

# Metz Double All-American at UWW Junior Nationals including Freestyle Runner-up Showing

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — North Dakota State freshman heavyweight Brandon Metz was a double All-American at the UWW Junior Nationals including a runner-up performance in Freestyle and third place showing in Greco-Roman on April 26-28 at the South Point Hotel.

The Bison Wrestling Club RTC finished second in the UWW Junior Freestyle Nationals highlighted by the second place Metz and the third place effort by redshirt freshman Paul Bianchi. Metz jumped out to an early lead in the 125 KG/275.5-pound championship match, but Gannon Gremmel of the Cyclone RTC rallied for a 16-8 win.

In the 130 KG/286.6 Greco-Roman division, Metz held off Thomas Helton of the Southern Illinois Training Center by the score of 4-1 in the third place match. The West Fargo native went 8-2 over the weekend with 4-1 records in each discipline.

Bianchi, a NCAA qualifier during the winter, rebounded from a loss midway through the 57 KG/125.6 freestyle bracket and compiled a 6-1 record. He earned a 17-6 win in the third place match over unattached Gavin Teasdale.

A pair of freshman, 61 KG/134.4 McGwire Midkiff (6-2) and 70 KG/154.3 Jaden Van Maanen (4-3), finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the freestyle competition. Van Maanen had a key quarterfinal win over Penn State redshirt freshman and Cadet World Champion Jarod Verkleeren.

Former North Dakota State All-American Hayden Zillmer (3-1) was runner-up at 92 KG/202.8 in the US Open Senior Freestyle bracket, while Brent Fleetwood (5-3) placed sixth at 57 KG/125.6 pounds

NDSU volunteer assistant Chase Nelson (2-3) placed eighth in the 67 KG/147.9 US Open Senior Greco.

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