

2006 NCAA Division III College Preview

By Dan Fickel, National Editor



The 2006 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships will be hosted by the College of New Jersey on March 3-4 in Trenton, New Jersey.

Augsburg College, coached by Jeff Swenson, is the defending team champion. The Auggies are highlighted by NCAA runner-up Ryan Valek (165) and All-Americans Jared Evans (149), Brad Tupa (184), and Justin Sorensen (197). Other possible starters include Seth Flodeen (125), Ben Moss (133), Josh Hansen (141), Jeremy Anderson (157), Robbie Gotreau (174), George Lynaugh (174), Wally O'Connor (197), and Andrew Neumann (285).

Jim Miller's perennially strong Wartburg squad will look to regain the NCAA crown that eluded them last year after two consec-

utive championships. The Knights are led by two-time NCAA champions Dustin Hinschberger (141) and Akeem Carter (184), two-time NCAA runner-up Blake Gillis (285), and All-Americans Tyler Hubbard (125), Jacob Naig (149), and Scott Kauffman (174). Other key individuals are Zach McKray (133), Dustin Bliven (165), and Ryan Phillips (197).

Nate Skaar's impressive Wisconsin-LaCrosse Eagles, Dave Mitchell's rugged Luther Norse, Don Murray's always-tough Brockport State Golden Eagles, Dave Icenhower's traditionally strong College of New Jersey Lions, and Brad Bruhn's talented Cortland State Red Dragons have exceptional line-ups and will challenge for top-3 status at the national tournament. The Eagles are headed by two-time NCAA

NCAA Division III College Preview Team Rankings

1. Wartburg (IA)
2. Augsburg (MN)
3. Wisconsin-LaCrosse
4. Brockport State (NY)
5. Luther (IA)
6. College of New Jersey
7. Cortland State (NY)
8. Loras (IA)
9. Simpson (IA)
10. Elmhurst (IL)
11. Johnson & Wales (RI)
12. Wisconsin-Stevens Point
13. St. John's (MN)
14. Ithaca (NY)
15. Olivet (MI)
16. Baldwin-Wallace (OH)
17. Springfield (MA)
18. John Carroll (OH)
19. Lycoming (PA)
20. Delaware Valley (PA)
21. Buena Vista (IA)
22. Ohio Northern
23. Montclair State (NJ)
24. Augustana (IL)
25. Cornell (IA)
26. York (PA)
27. Manchester (IN)
28. Thiel (PA)
29. McDaniel (MD)
30. Dubuque (IA)

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champion Ryan Allen (285) and All-Americans Jordan Kolinski (133), Mike Rohowetz (141), Jake Larsen (149), Josh Chelf (174), Jason Lulloff (184), and Jim Swanson (197). The Norse are highlighted by NCAA champion Matt Pyle (149) and All-American Mike Lopez (133). The Golden Eagles welcome back NCAA run-

ner-up Tony D'Ambra (133) and All-Americans Shaheim Bradshaw (157), Willie Weiss (197), and Pat Bennett (285). The Lions will look for leadership from All-Americans Brian Dempsey (125) and Joe Galante (157) and NCAA qualifiers Jeff Harrington (174) and Keith Bjorhus (285). The Red Dragons are led by All-American Stephon Sair (174) and 2005 New York High School State Champion Paul LeBlanc (141).

Other teams to watch include Randy Steward's Loras Duhawks, Ron Peterson's Simpson Storm, Steve Marianetti's Elmhurst Blue Jays, Lonnie Morris' Johnson & Wales Wildcats, Johnny Johnson's Wisconsin-Stevens Point Pointers, Brandon Novak's St. John's Johnnies, Marty Nichols' Ithaca Bombers, Todd Hibbs' Olivet Comets, Rich Fleming's Baldwin-Wallace Yellow Jackets, Kerry Volkmann's John Carroll Blue Streaks, and Darryl Arroyo's Springfield Pride.

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