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## ***Penn State Wrestler Aaron Brooks Rolls to U23 World Championship***

Nittany Lion standout goes 5-0 in Albania to win U23 86kg title

**UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.; October 24, 2023** – Penn State Nittany Lion wrestler Aaron Brooks represented Penn State and Team USA at the United World Wrestling U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania, on Tuesday and Wednesday. Brooks went 5-0 at 86 kg to win the U23 crown and become World Champion.

Brooks began the tournament with three impressive wins on Tuesday to advance to the semifinals. He posted a win over Turkey's Ismail Kucuksolak and then rolled to a 10-0 technical fall over Owen James Martin of Canada. He then notched a quarterfinal victory over Moldova's Ivan Ichizli to advance to the semifinals, going 4-0 on day one.

Brooks took on Arslan Bagaev of the Individual Neutral Athletes in the semis and worked his way to a 5-4 win. He met Tatsuya Shirai of Japan in the title bout on Wednesday. In Wednesday's final against Shirai, Brooks opened up a 2-0 lead one minute into the first period. He dominated the opening period, notching a total of three takedowns, one four-pointer and a leg lace to end the bout, posting the 10-0 tech fall to win his world title.

Brooks is a four-time All-American and three-time NCAA Champion at 184 pounds. He returns for his final season this year when Penn State begins the new campaign.

The Nittany Lions open the 2023-24 campaign by taking part in the Journeymen Collegiate Classic on Sunday, Nov. 12. The round-robin individual event will take place at Freedom High School in Bethlehem, Pa. Penn State is coming off a season that saw it win its 10<sup>th</sup> NCAA National Championship under head coach Cael Sanderson (and the 11<sup>th</sup> in school history). The Nittany Lions also won the Big Ten Championship, the Big Ten Regular Season Championship and finished the year with a 16-0 dual meet record, 8-0 in the Big Ten.

The 2023-24 Penn State Wrestling season is presented by the Family Clothesline. Penn State Fans are encouraged to follow Penn State wrestling via X at @pennstateWREST, on Penn State Wrestling's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pennstatewrestling](http://www.facebook.com/pennstatewrestling) and on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/pennstatewrest](http://www.instagram.com/pennstatewrest). **This is PENN STATE. WRESTLING lives here.**

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