

WRESTLING USA MAGAZINE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Cody Bryant, Managing Editor

It's hard to believe that the college and high school seasons are right around the corner. We just had the first set of our high school senior ranking and the pre-season top 200 college wrestlers in our October 1st issue. Now we are following up with our high school junior ranking and one of the most in-depth looks at the NCAA Division I Pre-Season Forecast from our National Editor, Dan Fickel.

This will be Dan's twenty-third year of presenting the NCAA Division I Pre-Season Forecast and come March 18-20, 2010 in the Corn Husker state of Nebraska (Omaha) it should be as exciting as Penn State fans are with their new coach, Cael Sanderson. Nebraska fans will have a lot to prove to the NCAA committee that wrestling can thrive away from Saint Louis which holds the top four highest attended NCAA Wrestling Championships, including the all-time total attendance record set last March with 97,111. The University of Nebraska in Lincoln as host to the 2010 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships should have something to cheer about with returning champion Jordan Burroughs and NCAA runner-up Craig Brester. Nebraska with another outstanding recruiting class (only out done by Oklahoma State) they may have something to cheer about for years to come.

This year's NCAA Wrestling Championships will feature six defending champions excluding Darrion Caldwell (redshirt) - North Carolina State; Troy Nickerson (Cornell), Franklin Gomez (Michigan State), Jordan Burroughs (Nebraska), Jarrod King (Edinboro), Jake Varner (Iowa State) and Mark Ellis (Missouri) and four past NCAA champions in another very competitive Championship. There is a whopping 68 returning All-Americans including ten each at 141 lbs. and 165 lbs. weight classes. This doesn't even begin to touch up on some of the highly-acclaimed redshirt freshman talent like Nate Moore (Iowa), Jordan Oliver (Oklahoma State), Mike Mangrum (Oregon State), Mario Mason (Minnesota), Alex Meade (Oklahoma State), Ben Bennett (Central Michigan) and Ryland Geiger (Minnesota) to name a few.

A quick look at this year's team race will have Iowa looking to "three-peat" with NCAA champion Brent Metcalf, NCAA runner-up Joey Slaton and five other All-Americans; Daniel Dennis, Ryan Morningstar, Jay Borschel, Phil Keddy and Dan Erikson. 2009 NCAA runner-up Ohio State will reload with NCAA champion Mike Pucillo, NCAA runner-up Reece Humphrey and All-American Lance Palmer. Third place Iowa State will be lead by NCAA champion Jake Varner and All-Americans Nick Fanthorpe, Nick Gallick, Jon Reader and David Zabriskie. See a complete breakdown of the top 30 tournament teams in our November 15th issue!

As Always, "Let's Be On The Go Together,"

Cody Bryant

Trivia - Can you name the four past (not current) NCAA Division I champions looking to make it to the top of the award stand in Omaha, Nebraska? The first person to email me (cody@wrestlingusa.com) with the correct answer will win a *Wrestling USA Magazine* t-shirt.

Cover Photo

2009 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships - Indiana's 174-pounder Trevor Perry trying to keep Iowa's Jay Borschel from getting his foot loose in this second round match. Borschel defeated Perry 8-2. Photo By Amber Pappé.



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