Shaun Muse (Choctaw, OK)
Kade Okura (Kalani, HI)
Kaleb Oliver (Oakland, OR)
Josh Parton (Pigeon Forge, TN)
Trevor Reinke (Beatrice, NE)
Eli Rocha (Platte County, MO)
Luke Studer (Blaine, MN)
Pierce Taylor (McNicholas, OH)
Noah Teeter (Forest Hills, PA)
Logan Vaughan (Kasson-Mantorville, MN)

145 lbs.

1. Kyle Dutton (Liberty, MO)
2. Michael Kilic (Woodward Academy, GA)
3. Gavin Brown (Legacy Christian, OH)
4. Nick Fea (Wyoming Seminary, PA)
5. M.J. Gaitan (Temecula Valley, CA)
6. Garrison Dendy (Baylor School, TN)
7. Derek Raike (Point Pleasant, WV)
8. Nate Burnett (Elyria, OH)
9. Kodiak Cannedy (Greenville, TN)
10. Kyler Lake (Buchanan, CA)
11. Brandan Chletsos (Notre Dame, PA)
12. Logan Ours (Lisbon Beaver, OH)
13. Cole Becker (St. Michael-Albertville, MN)
14. Hayden Watson (Center Grove, IN)
15. Travis Ragland, (New Kent, VA)
16. Joel Jesuroga (Southeast Polk, IA)
17. Nathan Jerore (Roosevelt, MI)
18. Rocco Camillaci (Hilton, NY)
19. Alex Poore (Caravel Academy, DE)
20. Tyler Antoniak (Millard South, NE)
21. Micah Hanau (Stevensville-Lakeshore, MI)
22. Tommy Curran (DeKalb, IL)
23. Connor Euton (Westerville North, OH)

24. Matthew Koontz (Perry Meridian, IN)
25. Joe Fisk (Archbishop Spalding, MD)
26. Drake Acklin (Collinsville, OK)
27. Finn Nadeau (Flathead, MT)
28. Carter Martinson (Southeast Polk, IA)
29. Sam Harris (Ola, GA)
30. Channing Warner (Juab, UT)

Special Mention:

Tim Bova (Arlington, NY)
Karson Casper (Coleman, WI)
James Conway (Floyd Central, IN)
Ryan Dolezal (Marshfield, WI)
Kyler Everly (Mifflin County, PA)
Jose Flores (Inola, OK)
Garrett Foreman (Pigeon Forge, TN)
Jared Gumila (Plainfield North, IL)
Hunter Harwood (Thurston, OR)
Reagan Lefevre (Hempfield, PA)
Trent Myers (New Plymouth, ID)
Christopher Nickolite (David City Aquinas, NE)
Wyatt Ogle (Santa Cruz Valley, AZ)
Matt Rodriguez (Righetti, CA)
Ben Rogers (Wantagh, NY)
Gabe Sanders (Mountain Crest, UT)
Tyler Sauter (Liberty, AZ)
Chris Stiltner (Grundy, VA)
Nic Willingham (Aurora, OH)
Hayden Zinkin (Bullard, CA)

152 lbs.

1. Caleb Henson (Woodland, GA)
2. Anthony Ferrari (Stillwater, OK)
3. Nick Hamilton (Papillion LaVista, NE)
4. Jonathan Ley (Lake Highland Prep, FL)
5. Mitchell Messenbrink (Arrowhead, WI)
6. Daniel Cardenas (Pomona, CO)
7. Kal Miller (Park Hill, MO)
8. Nicholas Vafiadis (New Kent, VA)
9. Kaleb Larkin (Valiant College Prep, AZ)
10. Anthony Troczynski (Delbarton, NJ)
11. Sergio Deslante (Tampa Jesuit, FL)

