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# Editorial

By Cody Bryant

**T**he Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri, shuffled in 95,492 wrestling fans that showcased the 2003 NCAA Wrestling Championships on March 20-22nd. The attendance record was set in 2000, as 96,944 fans filed into the Kiel Center in St. Louis. There were plenty of Oklahoma State fans to witness Oklahoma State's 31st National Championship in convincing fashion with 2 champions and a total of 7 All-Americans. Oklahoma State clinched the championship in the consolation semi-finals when at 157 lbs. Shane Roller, Oklahoma State, pinned Scott Owen, Northern Illinois, to get into the third place consolation match.

Oklahoma State was the only team to qualify all ten wrestlers. Cornell (8), Hofstra (8), Rutgers (4), Sacra Heart (4) and The Citadel (4) had the most ever qualifiers for their schools. The Championships began with six returning NCAA Champions: Johnny Thompson, Oklahoma State; Aaron Holker, Iowa State; Jared Lawrence, Minnesota; Luke Becker, Minnesota; Greg Jones, West Virginia; and Tommy Rowlands, Ohio State. Out of the 329 wrestlers entered, 50 were freshmen qualifiers. Nine wrestlers entered the tournament undefeated: Chris Fleeger, Purdue, 28-0 at 125 lbs.; Travis Lee, Cornell, 29-0 at 125 lbs.; Eric Larkin, Arizona State, 29-0 at 149 lbs.; Jake Percival, Ohio University, 20-0 at 149 lbs.; Scott Garren, North Carolina State, 17-0 at 157 lbs.; Matt Lackey, Illinois, 32-0 at 165 lbs.; Greg Jones, West Virginia, 28-0 at 174 lbs.; Jessman Smith, Iowa, 32-0 at 184 lbs. and Steve Mocco, Iowa, 32-0 at 285 lbs.

There were 23 seeded wrestlers that lost in the first round and no loss larger than when defending national champion Greg Jones, West Virginia, lost to Ralph Everett, Hofstra 3-2 TB. Jones beat Hunter Guenot, Bloomsburg and 6th seed Eric Hauan, Northern Iowa before losing to Rashad Evans, Michigan State, and not placing.

The 80 All-Americans came from the following states they call home; Pennsylvania (14), Ohio (6), Oklahoma (6), New York (5), Utah (5), California (4), Idaho (4), Iowa (4), New Jersey (4), Missouri (3), Michigan (2), Minnesota (2), Texas (2), Florida (2), Maryland (2), Montana (2), Washington (2), Wisconsin (2) and Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Tennessee each with one All-American.

Honor: Bobby Douglas, head coach of the Iowa State, may not of had a lot to cheer about as his Cyclones finished a disappointing 19th. But coach Douglas showed wrestling fans and his peers what a champion he truly is when his heavyweight Scott Coleman was injured by Iowa's Steve Mocco on an illegal hold. Coleman couldn't continue the match but instead of winning on disqualification Bobby Douglas stepped in and had his wrestler continue the match for one more second to prevent Mocco from losing. Thank you coach for being a man of integrity.

See complete results of the NCAA Division I, II, III, NAIA, NJCAA and NCWA starting on page 9. 🏆

## Championship Finals

125-Travis Lee, Cornell dec. Chris Fleeger, Purdue 6-4  
133-Johnny Thompson, Okla. St. dec. Ryan Lewis, Minn. 5-3  
141-Teyon Ware, Okla. dec. Dylan Long N. Iowa 6-4 OT  
149-Eric Larkin, Ariz. St. dec. Jared Lawrence, Minn. 10-8  
157-Ryan Bertin, Michigan. dec. Alex Tirapelle, Illinois 7-3  
165-Matt Lackey, Illinois dec. Troy Letters Lehigh 6-3  
174-Robbie Waller, Okla. dec. Carl Fronhofer, Pitt. 7-2  
184-Jake Rosholt, Okla. St. dec. Scott Barker, Missouri 13-5.  
197-Damion Hahn, Minnesota dec. Jon Trence, Lehigh 5-4  
275-Steve Mocco, Iowa dec. Kevin Hoy, Air Force 8-3

**Outstanding Wrestler - Eric Larkin, Arizona State**  
**Gorriarian Award - Jason Powell, Nebraska**

NCAA Division I Championship Finals. 149 lb. Eric Larkin, Arizona State, being driven to the mat by Jared Lawrence, Minnesota. Larkin decisioned Lawrence, 10-8. Photo by Randy Martin.

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