



5th Annual WUSA Magazine/USGWA 2003 All-American Wrestling Team



By Kent Bailo

Photos by Dave Myers

This year's crop of *Wrestling USA Magazine/USGWA* All-Americans number 46, hailing from 14 states. They accounted for 16 individual national championships, and produced several who placed in the TOP 8 at nationals many times. California leads the way with a whopping 14 All-Americans, followed by Hawaii with seven, Michigan and Texas with five each.

Leading the way are "CO-USGWA Wrestlers of the Year" Brandy Rosenbrock of Montrose, Michigan, and Laura DiCesare of Monroe, Michigan.

Rosenbrock dominated her weight class for four years, the first ever to win four consecutive USGWA titles. As a freshman, she bested Kristy Ferguson of Great Bend, Kansas, 10-9 in a nail biter for the 127 pound crown. In her sophomore campaign, Brandy took the title at 134 lbs. with a fall in the finals at 3:08 over Virginia's Carmen Hunter. Her junior year saw another pin in the finals, this time over California's Christie Ravera at the 3:59 mark. And to cap off her senior year she took an 8-5 decision over Vanessa Oswalt, an Ohio sophomore. Ironically, Oswalt handed Rosen-



USGWA Director Kent Bailo (right) talks with tournament official Dennis Harland (left) mat side during the tournament. Photo courtesy Dave Myers Photography, www.imagestandb.com

brock her only folkstyle loss of her high school career versus a female, when Oswalt won 12-5 in the Ohio USGWA finals. Brandy turned that around at the Great

Lakes Championships pinning Oswalt in the first period. Rosenbrock had a 29-9 record as the 125 pound starter on her high school team that was state runner-up in the Michigan Team Dual Finals. Brandy won 2 matches at Team State, one forfeit, and another come from behind win with a take-down at the buzzer that started her team on a run in the state semi-final win. Her record versus females during high school was 156-1. Brandy also placed 3rd at Nationals as an 8th grader and 8th as a 7th grader making her the first six-time placer.

Laura DiCesare did not win as many championships as Rosenbrock, Laura only got THREE, but she was a finalist in each of her six seasons in the USGWA Championships. As a 7th grader she was pinned in the finals by senior Mary Jensen of El Cajon, California. In the 8th grade, Laura dropped a 12-8 decision to Hawaii's Donell Bradley. Then in the 9th grade she got her first title by decisioning Jamie Eastham of Ohio 7-3. Her sophomore year saw her



Caylene Valdez, Honolulu, HI (Right) defeated Rachel Groft, Abbottstown, PA, (Left) in the High School 114lbs. finals match.

Na'Tasha Umemoto, Portland, OR (Top) pinned Jen Chu, Philadelphia, PA (Bottom) in the High School 122 lbs. Championship match.