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- Austin Morris (Keene, NH)
- Porter Faulk (Baylor School, TN)
- Fernando Villaescusa (Sunnyside, AZ)
- Shay Addison (Rumson-Fair Haven, NJ)
- Nolan Lear (Benton, PA)
- Dawson Matthews (Alexander, GA)
- Chase Cordia (Osage, MO)
- Gunner Giulio (Couer d' Alene, ID)
- Brook Byers (Sprague, OR)
- Aiden Curry (Central Academy, NC)
- Isaac Cory (Montoursville, PA)
- Jonathan Conrad (Carrollwood Day, FL)
- Peyton Lemon (Waynedale, OH)
- Brody Hemauer (DeForest, WI)

Special Mention:

- Gage Burke (Clark/Willow Creek, SD)
Antwaun Burns (London, OH)
Mitchell Broskie (Dublin Coffman, OH)
Chance Davis (Enid, OK)

- Wyatt Epling (Burns, OR)
Adam Frost (Mount Anthony, VT)
John Edwards (Vestavia Hills, AL)
Jack MacKiernan (Pinkerton Academy, NH)
Zahir McLean-Felix, (Brookfield, CT)
James Parana (Stephen Decatur, MD)
Matthew Rodriguez (Gypsum, KS)
Caleb Roe (Arab, AL)
Orion Thivierge (Havre/Box Elder, MT)
Bartley Thomas (Cincinnati Elder, OH)
Kurt Thompson (Cincinnati Moeller, OH)
Andrew Valle (Casteel, AZ)
Jack Wehmeyer (Malvern Prep, PA)
Devin Wasley (St. Croix Central, WI)
Bentley Wheeler (North Forsyth, GA)
Trevor Wilson (Hannibal, MO)

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- Rylan Rogers (Blair Academy, NJ)
- Brian Soldano, (High Point, NJ)
- Bennett Berge (Kasson-Mantorville, MN)
- Mac Stout (Mt. Lebanon, PA)
- Andrew Donahue (Wyoming Seminary, PA)
- Damion Schunke (Brandon Valley, SD)
- Griffin Gammell (Waukee, IA)
- Darion Johnson (Chiawana, WA)
- Stephen Little (Union County, KY)

- Mickey Griffith (Des Moines, Lincoln, IA)
 - Noah Duke (Ryle, KY)
 - Omari Embree (Warren Woods Tower, MI)
 - Gabe Sollars (Mater Dei, IN)
 - Jacob Meissner (Osseo, MN)
 - Ronald Garriques (Baylor School, TN)
 - Ira Jenkins, (Whitehall, MI)
 - Carson Tenold (Don Bosco, IA)
 - Zeke Coleman (Choctaw, OK)
 - Lance Schyck (Lemon Bay, FL)
 - Samuel Bergin (Simsbury, CT)
 - Cody Williams (Dade County, GA)
 - Anthony Tuttle (Stillwater, MN)
 - Jacob Knight (Sonoraville, GA)
 - Andrew Jensen (Maple Mountain, UT)
 - Parrish Terry (Tuttle, OK)
 - Gage Coppock (Mosinee, WI)
 - Anthony Ward (Miyamura, NM)
 - Farid Mobarak (Plano West, TX)
 - Michael Clifton (Carrington, ND)
 - Antonio Torres (Waubonsie Valley, IL)
- ### Special Mention:
- Devon Bell (Laney, NC)
Vincent Bryan (Little Rock Central, AR)
Ian Bush (Cameron, WV)
Ray Byrd (Skyline, CA)
Allan Carrillo (Brawley, CA)

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A Candid Dialogue About Improving the Coach & Official Relationship

By Keith Manos and Bill Welker

Too often, the coach-referee relationship has been seen as confrontational, where intense coaches perceive an official's neutral demeanor as indifference or even defiance. A coach may blame the referee after a disappointing loss and complain about alleged incompetence, while the official, in turn, may accuse the coach of unsportsmanlike behavior and threaten to penalize them.

Coaches and officials, however, are not adversaries. In fact, they have the same goal: a safe, well-wrestled match with the winner to be determined fairly on the mat. An experienced coach, therefore, should develop positive associations with match officials and recognize the time and dedication invested by the officials in their profession to conduct matches efficiently, competently, and fairly.

