

# 2003 NCWA National Wrestling Championships

## Nevada-Reno Wins 2003 NCWA Championship

Photos by Sam White

**T**he University of Nevada at Reno recorded one champion and eight more All-American winners en route to winning the National Collegiate Wrestling Association National Championship with 154.5 points on Saturday at Lafayette College.

Finishing second was Apprentice School with 138 points, while two-time champion Grand Valley State was third with 130 points.

This is the first national title for the Wolfpack who are in their second season as members of the NCWA.

"I really think yesterday we were at a crossroads with lots of little things distracting us as a team," said Nevada-Reno coach Kevin Carter. "For those seven guys to be in the consolation rounds and help find a way to come back from being down 13 points is exceptional." The Wolfpack took home two-second places, a third, three-fifth places and two sixth place finishes.

The Most Outstanding Wrestler Award went to Baptist Bible's Jason Meister, while

Coach of the Year Award went to Central Florida's Johnny Rouse.

### In the championship matches

Nevada-Reno's Chris Hammer scored early and often in taking a 19-4 decision over freshman Adam Bessinger from Apprentice School at 125 pounds. He clinched the match with a three-point near fall with 45 seconds left in the third period.

At 133 there were two undefeated seniors in their last collegiate match, senior Jason Meister jumped out to an early 4-0 lead over last year's champion Camillo Gonzalez of Nevada-Reno. A two-point takedown put Meister ahead 12-7 early in the third period. Meister goes onto a 17-7 victory to end his season 32-0.

In the 141 pound championship, Douglas College's Sargon Atlabachew scored a two-point takedown with about 90 seconds left and then Cody Crawford of Southern Colorado hit a reversal with 15 seconds left that forced overtime at 7-all.

In the overtime, neither man got an advantage. In the 30-second rideout peri-

### 2003 NCWA Team Scores

1. Univ Nevada Reno/W	154.5
2. Apprentice School/NE	138
3. Grand Valley State/NC	130
4. Un Central Florida/SE	111
5. Pensacola Christian/SE	88.5
6. Douglas College/NW	75.5
7. Auburn Univ/SE	53.5
8. Baptist Bible/NE	52
9. Kansas State/SW	51.5
10. Belmont Abbey/SE	49
11. Un So Colorado/SW	48.5
12. Un New Hampshire/NE	41.5
13. Univ of Delaware/NE	30.5
14. Miami University/NC	28
15. Northampton CC/NE	27.5
16. Air Force Prep/SW	27
17. Rowan University/NE	26.5
18. Bucknell Univ/NE	17.5
19. Marion Military/SE	17
20. Virginia Tech/NE	17

od, Atlabachew drew the bottom but did not manage the escape as Crawford won 8-7.

For 149 pounds, Steve McGettrick of Pensacola Christian College scored two-point takedowns in each period and with the riding time advantage and won the title with a 7-0 decision over Ron Vecchione of Apprentice School.

At 157 pounds, Dean DeHamel of Douglas College scored the first pinfall victory in the finals with a win over Jeff Ruberg of Central Florida in 2:16.

Raun Jesse scored an escape with 25 seconds left in the 165-pound championship match to take a 4-3 decision over Tim Sorrentino of Rowan University. That win made him the first national champion from University of Central Florida.

Freshman Brian Thomas of Grand Valley State hit a three-point near fall midway in the second period and held on for a 10-5 victory at 174 pounds over Mike Collins from University of Delaware.

In the 184 pound final, last year's Most Outstanding Wrestler Travis Cross of Douglas College hit a two-point takedown



Nevada-Reno exploded into the NCWA scene.



Jeff Ruberg of Central Florida maneuvers for a one on one near leg trip for back points against Dean DeHamel of Douglas in their 157 pound finals match. But the move backfired and put Ruberg on his back for a fall. DeJammel dispatched Ruberg in 2:16 for the only pin of the 2003 finals.



