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To:

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Final results attached.

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Men's Wrestling

Speight Finishes Fourth at NAIA National Championships

Lourdes University's **Will Speight** (Bedford, Ohio/Bedford H.S.) closed out action at the NAIA National Championships on Saturday inside Hartman Arena in Park City, Kan., placing fourth at 184 pounds.

"We had a disappointing finish to the medal rounds today," head coach **Dock Kelly III** said afterwards. "I'm still very proud of William Speight finishing fourth in the nation. He is an elite wrestler, and he proved this weekend he is a legitimate threat to win a national championship."

The All-American began the final day facing Rylin Burns of Montana State-Northern for the second time in the tournament. Like in the second round, Speight earned a major decision, posting a 17-5 win. He opened with a first period takedown to build a 3-1 lead after three minutes. Starting down in period two, Speight escaped quickly and registered two more takedowns to increase his advantage to 10-3. The fourth-seed then picked up two more takedowns in the third and added a point for riding time, controlling the match for 2:42.

In the third place bout, Speight faced third-seeded JD Perez of Ottawa (Kan.). After a scoreless opening period, Speight again took down to start the second. Perez scored a reversal 25 seconds into the period and rode it out, taking a 2-0 lead to the third. Perez then recorded a takedown and earned a point for riding time to finish off the 6-0 decision.

Speight finished the season with a 25-3 record.

"Our guys fought hard all season long, and I'm proud of the way that they carried themselves on the wrestling mat and in the classroom," Kelly added. "Coach Louis Piszker has done a fantastic job of having our guys prepared to compete all season long. We are looking forward to a productive offseason and then coming back better than ever next season."

As a team, Lourdes tallied 14.5 points at the NAIA National Championships, all coming via Speight. The Gray Wolves finished 27th in a field of 55 schools.

-Lourdes Men's Wrestling-

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