What follows is a conversation about the coach-official relationship between an Ohio Hall of Fame coach and a Hall of Fame official from West Virginia.

Keith: At any wrestling competition, the referee is the only one in the gym who doesn't care who wins the match. What exactly is the referee's number one priority when officiating an individual match?

Bill: First and foremost is the safety of the wrestlers. Adept officials should check that the participants are properly equipped prior to an event to assist in allaying injuries, especially when it involves wrestling. Likewise, they should be constantly prepared for the unexpected. For example, the observant official can sense if there is friction between athletic rivals and be ready to step between opposing wrestlers to quell potential problems before, during, or after the competition.

They must be safety conscious!

Keith: For a dozen years I was a tournament manager for three wrestling tournaments every season, and I made sure to hire only officials with state tournament experience for my 32-team high school invitational in December. Some coaches may not know how referees are typically selected and hired for a tournament or a dual meet. What is the typical procedure here?

Bill: In most schools, the athletic director asks the wrestling coach for input when hiring officials. The wise coach tends to prefer officials who know the rules, perform well under pressure, and most importantly, are consistent.

In reference to consistency, superior coaches not only scout their opponents but also the officials who oversee their competitions. They should select an official who is consistent, even if they, at times, tend to disagree with the official's athletic philosophy (e.g., often in the area of stalling). At least, they know what to expect. An official's inconsistency frustrates coaches in all sports.

Keith: What about coaches hiring an official to referee their wrestle-offs? Is this a good idea?

Bill: Absolutely! In fact, I would recommend contacting officials who are just beginning their officiating careers to oversee wrestle-offs. Many would be excited to do so without any monetary compensation. It also allows the coach the opportunity to constructively point out to the novice referee their weak and strong points, further preparing them for actual match competitions.

Likewise, I would advise all new officials to reach out to local wrestling coaches, offering to referee wrestle-offs. Not only is it a positive experience without the pressures of real match competition, but it also gives the young official exposure to local coaches, improving their chances of being hired during the season.

Keith: When I coached, before every dual meet competition, I always made sure to have a conversation with the official, often right in front of my team in the locker room. I'd ask, "Why might you call stalling when the wrestlers are in the neutral position?" I wanted my wrestlers to hear what the official said. Do you recommend coaches ask officials before a dual meet to declare why and when they might call stalling?

Bill: Again absolutely! But a coach must keep in mind that stalling is a very subjective call. Every sport has its subtle situations that involve an official's subjectivity: holding in football, the balk in baseball, and, of course, stalling in wrestling. Theoretically, every official should indicate these infractions in the same manner. In reality, such is not the case. No two officials perceive difficult athletic situations with identical judgment.

So, what's the answer? It's quite simple. As previously mentioned, the key is individual-official consistency. While some referees are more liberal indicating stalling, others tend to be more moderate in their view of stalling. In my opinion, that's okay, as long as the same official is consistent from match to match.

Keith: Often, many officials in that locker room discussion about stalling would announce to us that they don't call stalling as long as a wrestler is attempting a takedown by shooting. I would then point out that a wrestler can still be offensive but not shoot for a double leg or single leg. You, for instance, used to pancake your opponents. Why might, in fact, some officials call stalling in the neutral position and others might not?

Bill: I'm afraid this coach versus official debate over stalling will go on forever. I hate to be redundant, but indicating stalling will always be in the "eye of the beholder," the individual referee. Again, from my experience as a wrestler, coach, and official, all anyone can hope for is individual-official consistency when indicating the "stall" during dual meets and tournaments.

