

# DIVISION I NCAA

## Cowboys Wrangle 33rd NCAA Division I Title

Photos by G. Wyatt Schultz

Oklahoma State concluded the NCAA Wrestling Championships at the Savvis Center in St. Louis by crowning five champions and finishing with a school record 153 points. The championships is the 33rd NCAA wrestling title for the Cowboys and their first three-peat since Art Griffith led Oklahoma A&M to three straight titles from 1954-56.

Oklahoma State tied an NCAA record by crowning five individual champions. Iowa did it twice with the last time coming during the 1997 championships.

Michigan finished in second-place with 83 points. The 70 point margin also set a school record for largest winning margin and is the second highest margin of victory in NCAA history.

"This team gave the extra effort in every way," head coach John Smith said.

"In every tough-tough situation, we excelled. I can name a number of situations throughout this tournament that made the difference for us putting the points that we put up, putting five guys in the finals and winning five championships."

"We had our very best performance of the season at the Big 12 and NCAA Championships. As a team and as a unit, there is no question that our best effort came at the end."

Zack Esposito was the first wrestler to take the mat for the Cowboys in the finals against Army's second-seeded Phillip Simpson. Esposito recorded the first takedown of the match to take the early lead. Esposito added a reversal early in the third period and won his first national championship with a 5-2 victory over Simpson.

"I knew he was good on top," Esposito said. "I knew when I went underneath I

### 2005 NCAA Division I Team Scores

Oklahoma State	153
Michigan	83
Oklahoma	77.5
Cornell	76.5
Minnesota	72.5
Illinois	70.5
Iowa	66
Lehigh	60
Indiana	58.5
Iowa State	57
Missouri	43
Central Michigan	41
Arizona State	39.5
Northwestern	39
Northern Iowa	38.5
Wisconsin	38.5
Hofstra	36.5
West Virginia	34



Joe Dubuque  
125-Illinois



Travis Lee  
133-Cornell



Teyon Ware  
141-Oklahoma



Zack Esposito  
149-Oklahoma State



Ryan Bertin  
157-Michigan



Johnny Hendricks  
165-Oklahoma State



Chris Pendleton  
174-Oklahoma State



Greg Jones  
184-West Virginia



Jake Rosholt  
197-Oklahoma State



Steve Mocco  
285-Oklahoma State