

“GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings from Lewisburg!

Wow! What a tremendous year for the Bison Wrestling Program!

It is hard to believe we've graduated our first senior class since the reinstatement of the program. It has been an honor to coach these young men and to witness firsthand all they have been able to accomplish both on the mat and in the classroom. Dave Marble, Shane Riccio and Andy Rendos are true men of character and there is no doubt they will carry their academics and wrestling achievements at Bucknell into their personal and professional lives to help make them successful in whatever career path they choose. This senior class has endured a lot throughout their careers and has provided positive leadership. The torch is being passed to the next group of Bison Wrestlers to continue down the path that has been paved by Dave, Shane, and Andy. The program has benefited tremendously from what this trio was able to accomplish and I look forward to our continued success.

In closing I want to say Thank You to the seniors, the parents, and all of our alumni and friends who have been supportive and loyal to the Bison Wrestling Program. Have a great summer.

Go Bison!

Respectfully,

Dan Wirnsberger
Head Wrestling Coach



The Bison coaching staff with the three seniors, (L to R: Andy Rendos, Dave Marble and Shane Riccio) after the final home match of the 2010 season.

A SEASON OF FIRSTS

The 2009-2010 wrestling season began with a lot of promise. The team had all 10 starters returning, six of which were NCAA Qualifiers the season before. However, early in the season the Bison lost Derek Reber and David Thompson for the year due to injury. When All-American Andy Rendos went down in late December with a potentially season-ending knee injury, what started as a season of bright promise looked like it might be headed for hard times. Nevertheless, the team battled through the adversity, and set records almost every step of the way.

- Team tied the record for most wins in a season: 12
- Kevin LeValley set the individual win total for a single season: 42
- Andy Rendos became the program's first EIWA Champion
- First time the program graduated three 100-win wrestlers
- Andy Rendos set the record for career wins: 121
- Marble and Riccio moved into 3rd and 4th place on the all-time win list: 103, 104
- First time the program brought home two All-Americans in one season



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A CLEAN SWEEP

As most of you know, wrestling is a physically and mentally grueling sport that usually offers little public reward or recognition. Oftentimes, winning is what makes all the hard work worthwhile. However, recently, the Bucknell Wrestling team has been given a plethora of both recognition and reward. In the year-end "People of the Year" awards by the Bucknellian (the school's newspaper), head coach Dan Wirnsberger was recognized as Coach of the Year. Also being honored by the Bucknellian, were the program's All-American duo, Kevin LeValley and Andy Rendos, being named the male Co-Athletes of the Year.

On top of having a clean sweep of awards given by the Bucknellian, seniors David Marble and Andy Rendos were both honored by the Department of Athletics and Recreation at the Annual Senior Athletic Awards Banquet. Marble won the Edward W. Pangburn Award – given to athletes for sportsmanship, fellowship, and contribution to the university. Rendos, was again named MVP, winning the highly coveted Christy Mathewson Award – given to the most outstanding athlete of the senior class.

TENTATIVE 2010-2011 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

When the NCAA changed the qualification system, making strength of schedule a key component, we tried to make it a point to wrestle as many of the best teams in the country as we could. So, after hosting Iowa, wrestling six nationally-ranked teams, and adding the Midlands Invitational to an already competitive schedule last season, I wondered...how could we make the schedule even tougher? Well, check out the Bison's 2010-2011 tentative schedule and you will see just how tall of an order it has stacked up to be:

Nov. 20	@ Navy Classic
Nov. 27	@ Nebraska
Nov. 28	@ Oklahoma State – 2:00 pm
Dec. 3	Vs. Lehigh
Dec. 17	The Bison Duals vs. Princeton, Drexel
Dec. 28-29	@ Midlands
Jan. 7-8	@ Virginia Duals
Jan. 14	@ Rutgers
Jan. 15	Vs. Maryland @ Lower Dauphin H.S.
Jan. 21	Vs. Old Dominion
Jan. 23	Vs. Liberty
Jan. 29	@ Penn
Feb. 4	Vs. Lock Haven
Feb. 10	Vs. Army
Feb. 11	@ Brown
Feb. 20	@ American
Mar. 5-6	EIWA Championships – Bucknell University
Mar. 17-19	NCAA Championships – Philadelphia, PA

BISON TEAM AWARDS

Recently, the Bucknell Wrestling team hosted its annual Spring banquet, and while it was a fun night of celebration, the mood was still somewhat somber as the program said goodbye to three of the most decorated wrestlers in school history. Seniors David Marble, Andy Rendos, and Shane Riccio all had the opportunity to get up before the group and talk about their experiences as a Bucknell student-athlete. In those speeches there seemed to be a common theme; that their time spent as a wrestler at Bucknell wasn't always easy but it has well-prepared them for anything that life might throw their way. While the common theme from the coaches was that the seniors were leaving behind a rich legacy, and that it was now up to the underclassmen to take the torch and write the next page of history.