Keith: I know a lot of coaches "chirp" at officials during a match (I know I did sometimes, especially if I thought my wrestler's opponent

NCAA Division I Pre-Season Forecast



By Dan Fickel, National Editor

The purpose of this forecast is two-fold in nature: (1) to familiarize the reader with the possible participants in each weight class and (2) to stimulate discussion as to the outcome of the 2021 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships. This forecast excludes the unknown possibility of weight class changes, redshirt decisions (including Olympic redshirts), eligibility problems, transfers, injuries, and cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, on 11-12-20, the Ivy League cancelled all winter sports, including wrestling for the 2020-21 season. The following six Ivy League wrestling programs will not compete: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and Princeton.

Special Note: The 2020 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, scheduled for March 19-21 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, were cancelled seven days before they were to begin, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) officially recognized All-Americans based on each wrestler's overall body of work through the conference tournaments and up to the national championships. At each of the ten individual weight classifications, the NWCA named eight First Team All-Americans, four Second Team All-Americans, and four Honorable Mention All-Americans. Typically, All-American honors are decided by placing in the top eight at the NCAA Championships.

125 Pounds

Two-time NCAA champion Spencer Lee is the prevailing figure at this classification. He possesses incredible knowledge of the sport and is a big-time point-producer who competes with a brawling, physical style. Amazingly poised and confident, Lee is accomplished in different wrestling styles and is two-time Junior World Freestyle Champion. He had a prolific prep career at Franklin Regional High School, winning three Pennsylvania state titles, three Walsh Ironman Tournament crowns, two Super 32 Challenge titles, and he compiled an overall record of 144-1.



Spencer Lee
Iowa

NWCA First Team All-Americans with the potential for excellence are Devin Schroder, Drew Hildebrandt, and Brandon Paetzell. Schroder, a former three-time Michigan state champion, took second at the Big Ten Championships and is dangerous in the advantage position with a good array of rides and pinning combinations. Hildebrandt seized top honors at the Mid-American Conference Championships was the 2016 Indiana state champion for Penn High School. Paetzell finished third at the EIWA Championships and is very determined and disciplined.

Brandon Courtney, Jacob Camacho, and Alex Mackall are NWCA Second Team All-Americans with tremendous backgrounds. Courtney won three Arizona state titles while in high school and is the defending Pac-12 Champion. Camacho was honored as the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and was a three-time Connecticut state champion for Danbury High School. Mackall placed second at the Big 12 Championships and is exceptionally strong and powerful. He was the 2014 Ohio state champion for Walsh Jesuit High School.

Four NWCA Honorable Mention All-Americans who should not be overlooked are Luke Werner, Jack Medley, Killian Cardinale, and Nic Aguilar. Werner finished third at the Mid-American Conference Championships and was the 2017 Pennsylvania state

runner-up for Bethlehem Liberty High School. Medley placed fourth at the Big Ten Championships and is an extremely hard worker with a strong will to succeed. Cardinale won two Virginia state titles for Brentsville High School and is a transfer from Old Dominion University. Aguilar possesses a variety of techniques and was the 2018 California state champion for Gilroy High School.

Rayvon Foley, Taylor LaMont, Brock Hudkins, Brody Teske, Cody Phippen, and Patrick McKee are wrestlers to watch in this division. Foley earned All-American status at the 2019 NCAA Championships and is a high-voltage performer who finds ways to make things happen on the mat. He was the 2017 Michigan state champion for Pioneer High School. LaMont is a multiple Greco-Roman National Team member and can score heavily on his feet with some devastating upper body throws. He enjoyed a sterling prep career at Maple Mountain High School, winning four Utah state titles, two Junior National Greco-Roman Championships crowns, a Junior National Freestyle Championships title, and he accumulated an overall record of 244-9 with 181 falls. Hudkins placed second at the 2018 Mid-American Conference Championships and was a two-time Indiana state champion for Danville High School. Teske is a top-tier transfer student

125 lbs. Forecasted Champ: Spencer Lee (Iowa) Top Challengers:

2. Rayvon Foley (Michigan State)
3. Devin Schroder (Purdue)
4. Taylor LaMont (Utah Valley)
5. Drew Hildebrandt (Central Michigan)
6. Brandon Paetzell (Lehigh)
7. Brandon Courtney (Arizona St)
8. Jakob Camacho (North Carolina St)
9. Alex Mackall (Iowa St)
10. Brock Hudkins (Indiana)
11. Luke Werner (Lock Haven)
12. Jack Medley (Michigan)
13. Killian Cardinale (West Virginia)
14. Nic Aguilar (Rutgers)
15. Sam Latona (Virginia Tech)
16. Brody Teske (Northern Iowa)
17. Chris Cannon (Northwestern)
18. Robert Howard (Penn St)
19. Cody Phippen (Air Force)
20. Gage Curry (American)
21. Justin Cardani (Illinois)
22. Patrick McKee (Minnesota)
23. Liam Cronin (Nebraska)
24. Korbin Meink (Campbell)
25. Fabian Gutierrez (Chattanooga)
26. Malik Heinselman (Ohio St)
27. Jackson DiSario (Stanford)
28. Danny Vega (South Dakota St)
29. Theorius Robison (Northern Colorado)
30. Eric Barnett (Wisconsin)
31. Noah Surtin (Missouri)
32. Josh Jones (George Mason)

National Freestyle Championships, and he amassed an overall record of 164-1. Lewallen, also a 2018 All-American, seized top honors at the Big 12 Championships and is outstanding on his feet with a varied arsenal of moves. He was a three-time Oklahoma state champion for Yukon High School. Murin won two Pennsylvania state titles for Central Cambria High School and is the defending Midlands Champion.

Kanen Storr (Second Team), Andrew Alirez (Honorable Mention), Kizhan Clarke (Honorable Mention), and Griffin Parriott (Honorable Mention) received NWCA All-American recognition last season and should not be underestimated. Storr placed fifth at the Big Ten Championships and is an ultra-talented performer. He fashioned an exceptional prep career at Leslie High School, winning three Michigan state titles, a National High School Seniors Championships crown, and he amassed an overall record of 227-3. Alirez, was an impressive winner at the U.S. Senior Nationals and is an esteemed sophomore with an astonishing set of moves. He enjoyed an illustrious prep career at Greeley Central High School that included four Colorado state titles, a gold medal at the Junior Pan American Championships, and he accumulated an overall record of 149-1 with 103 falls. Clarke earned an EIWA Academic Achievement Award for the third year in a row and showcases a nice blend of speed, strength, and technique. He was the 2016 Florida state champion for Riverview High School. Parriott placed sixth at the Big Ten Championships and was a three-time Minnesota state champion for New Prague High School.

Michael Carr, Mitch Moore, Josh Finesilver, Jonathan Millner, Jarod Verkleeren, Bryce Andonian, and Alec Hagen, have competed successfully at the collegiate level and are capable of making an impact at this classification. Carr placed second at the 2018 Big Ten Championships and is wonderfully effective in the advantage position. He was a two-time Pennsylvania state champion for South Fayette High School. Moore, a transfer from Virginia Tech, is a two-time NCAA qualifier with a high ratio of falls. He was a four-time Ohio state champion for St. Paris Graham High School. Finesilver placed third at the 2019 Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and is an accomplished student/athlete with numerous academic honors to his credit. Millner won a North Carolina state title while in high school and is the reigning Southern Conference Champion. Verkleeren can be devastating at times and was the 2017 Pennsylvania state champion for Hempfield High School. Andonian, a former Junior National Freestyle Champion, is a whirlwind performer who will go far the fall from virtually any position on the mat. He took second at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and was a two-time Ohio state champion for St. Edward High School. Hagen is a well-rounded performer who will wrestle a series of steady matches. He was a two-time Missouri state champion for Eureka High School.