Rick Bolhuis of Grand Valley State works a near side cradle on defending National Champion Travis Cross of Douglas College in their 184 pound bout. Cross proved too much for the junior Bolhuis as Cross picked up his second National title by a score of 10-7.

and took a riding time advantage en route to a 11-7 victory over Rick Bolhuis of Grand Valley State. Bolhuis was last year's runner-up at 184, while Cross won the 174 pound title.

In the 197 pound final, Benjamin Bieber recorded a reversal early in the third period and took advantage to defeat Ryan Mattingly of Douglas College.

For 235 pounds, Central Florida's Tom Lawlor recorded an escape in the first period while Nevada-Reno's Andre Moore took one midway through the third period to force overtime. In the overtime with 13 seconds left, Lawlor recorded a two-point takedown forcing Moore to the end of the

mat for a 3-1 victory and the second individual national champion for Central Florida.

In the heavyweight match, Apprentice School's Daryl Stackhouse scored a two-point takedown early in the first period and Kansas State's David Karnowski tied the score with an escape early in the third period. With the riding time advantage, Karnowski took the 3-2 decision.

**Team Scores continued:** West Texas AM (WTAM) 16; Bryant (Bryt) 12.5; Utah 11; Rensselaer Polytech (RPI) 11; Catawba (Cat) 10.5; Santa Fe CC (Santa) 9; UC San Diego (UCSD) 7.5; Florida (Fla) 7.5; Lafayette

(Laf) 6.5; New Orleans (UNO) 6.5; Ga. Tech (GT) 6.5; Valley Forge MC (VFMC) 6; Southern Va. (SVU) 5.5; Longwood (Long) 4.5; Radford (Rad) 4; Adirondack CC (ACC) 3.5; Colorado (Colo) 3.5; San Jose St. (SJS) 3.5; Cincinnati 3; Tulane (Tul) 2.5; Yale 1.5; Alabama (Bama) 0; Middle Tenn (MTSU) 0; Arizona (Zona) 0; Wright St (WSU) 0; South Fla. (USF) 0; Toledo (Tol) 0.

**125 Finals:** Chris Hammer (UNR) tech fall Adam Bessinger (App) 19-4

**Semifinals:** Bessinger (App) p. Erik Ortega (USCo) 1:01; Hammer (UNR) tech fall Kurt Phelps (GVSU) 15-0.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Roger

## NCWA 2003 Individual All-Americans

### Individual Places:

#### Weight 125:

1. Chris Hammer (UNR)
2. Adam Bessinger (Appr)
3. David Miller (UCF)
4. Kurt Phelps (GVSU)
5. Roger Harper (UNR)-NS
6. Erik Ortega (USCo)

#### Weight 133:

1. Jason Meister (BBC)
2. Camilo Gonzales (UNR)
3. Vince Gervais (GVSU)
4. Michael Gruber (USAAF)
5. Beau Tillman (KSU)
6. Mikey Valdeperas (Appr)

#### Weight 141:

1. Cody Crawford (USCo)
2. Sargon Atlabachew (Doug)
3. Andy King (Appr)
4. Ben Katshor (PCC)
5. Gabe Rukkala (UNR)
6. Scott Couture (UNH)

#### Weight 149:

1. Steve McGettrick (PCC)
2. Ron Vecchione (Appr)
3. Alden Lee (UNR)
4. Justin Hartrum (Buck)
5. Jason Yolton (USCo)
6. Brad White (Miami)

#### Weight 157:

1. Dean DeHamel (Doug)
2. Jeff Ruberg (UCF)
3. Rudy Leming (Appr)
4. Andrew Emmitt (GVSU)-NS
5. Anthony Joe Perez (WTAM)
6. Scott Szczepanek (GVSU)

#### Weight 165:

1. Raun Jessee (UCF)
2. Tim Sorrentino (Rown)

#### 3. Jovon Butler (Appr)

4. Matt Stepanovich (GVSU)
5. Steven Kern (KSU)
6. Anthony Sharron (UNR)

#### Weight 174:

1. Brian Thomas (GVSU)
2. Mike Collins (Dela)
3. Daniel Black (BAC)
4. David Ellis (Miami)
5. Danny Curtis (UNR)
6. Brent Smith (MMI)