All-in-all, the Bucknell Wrestling team presented five awards, with the Class of 2010 Leadership Award being the only new addition. This award was given in honor of the first class of seniors following the reinstatement of the Bucknell wrestling program to the wrestler who is the best leader, both on and off the wrestling mat.

2010 Award-winners:

- Freshman of the Year – Joe McMullan
- 11th Man Award - Corey Lear
- Coach's Award – Shane Riccio
- Class of 2010 Leadership Award – David Marble
- William A. Graham IV Most Outstanding Wrestler – Kevin LeValley & Andrew Rendos

BUCKNELL TO HOST 2010- 2011 EIWA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Recently, the Bucknell wrestling program was awarded the bid to host next year's conference championships in Sojka Pavilion on March 5-6, 2011. Coach Dan Wirnsberger couldn't be happier about the opportunity, "We are extremely excited to be hosting the 2011 EIWA Conference Championships. This is a great opportunity to showcase our program and facility. Our program has come a long way in a short period of time and it will be nice to compete at home in front of our home fans. Please plan on coming out and supporting the Bison Wrestling program on Saturday and Sunday March 5th and 6th."

The NCAA Championships will also be coming close to home this coming year as the city of Philadelphia will be playing host to the event in the Wachovia Center. This will be the first time that the NCAA tournament has been on the east coast since 2001, when it was held at the Pepsi Center in Albany, NY. For those of you who have never been to an NCAA tournament; this is an event unlike any other, and simply, a must-see. Once you've been to one, you'll never miss another. For more information or to purchase a ticket now, contact Dan Wirnsberger at djw020@bucknell.edu.

WIRNSBERGER ANNOUNCES INCOMING RECRUITING CLASS

With its first senior class since the reinstatement of the program having graduated in May, Bucknell head wrestling coach Dan Wirnsberger has inked a recruiting class of eight student-athletes who will try to offset the loss of four-year starters David Marble, Andy Rendos, and Shane Riccio. The class features wrestlers from five different states, including three from Pennsylvania.

“I am very excited about this incoming class,” raved Wirnsberger. “The student-athletes are full of talent academically and athletically. They each have specific goals in mind, and my staff and I look forward to the process of helping them reach their full potential. They fit the Bucknell student-athlete model and I look forward to this class contributing to our continued rise on the national scene.”

The incoming class will be joining a program that is coming off a 27th-place finish at the NCAA Championships. The Bison lose a senior class that won nearly 350 individual bouts over the last four years, but will return seven regular starters from last year. The 2010-11 roster is expected to have no fewer than three wrestlers with NCAA experience, including 2010 All-American Kevin LeValley.

Austin Fallon (Centreville, Va./Westfield) – 184/197 – Austin Forrest Fallon ... born Jan. 23, 1992 in Fairfax, Va. ... son of Rod and Edie Fallon ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at Westfield High School ... also played lacrosse for two years ... two-time Virginia AAA state champion in wrestling ... two-time regional and district champion ... placed fourth at 2009 Super 32 ... finished fifth at the NHSCA Junior Nationals to earn All-America status ... Washington Post All-Met First Team in 2010 ... team captain ... posted 53-7 record as a senior ... named lacrosse second-team all-district in 2009 ... father wrestled at the University of Maryland ... has two sisters, Meredythe and Abigail.

Nick Gurol (Philipsburg, Pa./Philipsburg-Osceola) – 141/149 – Nicholas Myers Gurol ... born Nov. 9, 1991 in State College, Pa. ... son of Sam and Kelley Hardy ... four-year wrestling letterwinner and two-year cross country letterwinner and Philipsburg-Osceola High School ... two-year wrestling team captain ... 2009 PIAA AAA qualifier ... has one brother, Santiago.

Bob Hauser (Fairfax Station, Va./W.T. Woodson) – 125 – Robert William Hauser ... born Nov. 12, 1991 in Fairfax, Va. ... son of Robert and Jacqueline ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at W.T. Woodson High School ... state champion in Greco-Roman and freestyle ... two-time state qualifier ... three-time all-region selection ... two-time team captain ... two-time team MVP ... father attended Syracuse University on a gymnastics scholarship and was a New York State High School champion ... has one sister, Elizabeth.

Stephen McPeck (Southlake, Texas/Bishop Lynch) – 174/184 – Stephen William McPeck ... born Aug. 21, 1991 in Fort Worth, Texas ... son of Paul and Kelley McPeck ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at Southlake Carroll High School and Bishop Lynch High School ... enrolled at Bishop Lynch for postgraduate year ... also competed on Southlake Carroll football and track teams as a sophomore ... 2010 national prep and Asics All-American ... three-time Texas UIL placewinner, including first place in 2009 ... won Texas TAPPS state title at 189 pounds in 2010 ... five-time Texas state champion in Greco-Roman and freestyle ... placed fourth at Walsh Ironman in 2009 ... runner-up at 2009 Super 32 competition ... all-state selection ... 2009 Dallas Morning News All-Area ... 2009 Fort Worth Star Telegram Super Team and Wrestler of the Year ... named Southlake Carroll High School's Most Outstanding Wrestler and team captain in 2009 ... has five siblings.