Jaden Abas, Kevon Davenport, Ryan Vulakh, Michael North, and Terrell Barraclough (Penn State) are magnificent redshirt freshmen capable of accomplishing big things. Abas has a diverse arsenal of moves that produce plenty of action. He won two California state titles for Rancho Bernardo High School and comes from a strong family lineage. His father, Gerry, was a three-time NCAA runner-up, and his uncle, Stephen, was a three-time NCAA Champion. Davenport is a crafty wrestler with solid offense and good defense. He was a four-time Michigan state champion for Detroit Catholic Central High

School. Vulakh is tough and hard-nosed and was the 2019 Pennsylvania state champion for Pope John Paul II High School. North was victorious at the National Collegiate Open and was a three-time Ohio state medalist for Wadsworth High School. Barraclough can score on his feet in a myriad of ways and was a four-time Utah state champion for Layton High School.

Others with valuable collegiate experience include Southern Conference medalists Tanner Smith and Selwyn Porter, Big Ten Championships placers Graham Rooks and Vahya Thomas, 2016 World Team member Peyton Omania, EIWA medalists Jimmy Hoffman and PJ Ogunsanya, Big 12 Championships placer Greg Gaxiola, 2017 New Jersey state medalist Matt Kolonia, Atlantic Coast Conference placers Denton Spencer and A.J. Leitten (North Carolina State), 2019 Pac-12 champion Requir van der Merwe (Stanford), 2019 NCAA qualifier Peter Lipari (Arizona State), Pac-12 medalists Lane Stigall (Oregon State) and Cameron Hunsaker (Utah Valley), Mid-American Conference placers Anthony Gibson (Northern Illinois) and Brock Port (Lock Haven), 2020 Southern Conference All-Freshman Team member Jason Kraisser (Campbell), previous four-time Georgia state champion Colton Woods (Air Force), 2019 National Junior College Champion Cardeonte Wilson (SIU Edwardsville), previous four-time Oregon state champion Legend Lamer (Cal Poly), former three-time Washington state champion Adrian St. Germain (Hofstra), previous five-time New York state champion Adam Busiello (Penn State), and 2019 Wisconsin state runner-up Dan Stilling (Wisconsin).

Blue-chip true freshmen are Lachlan McNeil (North Carolina), Jesse Vasquez (Arizona State), Austin Boone (Penn State), and Peyton Hall (West Virginia). McNeil seized top honors at the National Prep Championships and was also victorious at the Super 32 Challenge and Walsh Ironman Tournament. Vasquez became only the fourth California state champion in the state's illustrious history and is incredibly talented. Boone won four

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McNally placed second at the Mid-American Conference Championships and was the 2015 Ohio state champion for Uniontown Lake High School.

Carter Starocci, Trey Munoz, Donnell Washington, and Edmond Ruth are superlative redshirt freshmen with a huge amount of promise. Starocci is a dynamic competitor who will be difficult to beat because of his sensational moves, great hips, and keen sense of mat awareness. He was a two-time Pennsylvania state champion for Cathedral Prep School. Munoz won a California state title while in high school and comes from a tradition-rich wrestling family. His father, Mark, was the 2001 NCAA Champion for Oklahoma State. Washington, a former Indiana state runner-up, uses outstanding reach and leverage to his advantage has a reputation as a fine pinner. Edmond Ruth was a two-time Pennsylvania state champion and National High School Champion for Susquehanna Township High School. He is the younger brother of Penn State three-time NCAA Champion Ed Ruth.

Other skilled wrestlers with collegiate experience include Atlantic Coast Conference placer Gregg Harvey, Big Ten Championships placers Joe Grello, Philip Spadafora, and Jared Krattiger (Wisconsin), 2017 California state champion Brandon Martino, Mid-American Conference placers Jacob Oliver and Alex Cramer (Central Michigan), Southern Conference medalists Thomas Flitz and Austin Kraisser, EIWA placers Michael O'Malley and Sage Heller, two-time NCAA qualifier Hayden Hastings, 2018 Missouri state champion Jeremiah Kent, Big 12 Championships placers Cody Surratt, Keegan Moore, and Jackson Hemauer (Northern Colorado), former three-time Pennsylvania state finalist Robert Patrick, previous Kansas state champions Troy Fisher and Triston Wills (Little Rock), former three-time Missouri state champion DJ Shannon (Illinois), National Junior College runner-up Dan Torres (Buffalo), previous two-time North Carolina state champion Mike Vernagallo (Clarion), former three-time Iowa state champion Nelson Brands (Iowa), 2018 Ohio state runner-up Cody Howard (Virginia Tech), previous three-time Alaska state champion Evan Bockman (California Baptist), and former three-time Delaware state champion Chase Archangelo (Cleveland State).

