

2005 ASICS/Vaughan Junior National Wrestling Championships

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Photos by Wyatt Schultz



Seven wrestlers won double titles, claiming gold medals in both freestyle and Greco-Roman at the 35th annual ASICS/Vaughan Junior National Wrestling Championships, July 23-30.

The Fargodome, on the campus of North Dakota State University, hosted the meet alongside the 21st annual Cadet National Championships for the tenth straight year. Up to 4,500 wrestlers from 49 different states competed in the event, spread over 20 mats.

The ASICS/Vaughan Junior National Wrestling Championships featured wrestlers in grades 9-12 who were born September 1, 1985 or later. The ASICS/Vaughan Cadet National Championships include wrestlers born in 1989 or 1990. These age-grouped events are considered the most prestigious wrestling events in the nation and have helped develop numerous athletes who have gone on to win World, NCAA, and Olympic medals for the United States.

Claiming double titles were Boris Novachkov (98) of California, Franklin Gomez (119) of Puerto Rico, Adam Frey (130) of Pennsylvania, Brent Metcalf (145) of Michigan, David Craig (171) of Florida, Louis Caputo (189) of Missouri, and Robbie Smith (215) of California.

Novachkov won the freestyle title with an exciting, high-scoring 9-7 match over Jake Quinton of Pennsylvania. It was a rematch of the Greco-Roman finals, won by Novachkov, 12-7. Novachkov competes with an entertaining style and possesses great balance and creativity in scoring points from seemingly any angle or direction. A 2004 Cadet National freestyle champion and 2002-03 Bulgaria Cadet National freestyle champion, Novachkov will enter his junior year at Fremont High School. Quinton will be a junior at Plum High School and was a two-time Cadet National Greco-Roman runner-up.

Gomez became the first-ever double champion from Puerto Rico, defeating New Jersey's Ross Gitomer in the freestyle finals, 8-0. Gomez attended Brandon High School in Florida for two years and claimed the Greco-Roman title with an impressive 11-0 technical fall over FILA Junior National champion Joey Martin of Connecticut in 1:20. An athletic, rangy indi-

vidual with outstanding reach and leverage, Gomez won a high school state championship and will continue his wrestling career at Michigan State University under Head Coach Tom Minkel. Gitomer seized a National Prep Championships title for powerful Blair Academy and has signed on with Head Coach Lenny Bernstien at the University of Virginia. Martin will be a senior at Simsbury High School and is a three-time high school state champion.

Frey won a hard-fought 6-4 match against multi-talented Jordan Frishkorn of Virginia in the freestyle finals. An electrifying performer with a wide range of spectacular techniques, Frey captured two National Prep Championships titles for Blair Academy and will wrestle for Head Coach Rob Koll at Cornell University. He won a very close match in the Greco-Roman finals over FILA Junior National champion Eli Hutchison of Alaska, 9-8. Frishkorn will enter his senior year at well-respected Great Bridge High School and is a two-time high school state champion. Hutchison has secured two high school state championships and will be a senior at Skyview High School.

Metcalf tied the national record for Junior National Championships with six and was honored as the Most Outstanding Wrestler in both freestyle and Greco-Roman. He tied the national record set by Sean Hage of Georgia. Metcalf was a Junior National double champion after his sophomore year in 2003, his junior year in 2004, and his senior year in 2005. He capped off an amazing Junior National career with a stunning fall in the freestyle finals over Matt Dragon of Pennsylvania in 4:59. A four-time high school state champion with an unbelievable overall high school win-loss record of 228-0 with 180 falls, Metcalf scored an 11-0 technical fall in 2:17 over Brandon Sitch of Washington in the Greco-Roman finals. Metcalf is a multi-dimensional, dynamic wrestler who showcases a non-stop, electrifying style. He will continue his wrestling career at Virginia Tech and compete for Head Coach Tom Brands. Dragon won a Pennsylvania state title while in high school and will attend the University of Pennsylvania. Sitch has captured three high school state championships and will be a senior at Kelso High School.

JUNIOR NATIONAL FREESTYLE TOP 10 TEAM SCORES

		(placers and points)	
1.	Pennsylvania	(10)	50
2.	Iowa	(11)	46
3T.	California (8)		38
3T.	Minnesota (9)		38
5.	Missouri	(7)	34
6T.	New Jersey (8)		33
6T.	Ohio	(8)	33
8.	Florida	(5)	32
9.	Idaho	(4)	25
10.	Oklahoma (5)		24

JUNIOR NATIONAL GRECO-ROMAN TOP 10 TEAM SCORES

		(placers and points)	
1.	Pennsylvania	(10)	56
2.	Florida	(9)	50
3T.	California (7)		42
3T.	Oregon	(10)	42
5.	Minnesota (10)		34
6.	New York (7)		30
7T.	Idaho	(4)	26
7T.	Illinois	(7)	26
9T.	Missouri	(5)	25
9T.	Washington(5)		25

Craig won the freestyle title with a 4-2 victory over Michael Moore of Missouri. In the Greco-Roman finals, Craig defeated state high school champion Jeff James of Oklahoma, 3-1. A multi-sport star with great athleticism, Craig has won three high school state crowns and will enter his senior year at Brandon High School. He is extremely poised and confident and utilizes a series of precision-like techniques. Moore, a high school state champion, is enormously strong and powerful and will wrestle at Cornell University. James moves well on his feet and will be a senior at nationally renowned El Reno High School.

In an all-Missouri freestyle final, Caputo registered a 4-0 win over Taylor Moore of Missouri. A three-time high school state champion, Caputo was in control throughout the match in the Greco-Roman finals, defeating Trevor Perry of Michigan, 3-0. Caputo is a fine competitor who knows