Alex Pellicciotti (Boyertown, Pa./Boyertown Area) – 133 – Alex Wayne Pellicciotti ... born Dec. 1, 1991 in Reading, Pa. ... son of Wayne and Nettie Pellicciotti ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at Boyertown Area High School ... three-time PIAA AAA medalist, finishing seventh, eighth and fifth ... first-team all-conference three times ... two-time Beast of the East medalist, placing fifth and seventh ... two-year team captain ... 17-25 career record ... set school records for wins (170), pins (88), wins in a season (48) and pins in a season (31) ... three-time team MVP ... member of High Honor Roll ... has two brothers, Aaron and Adam, and a sister, Hannah.

Jordan Rich (Lock Haven, Pa./Central Mountain) – 141/149 – Jordan Eliot Rich ... born June 25, 1992 in Lock Haven, Pa. ... son of Jeff and Teena Rich ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at Central Mountain High School ... Pennsylvania District VI champion in 2007, 2009 and 2010 ... Pennsylvania NW Regional champion in 2008 and 2010 ... three-time PIAA state placewinner ... two-year team co-captain ... has one sister, Morgan ... aunt, Sharon Shilling, was a member of the track & field team at Bucknell ... uncle, Rick Vanenburg, competed on track & field team at Bucknell ... grandfather, John Rich, was a member of the wrestling team at Dickinson College.

Jamie Westwood (Little Falls, N.J./Queen of Peace) – 174/184 – Jamie Mitchell Westwood ... born July 19, 1991 ... son of Mitch and Jill Westwood ... four-year wrestling letterwinner at Queen of Peace High School ... two-time all-state selection ... three-time all-league choice ... team captain as a senior ... has one sister, Jessica.

Matt Wilkerson (Spencer, Iowa/Spencer) – 149/157 – Matthew Thomas Wilkerson ... born Oct. 12, 1991 in Spencer, Iowa ... son of Rick and Barb Wilkerson ... four-sport participant at Spencer High School ... member of wrestling team four years, soccer team two years and football and cross country teams one year ... four-time wrestling state qualifier ... three-time conference finalist with one title ... helped team to four consecutive conference crowns ... team captain ... helped football team qualify for state tournament in only season ... cross country team MVP in only campaign ... helped soccer squad to conference, district and state championships ... has seven siblings ... father wrestled at the Division I level ... sister, Cara, played Division III soccer ... uncle, Frank Brooks, graduated from Bucknell in 1977



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LeVALLEY FIRST AT UNIVERSITY WORLD TEAM TRIALS

Bucknell All-American wrestler Kevin LeValley (Hugo, Colo./Limon) claimed the 66-kilogram title at the Fila University World Team Trials on May 28 in his home state, earning him a guarantee of at least a wrestle-off for a spot in October's University World Games in Torino, Italy.

LeValley, who became just the fifth different Bison wrestler to claim All-America honors this past March when he finished seventh at 149 pounds at the NCAA Championships, pinned two-time All-American Jimmy Kennedy of the Illini Wrestling Club in the championship match to win the title.

"This is an exciting continuation for Kevin and our program," said Bucknell head coach Dan Wirmsberger. "He showed that his hard work and dedication made him one of the best in the country when he became an All-American. Beating the quality of competition Kevin faced shows that he is on track to do even more amazing things in his senior season, but first we are excited to see him prove himself among the best in the world this summer and next fall."

LeValley needed to win just two matches to advance to the championship match against Kennedy. He defeated first-round opponent Tyler Untrauer of the Falcon Wrestling Club by tech fall and then posted a shutout decision over Jeff Jagers from NYAC in the semi-finals. Kennedy received a first-round bye and needed to defeat only one other wrestler before matching up with LeValley.

The school record-holder with 42 wins this past season, LeValley will enter his senior campaign next fall with 93 career victories, good for sixth in Bucknell history. LeValley never lost two consecutive matches last year despite facing 16 nationally ranked opponents. He



posted a 5-2 record at the NCAA Championships and placed second at the EIWA Championships.

Each country is authorized to enter one wrestler and one reserve in each weight category in October's University World Games in Italy. The weeklong event runs Oct. 24-30, 2010. Competitors must be born between Jan. 1, 1982 and Dec. 31, 1992. LeValley owns the spot in the University World Games in Italy unless Penn State's Bubba Jenkins places in the top three at next month's U.S. World Team Trials. If Jenkins earns a top-three showing he can challenge LeValley to a wrestle-off for the University World Games position.