True freshmen with impressive credentials include three-time Oklahoma state champion Dustin Plott, two-time Pennsylvania state champion Gerrit Nijenhuis (Purdue), two-time Illinois state champion David Ferrante (Northwestern), four-time Georgia state champion Gavin Kane (North Carolina), Pennsylvania state champion Tyler Stoltzfus (Lock Haven), Indiana state champions Eli Dickens (George Mason) and Robert Deters (Indiana), four-time Colorado state champion Isaiah Salazar (Minnesota), New Jersey state champion Connor O'Neill (Rutgers), three-time Ohio state medalist Nevan Snodgrass (Northern Iowa), and two-time New Jersey state runner-up Shane Reitsma (Rider)

184 Pounds

Three-time All-American Myles Amine is the dominant figure at this weight class. He combines a tremendous work ethic with an awesome blend of strength, speed, and endurance. From an accomplished wrestling family, Amine was a bronze medalist at the 2019 European Games and placed fifth at the 2019 UWW World Championships. He was a two-time Michigan state champion for Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Six 2020 NWCA First Team All-Americans with notable backgrounds are Hunter Bolen, Aaron Brooks, Louie DePrez, Trent Hidlay, Taylor Venz, and Andrew Morgan. Bolen can score points in a variety of ways and is the defending Atlantic Coast Conference Champion. He was a three-time Virginia state champion for Christiansburg High School. Brooks was triumphant at the Big Ten Championships and was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Only a



Myles Amine
Michigan

sophomore, Brooks enjoyed a storybook prep career at North Hagerstown High School, winning four Maryland state titles, a Junior National Freestyle Championship crown, four National High School Championships titles, a Cadet World Championship, and he accumulated an overall record of 163-2. DePrez became Binghamton's second-ever EIWA Champion last year and is a methodical wrestler who is great on his feet and dominant in the advantage position. He put together a sensational prep career at Hilton High School, winning three New York state crowns, a Super 32 Challenge title, and he recorded an overall record of 255-30. Trent Hidlay placed second at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and was honored as the 2020 ACC Freshman of the Year. A former two-time Pennsylvania state champion, Trent won the 2019 World Team Trials and was a bronze medalist at the Junior World Championships. He is the younger brother of Wolfpack three time All-American Hayden Hidlay. Venz is a two-time All-American with a high percentage of bonus-point victories. He won two Minnesota state titles for Farmington High School and is a three-time Academic All-Big 10 honoree. Morgan was victorious at the Southern Conference Championships and is an entertaining grappler who is always looking to score points.

Anthony Montalvo, Nino Bonaccorsi, and Abe Assad were named NWCA Second Team All-Americans last year and are well-respected performers. Montalvo placed third at the Big 12 Championships and won two California state titles for national powerhouse Buchanan High School. Bonaccorsi earned a runner-up finish at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and was a two-time Pennsylvania state runner-up for Bethel Park High School. He has the ability to frustrate his opposition and capitalize on their mistakes. Assad, a former two-time Illinois state champion, is a sensational sophomore who excels on his feet with an

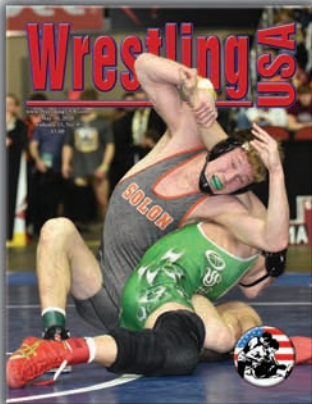
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