

Editorial

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On March 17-19th the Savvis Center in Saint Louis, Missouri, played host for the third time in six years to the NCAA 2005 Division I Wrestling Championships. 95,459 wrestling fans watched another three days of great championship wrestling, only out numbered by the 2000 attendance of 96,994 (3 of the 5 top attendance records are from Saint Louis). Don't be surprised if the Division I Wrestling Championships comes back to Saint Louis in 2008, 2009 and 2010. There has been talk for sometime now that the NCAA would like to make Saint Louis a permanent location for the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships. Personally I have mixed emotions about making Saint Louis a permanent location. The main positive is Saint Louis is centrally located in the United States and that makes it convenient for the overwhelming Oklahoma and Iowa fans. The main negative is that other parts of the United States don't get exposed to these great wrestling championships. We could easily pick up new wrestling fans in other parts of the country if given the opportunity. I believe that true wrestling fans will go to these wrestling championships regardless of where they are held. One test may be when the championships are held at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Michigan, in 2007. However, Michigan, Michigan State and Central Michigan all placed in the top twenty this year. Also 8 of the 80 All-Americans graduated from high school in Michigan and this state is surrounded by some very solid wrestling states like Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. Bordering Ohio and to the east is Pennsylvania which consistently produces the most All-Americans.

Top Ten	
1. Oklahoma St.	153.0
2. Michigan	83.0
3. Oklahoma	77.5
4. Cornell	76.5
5. Minnesota	72.5
6. Illinois	70.5
7. Iowa	66.0
8. Lehigh	60.0
9. Indiana	58.5
10. Iowa State	57.0

Oklahoma State dominated the 75th NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships with their 3 consecutive team titles and their 33rd National Championship in their school's storied history with seven All-Americans including a record tying 5 champions. The race for second place was clinched by Michigan after Ryan Bertin (Michigan) claimed the 157 lb. championship match with an 8-5 decision over Joe Johnston (Iowa). Oklahoma and Cornell maintained their third and fourth spots respectively going into the finals.

The Championships began with nine returning NCAA Champions: Travis Lee (2003), Cornell; Teyon Ware (2003), Oklahoma; Matt Gentry, Stanford; Ryan Bertin (2003), Michigan; Troy Letters, Lehigh; Chris Pendleton, Oklahoma State; Greg Jones, West Virginia; Jake Rosholt (2003), Oklahoma State; and Steve Mocco (2003), Oklahoma State. Four wrestlers entered the tournament undefeated: Nate Gallick, Iowa State 25-0 at 141 lbs.; Troy Letters, Lehigh 22-0 at 165 lbs.; Greg Jones, West Virginia 20-0 at 184 lbs., and Steve Mocco, Oklahoma State 32-0 at 285 lbs.

This year produced another solid crop of freshmen qualifiers with 56 out of the 330 wrestlers entered. Ten became All-Americans with Mark Perry, Iowa, leading the way with his 2nd place finish at 165 lbs. There were seven sets of brothers in the tournament, including three sets of twins: Kelly (174) and Ryan (184) Flaherty of Wisconsin; Josh (133) and Michael (141) Keefe of Tennessee-Chattanooga; Tom (133-Wisconsin) and Danny (157-Wyoming) Clum; Nick (174-Michigan) and Andy (174-Rutgers) Roy; Nick (125) and Andy (141) Simmons of Michigan State; Trent (157) and Travis (165) Paulson of Iowa State; and Josh (141) and Ryan (149) Churella of Michigan (the Flaherty, Keefe and Paulson brothers are twins).

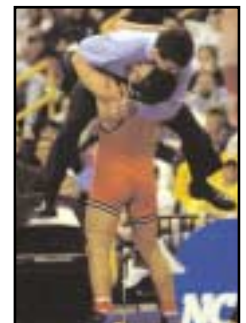
The 80 All-Americans came from the following states that they call home: Pennsylvania (13), Michigan (8), Ohio (5), California (4), Illinois (4), Iowa (4), New Jersey (4), Oklahoma (4), Wisconsin (4), Kansas (3), Minnesota (3), New York (3), Virginia (3), Arizona (2), Idaho (2), Indiana (2), Missouri (2), South Dakota (2), Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Germany each with one All-American.

See complete results of the NCAA Division I, II, III, NAIA and NJCAA starting on page 6.

Championship Finals

125-Joe Dubuque, Indiana dec. Kyle Ott, Illinois 2-0
133-Travis Lee, Cornell dec. Shawn Bunch, Edinboro 6-3
141-Teyon Ware, Oklahoma dec. Nate Gallick, Iowa St. 3-2
149-Zack Esposito, Okla. St. dec. Phillip Simpson, Army 5-2
157-Ryan Bertin, Michigan dec. Joe Johnston, Iowa 8-5
165-Johny Hendricks, Okla. St. dec. Mark Perry, Iowa 5-2
174-Chris Pendleton, Okla. St. dec. Ben Askren, MO 10-5
184-Greg Jones, West VA dec. Tyler Baier, Cornell 5-3
197-Jake Rosholt, Okla. St. dec. Sean Stender, No. Iowa 5-4
275-Steve Mocco, Okla. St. dec. Cole Konrad, Minnesota 3-1 sv
Outstanding Wrestler - Greg Jones, West Virginia

NCAA Division I Championships - Oklahoma State's Johny Hendricks celebrates his individual crown at 165 pounds with coach John Smith. Hendricks defeated Mark Perry of Iowa, 5-2 and the Cowboys ran away with the team title with 153 total points. Photo by G. Wyatt Schultz.



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