#### Weight 184:

1. Travis Cross (Doug)
2. Rick Bolhuis (GVSU)
3. Jason Ruberg (UCF)
4. Todd Hauser (UCF)-NS
5. Adam Hicks (PCC)
6. Jose Ruano (UNR)

#### Weight 197:

1. Benjamin Bieber (PCC)
2. Ryan Mattingly (Doug)
3. Eric Stuman (Aubr)
4. Ben Stum (BBC)
5. Jon Stolle (GVSU)
6. Peter Bozynski (USAAF)

#### Weight 235:

1. Tom Lawlor (UCF)
2. Andre Moore (UNR)
3. Aaron Tutwiler (Aubr)
4. Larry France (Appr)
5. Joe Belleville (GVSU)
6. Aaron Lambert (Cataw)

#### Weight 285:

1. David Karnowski (KSU)
2. Daryl Stackhouse (Appr)
3. Ronald Richard (BAC)
4. Parker Capwell (Brynt)
5. Deniz Akmese (UNR)
6. Craig Penzien (GVSU)

Defending 2002 NCWA National Champion Camilo Gonzales of Nevada/Reno is stopped short by Jason Meister of Baptist Bible in Gonzales attempt at a head lock. Gonzales was upset by the 4x All-American Meister in their 133 lb. finals bout 18-7.

Harper (UNR) dec. Santiago Sisneros (USCo) 10-4; Robert Cerunda (Santa) dec. Brandon Harcum (Rad) 3-1; Maurice Eazel (PCC) maj. dec. Kenny Reyes (NCC) 17-6; David Miller (UCF) dec. Josh Linder (PCC) 10-4.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Harper dec. Cerunda 4-2; Miller dec. Eazel 7-2.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Phelps dec. Harper 5-2; Miller dec. Ortega 6-1.

**Third Place:** Miller p. Phelps 4:30

**Fifth Place:** Harper dec. Ortega 2-0

**133 Finals:** Jason Meister (BBC) maj. dec. Camillo Gonzalez 18-7

**Semifinals:** Gonzales (UNR) tech fall Michael Gruber (USAAF) 28-10; Meister (BBC) dec. Vince Gervais (GVSU) 5-3.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Beau Tillman (KSU) wbf Esamu Cooper (USAAF); Casey Chapman (Aubr) p. Eddie Soto (USCo) 1:24; Wes Johnson (Aubr) dec. Lance Nicoll (Tulane) 4-2; Mikey Valldeperas (App) maj. dec. Joshua Weitzel (PCC) 16-4.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Valldeperas p. Johnson 2:27; Tillman p. Chapman 4:11.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Gervais dec. Tillman 9-7; Gruber dec. Valldeperas 9-4.

**Third Place:** Gervais dec. Gruber 6-1

**Fifth Place:** Tillman dec. Valldeperas 4-0

**141 Finals:** Cody Crawford (USCo) dec. Sargon Atlabachew (Doug) 8-7, TB

**Semifinals:** Sargon Atlabachew (Doug) dec. Andy King (App) 3-2; Cody Crawford (USCo) dec. Ben Katshor (PCC) 8-7.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Ryan Parsons (KSU) p. Kurt Munz (RPI) 4:10; Scott Couture (UNH) maj. dec. Ben Millar (Fla) 13-4; Charles DeBlieux (UNO) dec. Jake Jones (PCC) 8-3; Gabe Rukkala (UNR) dec. Jeremiah Lamphere (Aub) 8-5.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Couture dec. Parsons 8-2; Rukkala dec. DeBlieux 5-2.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Katshor p. Couture 4:15; King dec. Rukkala 5-3.

