

From: **Robert Koll** rk45@cornell.edu  
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To: lanny@wrestlingusa.com



## NCAA's

Back from another trip to the greatest wrestling weekend of the year. It's hard to believe this was my 30<sup>th</sup> trip with the Big Red! It's always so nice to see such a large, and loyal Cornell fan base. I can't tell you where key, phone or wallet is 90% of the time, but when it comes to former wrestlers it's like they just left campus last week. My selective memory is extremely wrestling-centric. As is always the case our guys represented Cornell University with great pride and honor. If for some reason beyond my imagination that you were not able to follow our progress I am pleased to report we placed 7<sup>th</sup> as a team, crowning one champion, one runner-up, a 4<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> place finisher. To toot our horn a little and to give you guys something to brag about here are a couple good speaking points:

- • Cornell has had at least one NCAA champion in 10 of the last 12 years and at least one finalist for 12 straight campaigns.
- • Cornell has placed in the top the top 10 for 12 straight years, and 15 times in the last 17 years. Iowa the only other school on the list.
- • Since 2011 Cornell has produced 10 NCAA champions, second only to Penn State, next closest has seven
- • At least three Cornellians have earned All-Americans honors for 17 consecutive seasons, 66 in total.
- • Since 2002 Cornell has produced 16 freshman All-Americans.

## On to the update

125 Vito finished his freshman campaign with a 36-6 record and a 4<sup>th</sup> place NCAA finish. Vito lost two matches to the top seed but looked great all weekend. One break here or there and he certainly could have been wrestling for the title. Vito showed this year that he has the athleticism, toughness and technique to compete and beat anyone. Only a freshman he will be anchoring the team for many years to come! First Round: #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell) won by major decision over #25 Malik Heinselman (Ohio State), 12-2 Second Round: #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell) won by major decision over #9 RayVon Foley (Michigan State), 12-2 Quarterfinal: #1 Sebastian Rivera (Northwestern) won by decision over #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell), 6-2 Consolation Fourth Round: #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell) won by major decision over #14 Sean Fausz (NC State), 11-3 Consolation Quarterfinal: #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #4 Ronnie Bresser (Oregon State), 8-5 Consolation Semifinal: #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #2 Nick Piccininni (Oklahoma State), 5-1 Consolation Final: #1 Sebastian Rivera (Northwestern) won by decision over #8 [Vitali Arujau](#) (Cornell), 8-3

133 Chas went 1-2 and did not place. Chas was upset in his first match by an opponent who he had defeated during the season in OT. Chas has struggled with tall wrestlers who are good on top due to his height so we were not excited by this draw. In the wrestle backs he picked up one win before falling to a very tough All-American wrestler. Moving forward Chas will need to continue to work on his bottom game. This is the only part of his game that is preventing him from getting on the podium next year. With his outstanding work ethic I am confident he will make the necessary adjustments. First Round: #24 DJ Fehlman (Lock Haven) won by decision over #9 [Chas Tucker](#) (Cornell), 7-2 Consolation First Round: #9 [Chas Tucker](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #25 Derek Spann (Buffalo), 5-3 Consolation Second Round: #10 Roman Bravo-Young (Penn State) won by decision over #9 [Chas Tucker](#) (Cornell), 6-3

141 Yianni went 5-0 and took home his second NCAA title. Yianni had to fight through a brutal bracket. On his way to the title he wrestled wrestlers who would go to place 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> place. First Round: #1 [Yianni Diakomihalis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #33 Pete Lipari (Rutgers), 10-5 Second Round: #1 [Yianni Diakomihalis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #16 Chad Red (Nebraska), 7-3 Quarterfinal: #1 [Yianni Diakomihalis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #9 Dom Demas (Oklahoma), 5-1 Semifinal: #1 [Yianni Diakomihalis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #5 Jaydin Eierman (Missouri), 6-5 Final: #1 [Yianni Diakomihalis](#) (Cornell) won by decision 5-3 (sv1) over #2 Joey McKenna (Ohio State)

174 Brandon went 2-2 and did not place. Bama wrestled well but lost two tough bouts to two All-American wrestlers. First Round: #16 [Brandon Womack](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #17 Neal Richards (VMI), 11-10 (tb2) Second Round: #1 Mark Hall (Penn State) won by decision over #16 [Brandon Womack](#) (Cornell), 8-3 Consolation Second Round: #16 [Brandon Womack](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #18 Andrew Morgan (Campbell), 9-5 Consolation Third Round: #9 Devin Skatzka (Minnesota) won by decision over #16 [Brandon Womack](#) (Cornell), 11-7

184 Max Dean had the biggest upset in the tournament when he defeated 4X All-American, finalist and NCAA champion Myles Martin in the semi-finals. It was an amazing moment in Cornell wrestling history and reminiscent of big brother Gabe's victory of Ed Ruth. In the finals Max was unable to take the title but I am confident the trip to the raised center mat will help him get back there next year. First Round: #5 [Max Dean](#) (Cornell) won by major decision over #28 Noah Stewart (Army West Point), 13-2 Second Round: #5 [Max Dean](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #12 Cash Wilcke (Iowa), 6-4 (sv1) Quarterfinal: #5 [Max Dean](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #13 Nino Bonaccorsi (Pitt), 6-0 Semifinal: #5 [Max Dean](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #1 Myles Martin (Ohio State), 5-4 Final: #5 [Max Dean](#) (Cornell) vs. #6 Drew Foster (Northern Iowa)

197 Ben Honis lost his first match and had to win four straight in order to earn All-American honors. Ben has essentially been a part

For Ben Honis lost the first match and had to win four straight in order to earn an American honor. Ben has essentially been a part of our program for the past 12 years. He was a fixture in the youth program and seldom missed a match. No one deserved to be on the podium more!

First Round: #24 Jake Jakobsen (Lehigh) won by decision over #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell), 8-5

Consolation First Round: #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #25 Greg Bulsak (Clarion), 8-6

Consolation Second Round: #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #7 Jay Aiello (Virginia), 9-7 (sv1)

Consolation Third Round: #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #32 Ethan Laird (Rider), 10-5

Consolation Fourth Round: #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell) won by decision over #21 Thomas Lane (Cal Poly), 8-5

Consolation Quarterfinal: #6 Willie Miklus (Iowa State) won by decision over #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell), 7-5

Seventh Place Match: #5 Jacob Warner (Iowa) won by decision over #9 [Ben Honis](#) (Cornell), 8-4

285 Jeremy Sweany went 0-2. Jeremy never really got back to where he was last year at this time due to numerous health related issues. Jeremy has been wonderful part of our program and his leadership will and enthusiasm will be deeply missed.

First Round: #10 Youssif Hemida (Maryland) won by decision over

#23 [Jeremy Sweany](#) (Cornell), 7-1

Consolation First Round: #26 Ian Butterbrodt (Brown) won by decision over #23 [Jeremy Sweany](#) (Cornell), 12-7

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That's all for now.

All the best, Rob

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