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Wrestling USA Magazine

Letter from the Editor

Men's USA Freestyle Team World Champions

By Cody Bryant, Managing Editor

The USA men's freestyle team was crowned World Team Champions for the fifth-time. This was the first-time for USA men's freestyle win back-to-back World Team titles. Team USA finished with seven medals; Vitali Arujau gold medal at 61 kg, Zain Retherford gold medal at 70 kg, David Taylor gold medal at 86 kg, Kyle Dake silver medal at 74 kg, Zahid Valencia bronze medal at 92 kg, Kyle Snyder bronze medal at 97 kg, and Mason Parris bronze medal at 125 kg.

Arujau defeated Abasgadzhi Magomedov (Russia) 10-9 to win a gold medal in his first Senior World Championships appearance. Vitali also won the NCAA title at 133 lbs this year for Cornell. Retherford won 8-5 over Amirmohammad Yazdanicherati (Iran) for his second consecutive finals appearance. Zain was a three-time NCAA champion for Penn State. Taylor won his third World gold medal after pinning Hassan Yazdanicherati (Iran) in 5:57. Taylor dominated his opponents with three pins and two technical falls in his five matches. David also wrestled for Penn State and won two NCAA titles, four-time finalist.

Kyle Dake, a four-time world champion, lost a tough 10-7 match to Olympic and two-time World champion Zaurbek Sidakov (Russia) to win the silver. Kyle was a four-time NCAA champion for Cornell.

Valencia won his bronze medal with a 11-0 technical fall over Arash Yoshida of Japan in his first Senior World Championships after winning two NCAA titles for Arizona State. Kyle Snyder won his ninth straight World or Olympic medal after receiving the bronze medal when two-time Olympic champion, Abulrashid Sadulaev (Russia) could not compete due to injury. Snyder began his winning streak when he won a gold medal at the 2015 World Championships. Mason Parris won his bronze medal match after defeating Abulla Kurbanov (Russia) 12-2. Parris was competing in his first Senior World Championships after winning NCAA title and the Dan Hodge Trophy while at Michigan this year.

Final USA men's freestyle team standings; USA (148), Iran (108), Georgia (80), Kazakhstan (74), Azerbaijan (66), Japan (65), Armenia (49), Serbia (40), Bahrain, Hungary, and Ukraine (35).

The USA women's freestyle team also finished with seven medals, but finished second behind powerhouse Japan in the team race; Amit Elor gold medal at 72 kg, Jacarra Winchester (55 kg) and Macey Kilty (65 kg) won silver medals, and bronze medalists Sarah Hildebrandt (50 kg), Helen Maroulis (57 kg), Jennifer Page (59 kg), and Adeline Gray (76 kg).

Elor decided on Davaanasan Enkh Amar (Mongolia) 8-2 in the finals. This is Elor's second World gold medal after becoming the youngest USA Senior World champion last year at age 18.

Winchester and Kilty both lost to Japanese opponents to take home silver medals. Winchester lost to Haruna Okuno (Japan) 4-2, and Kilty lost to Nonoka Ozaki (Japan) by technical fall 10-0.

Hildebrandt defeated Evin Demirhan (Turkey) 5-0, Maroulis decided Anhelina Lysak (Poland) 10-6, Gray also won by a 10-6 score by beating Milaimys Marin Potrille (Cuba), and Page pinned Alyona Kolesnik (Azerbaijan) in 1:40 to all win the bronze medal at the World Championships.

Final women's freestyle team standings; Japan (195), United States (135), Mongolia (80), China (65), Ukraine (59), Moldova (58), Turkey (55), Kyrgyzstan (47), UWW (39), and Germany (35)

The USA Greco-Roman team finished with 14 points and placed 22nd as a team. Only Alejandro Sancho (67 kg) and Kamal Bey (77 kg) won two matches. Team USA Greco-Roman wrestlers finishing in the top 10 included Patrick Smith (8th at 72 kg), Brady Koontz (10th at 55 kg), Xavier Johnson (10th at 62 kg), Kamal Bey (10th at 77 kg), and Cohlton Schultz (10th at 130 kg).

Final Greco-Roman team standings; Azerbaijan (120), Iran (102), Turkey (93), Cuba (73), Armenia (65), Kyrgyzstan (60), Georgia (59), Hungary (52), Uzbekistan (52), and Serbia (49).

A special hats off to Montana native and former four-time state champion, NCAA national champion, World champion, Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and Team USA freestyle coach Bill Zadick for leading Team USA to it's second consecutive team title at the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia!

"The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies."

-Isaiah 42:17

As always, Let's be "On The Go Together,"

Cody

COVER PHOTO

2023 World Championships Men's Freestyle Final - 70 kg Zain Retherford (USA) in with a double leg on Amirmohammad Yazdanicherati (Iran). Retherford won the Gold Medal match 8-5 to help the United States win their second consecutive World Team title. Photo by Randy Tomaras.

NATIONAL ACTION WRESTLING PHOTOS

Send your best action wrestling photos to cody@wrestlingusa.com. The best photos will be recognized each issue. All photos should be submitted digitally at 300 dpi.