**Third Place:** King dec. Katshor 5-1

**Fifth Place:** Rukkala p. Couture 2:55

**149 Finals:** Steve McGettrick (PCC) dec. Ron Vecchione (App) 7-0

**Semifinals:** Steve McGettrick (PCC) maj. dec. Brad White (Miami) 13-0; Ron Vecchione (App) dec. Justin Hartrum



(Buck) 1-1, TB

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Jason Yolton (USCo) p. Joe Maurello (USCo) 3:56; David Rodgers (VT) dec. Reuben Russell (App) 3-1; Travis Maughan (UCF) p. Tom Lawhorn (Dela) 3:25; Alden Lee (UNR) maj. dec. Bob Kibler (Rowan) 17-4.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Lee dec. Maughan 9-8; Yolton dec. Rodgers 7-2.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Lee dec. White 6-5; Hartrum dec. Yolton 11-2

**Third Place:** Lee dec. Hartrum 5-4

**Fifth Place:** Yolton dec. White 3-2

**157 Finals:** Dean DeHamel (Doug) p. Jeff

Ruberg (UCF) 2:16

**Semifinals:** Dean DeHamel (Doug) maj. dec. Rudy Leming (App) 13-5; Jeff Ruberg (UCF) tech fall Joe Perez (WTAM) 15-0.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Josh Tomlin (App) dec. Ryan Holder (UNH) 10-7; Andrew Emmitt (GVSU) p. Joe Spiegel (NCC) 6:01; Scott Szczepanek (GVSU) maj. dec. Steven Ward (NCC) 11-1; Jesse Dixon (Del) tech fall Frandoo Jean (PCC) 23-6.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Szczepanek dec. Dixon 5-4; Emmitt p. Tomlin 3:54.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Emmitt p. Perez 3:54; Leming dec. Szczepanek 9-5.

**Third Place:** Leming p. Emmitt 2:52



Sargon Atlabachew of Douglas College, releases Cody Crawford of Southern Colorado in an attempt to re-grip a front headlock during their 141 finals bout. Crawford eventually prevailed in the 7-7 double over-time match by escaping with 12 seconds on the clock to emerge as Southern's only 2003 National Champion.



**Fifth Place:** Perez dec. Szczepanek 10-7  
**165 Finals:** Raun Jessee (UCF) dec. Tim Sorrentino (Rowan) 4-3

**Semifinals:** Raun Jessee (UCF) dec. Mat Stepanovich (GVSU) 3-1; Tim Sorrentino (Rowan) dec. Steven Kern (KSU) 10-3.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Andy Toulouse (UNR) dec. Adam George 3-2; Jovon Butler (App) maj. dec. Skip Burns (UNH) 14-2; Jesse Hale (GVSU) dec. Chad Klingensmith (Colo) 5-0; Anthony Sharron (UNR) wbf Richard Park (VT).

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Butler dec. Toulouse 2-1; Sharron p. Hale 1:55.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Butler dec. Kern 9-3; Stepanovich dec. Sharron 6-4.

**Third Place:** Butler dec. Stepanovich 9-7

**Fifth Place:** Kern dec. Sharron 6-2

**174 Finals:** Brian Thomas (GVSU) dec. Mike Collins (Del) 10-5

**Semifinals:** Mike Collins (Del) dec. David Ellis (Miami) 15-10; Brian Thomas (GVSU) p. Daniel Black (BAC) 3:17.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Ryan Schantz (Colo) dec. Jayson Patino (UCF) 5-3; Brent Smith (MMI) p. Kyle Spangler (VT) 3:47; Danny Curtis (UNR) p. Jake Johnston

(App) 1:29; Kyle Kleinschmidt (UCSD) maj. dec. Joel Porcher (PCC) 13-2.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Smith p. Schantz 2:33; Curtis dec. Kleinschmidt 1-0.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Ellis dec. Curtis 12-6; Black dec. Smith 11-6.