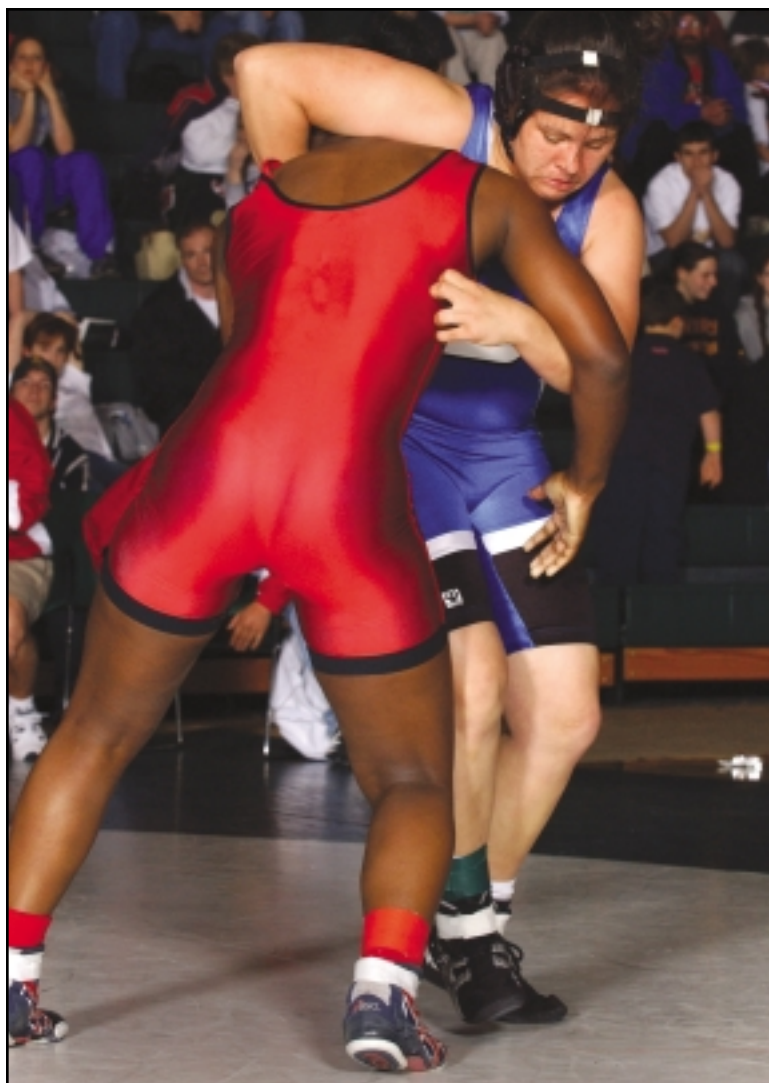


only loss as a high schooler, a 7-5 overtime loss to freshman Samantha Lang. Lang is now on a streak of three USGWA Nationals Championships heading into her senior year. As a junior, Laura won again, this time pinning Alicia Mena of Minnesota in the first period. And in her senior year, in dramatic fashion with a come-from-behind pin over Iowa's Lizz Sanders in the third period. Laura's high school record versus females stands at 31-1.

Others who have won multiple titles are Wendy Casey of New York, who strung together titles in her sophomore and junior year, before taking third in her senior season. Sara Fulp-Allen got two titles at 105 pounds.

Hawaii's Debbie Sakai and Caylene Valdez each wore the crown once, as did Californians Damaris Barrios and Madeleine Briones. Valdez added four Hawaii girls state championships to her resume in her senior year.

Who is the best wrestler never to win a USGWA National Championship out of this year's crop? Tie between Jen Chu of Philadelphia, PA and Ishpeming, Michigan's Hilary Lucarelli. Chu took two runner-up spots, Lucarelli three.



Murphree names head coach

Carl Murphree, coach at Vintage High School in Napa, California, was recently named the Head Women's Wrestling Coach at Missouri Valley College in Marshall. Murphree's Vintage High School team produced more USGWA All-Americans than any other high school in the country. Murphree's daughter, Emilee, is on the team at MVC.

Lassen starting women's program

Lassen College in Susanville, California, has announced that they are starting a Women's Collegiate Varsity wrestling team. There are now seven collegiate women's wrestling in the United States. They are: University of Minnesota-Morris, Cumberland College, Pacific University, Menlo College, Neosho Community College, Missouri Valley College, and Lassen College.

First USGWA Women-of-the-Year

Cindy Bailo was named the first USGWA "Woman of the Year". Many do not know Cindy Bailo, the wife of Kent Bailo. She is the support system that has allowed the USGWA to grow and flourish. Cindy runs the concessions at the USGWA Nationals every year. She is in the background doing the hard work, and getting no "glory" so to speak. She works tirelessly at USGWA headquarters (the Bailo living room, kitchen, dining room, and home office) folding, stuffing envelopes, and doing all of the behind the scenes things that deserve credit, but doesn't get much. She works her own full time job as a respiratory therapist in addition to caring for the household. Thanks for your inspiration and help. Your family, friends, the USGWA crew and referees, and girl wrestlers nationwide say, "Thanks". From your husband, who can only aspire to someday be as good of a human being as you. THANK YOU. 🙏

Madeleine Briones, San Leandro, CA (Blue Singlet) sets up to make her move against her USGWA Nationals High School finals opponent Othello Lucas, San Diego, CA. (Red Singlet). Briones pinned Lucas at 3:47 into the match.