**Third Place:** Black dec. Ellis 3-1

**Fifth Place:** Curtis dec. Smith 10-6

**184 Finals:** Travis Cross (Doug) dec. Rick Bolhuis (GVSU) 10-7

**Semifinals:** Travis Cross (Doug) p. Todd Hauser (UCF) 3:37; Rick Bolhuis (GVSU) maj. dec. Jason Ruberg 10-0.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Rob Aikens (GVSU) p. Brett Seastedt (UNH) 4:36; Jose Ruano (UNR) dec. Danny Micka (GT) 9-7; Adam Hicks (PCC) dec. Eric Bendle (Santa) 3-1; Zane Harshman (Long) p. Kevin McGill (Yale) 1:24.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Ruano dec. Aikens 7-4; Hicks def. Harshman flagrant misconduct.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Ruberg p. Ruano 2:45; Hauser maj. dec. Hicks 12-2.

**Third Place:** Ruberg def. Hauser default

**Fifth Place:** Hicks dec. Ruano 6-1

Freshman David Ellis of Miami University arm drags Daniel Black of Belmont Abbey in a tough battle for the third spot at 174 pounds. Black prevailed in the 3-1 decision to improve his stature as a 2x All-American.

**197 Finals:** Ben Bieber (PCC) dec. Ryan Mattingly (Doug) 9-5

**Semifinals:** Ben Bieber (PCC) dec. Ben Stum (BBC) 13-11; Ryan Mattingly (Doug) dec. Jon Stolle (GVSU) 4-3.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Buckley Acosta (UNR) p. Eric Esty (UNH) 2:10; Eric Stuman (Aubr) p. Robert Santini (NCC) 5:47; Peter Bozynski (USAAF) dec. James Breaux (MMI) 3-2; Michael Dubbs (Buck) dec. Mike Hansen (App) 12-5.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Stuman dec. Acosta 7-3; Bozynski dec. Dubbs 10-5.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Stuman dec. Stolle 6-5 TB; Stum p. Bozynski 1:32.

**Third Place:** Stuman dec. Stum 7-5

**Fifth Place:** Stolle dec. Bozynski 6-3

**235 Finals:** Tom Lawlor (UCF) def. Andre Moore (UNR) 3-1, OT

**Semifinals:** Andre Moore (UNR) def. Aaron Lambert (Cata) default; Tom Lawlor (UCF) dec. Joe Belleville (GVSU) 7-3.

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Larry France (App) dec. Jon Pappas (RPI) 5-4; Jacob Eisenbise (KSU) p. John Condosta (UNH) 1:59; Aaron Tutwiler (Aubr) dec. Josh Mateer (BBC) 5-1; Carlos Ceja (UNR) p. Adam Schaller (GVSU) 2:10.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** France def. Eisenbise 6-5; Tutwiler p. Ceja :55.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Tutwiler def. Lambert default; France dec. Belleville 5-3.

**Third Place:** Tutwiler p. France 5:00

**Fifth Place:** Beleville def. Lambert inj. def.

**285 Finals:** David Karnowski (KSU) dec. Daryl Stackhouse (App) 3-2

**Semifinals:** David Karnowski (KSU) dec. Parker Capwell (Bryt) 2-1; Daryl Stackhouse (App) dec. Ron Richard (BAC) 6-5, TB

**Fourth Round Consolations:** Gaison Ganiko (UNR) wbf Rhett Moorehouse (Utah); Deniz Akimese (UNR) p. Jason Musial (UCF) 5:46; Craig Penzien (GVSU) dec. Nicholas Dixon (Aubr) 3-0; Ben Vaught (BBC) dec. B.J. Pruitt (App) 1-0.

**Consolation Quarterfinals:** Akimese p. Ganiko :46; Penzien dec. Vaught 6-5.

**Consolation Semifinals:** Richard p. Akimese 2:51; Capwell dec. Penzien 4-2.

**Third Place:** Richard p. Capwell 1:07

**Fifth Place:** Akimese dec. Penzien 7-0. 🏆



Four time All-American Jason Meister of Baptist Bible College counters a switch attempt by defending 133 pound National Champion, Camilo Gonzales of Nevada/Reno. Meister upset Gonzales with a lopsided 18-7 victory to be named the tournament Outstanding Wrestler.