

NO. 2 MICHIGAN CLAIMS THIRD-STRAIGHT BIG TEN DUAL TITLE, WHILE MINNESOTA FINISHES NO. 1 IN FINAL POLL; WOLVERINE FRESHMAN EARNS WEEKLY HONOR

BIG TEN WRESTLING CONTACT
 Jeff Smith, Assistant Director of Communications
 E-Mail: jsmith@bigten.org
 Work: (847) 696-1010 ext. 142 • Cell: (312) 363-7546

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

1500 West Higgins Road • Park Ridge, IL 60068-6300 • Phone: (847) 696-1010 • Fax: (847) 696-1110 • Website: www.bigten.org

MICHIGAN EARNS BIG TEN DUAL TITLE

This past week, the Michigan Wolverines claimed sole possession of the 2006 Big Ten regular-season dual-meet title with a sweep of top-ranked **Minnesota** and No. 17 **Indiana**. The then-No. 3 Wolverines knocked off the previously undefeated Golden Gophers with a 19-15 victory on their home mat Friday and followed with a 31-9 victory over the Hoosiers on Sunday. With the wins, the Wolverines closed the regular season with a 16-2 overall record and won their third-straight Big Ten dual-meet championship outright with a perfect 8-0 mark.

For the first time this season, more than one team received first-place votes in the USA Today-NWCA-InterMat Division I Coaches Poll, and both of those teams are from the Big Ten. Michigan's upset over Minnesota gave the Wolverines the conference title, but the Golden Gophers held on to their No. 1 ranking. Minnesota's 20-1 record, combined with two wins over previous No. 1 Oklahoma State, gave the Golden Gophers the top spot in the final poll, as the majority of the dual meet season came to a close this past weekend.

No. 18 **Michigan State**, however, will finish its regular season on the road at 10th-ranked Oklahoma on Thursday.

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

FEBRUARY 23
 #18 Michigan State at #10 Oklahoma 7 p.m.

LAST WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

FEBRUARY 17
 #17 Indiana at #13 Northwestern NU, 19-15
 Boise State at #10 Iowa W, 24-13
 #1 Minnesota at #3 Michigan MICH, 19-15
 #23 Wisconsin at #18 Michigan State WIS, 22-15
 #8 Penn State at Ohio State PSU, 39-7

FEBRUARY 19
 #8 Penn State vs. Purdue PSU, 32-8
 #23 Wisconsin at #6 Illinois T, 15-15
 #1 Minnesota at #18 Michigan State MINN, 41-3
 #17 Indiana at #3 Michigan MICH, 31-9

2005-06 STANDINGS

| | Conference Record | | | | Overall Record | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---|---|-------|----------------|----|---|------|
| | W | L | T | Pct. | W | L | T | Pct. |
| Michigan | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 16 | 2 | 0 | .889 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 1 | 0 | .875 | 20 | 1 | 0 | .952 |
| Illinois | 5 | 2 | 1 | .688 | 10 | 2 | 1 | .808 |
| Penn State | 5 | 3 | 0 | .625 | 13 | 4 | 0 | .765 |
| Northwestern | 5 | 3 | 0 | .625 | 10 | 5 | 0 | .667 |
| Wisconsin | 4 | 3 | 1 | .563 | 9 | 5 | 1 | .633 |
| Iowa | 4 | 4 | 0 | .500 | 11 | 7 | 0 | .611 |
| Michigan State | 2 | 6 | 0 | .250 | 4 | 9 | 0 | .308 |
| Indiana | 2 | 6 | 0 | .250 | 11 | 6 | 0 | .647 |
| Purdue | 1 | 7 | 0 | .125 | 9 | 9 | 0 | .500 |
| Ohio State | 0 | 8 | 0 | .000 | 5 | 13 | 0 | .278 |

BIG TEN WRESTLER OF THE WEEK

Michael Watts, Michigan
 FR, 125, Riverton, Utah/Riverton

Watts, a true freshman, got the momentum rolling early for the Wolverines in their weekend duals against top-ranked Minnesota and No. 17 Indiana, earning back-to-back wins at 125 pounds as U-M captured its third straight Big Ten dual-meet title. Last Friday, Watts used a pair of third-period takedowns to take control against Minnesota's Travis Lang and claim an upset 9-6 decision. Against the Hoosiers on Sunday, Watts boasted a dominant 13-1 major decision against Blane Culp behind three takedowns and five back points. Finding his groove heading into the postseason tournaments, the Wolverine has won four straight matches.

Last MICH WOW: Josh Churella (2/1/06)

2005-06 WRESTLERS OF THE WEEK

Nov. 9: Nick Simmons, Jr., 125, MSU
 Ben Wissel, Sr., 184, PUR
 Nov. 16: Phil Davis, So., 197, PSU
 Ryan Lang, So., 141, NU
 Nov. 23: Cole Konrad, Jr., HWT, MINN
 Nov. 30: Tony Greathouse, Jr., 157, MSU
 Dec. 6: Steve Luke, Fr., 157, MICH
 Dec. 14: C.P. Schlatter, So., 157, MINN
 Dec. 21: Jake Herbert, So., 174, NU
 Dec. 28: *No Selection*
 Jan. 4: Pete Friedl, Sr., 184, ILL
 Cole Konrad, Jr., HWT, MINN
 Jan. 11: Jake Strayer, Fr., 133, PSU
 Jan. 18: Cole Konrad, Jr., HWT, MINN
 Jan. 25: Jake Herbert, So., 174, NU
 Roger Kish, So., 184, MINN
 Feb. 1: Josh Churella, So., 141, MICH
 Feb. 8: R.J. Boudro, Sr., 174, MSU
 Feb. 15: Dustin Schlatter, Fr., 149, MINN
 Feb. 22: Michael Watts, Fr., 125, MICH

USA TODAY/INTERMAT/NWCA COACHES POLL & RANKINGS (2/21/06)

| TEAM | 125 | 157 | 184 |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 MINNESOTA (7) | 1 Joe Dubuque, IND | 1 Alex Tirapelle, ILL | 3 Ben Wissel, PUR |
| 2 MICHIGAN (5) | 3 Nick Simmons, MSU | 3 C.P. Schlatter, MINN | 6 Pete Friedl, ILL |
| 3 Oklahoma State | 7 John Velez, NU | 4 Craig Henning, WIS | 7 Eric Bradley, PSU |
| 4 Central Michigan | 8 Kyle Ott, ILL | 6 Brandon Becker, IND | 8 Paul Bradley, IOWA |
| 5 Nebraska | | 7 Joe Johnston, IOWA | 9 Roger Kish, MINN |
| 6 Iowa State | 133 | 12 Steve Luke, MICH | 10 Mike Tamillow, NU |
| 7 Missouri | 3 Chris Fleeger, PUR | 13 Nathan Galloway, PSU | 18 Tyrel Todd, MICH |
| 8 PENN STATE | 4 Mack Reiter, MINN | | 20 Alex Picazo, OSU |
| 9 ILLINOIS | 6 Tom Clum, WIS | 165 | |
| 10 Oklahoma | 9 Jake Strayer, PSU | 1 Ryan Churella, MICH | 197 |
| 11 IOWA | 11 Mark Moos, MICH | 7 Michael Poeta, ILL | 6 Philip Davis, PSU |
| 12 Arizona State | 18 Andrae Hernandez, IND | 9 Matt Nagel, MINN | 8 Tyrone Byrd, ILL |
| 13 NORTHWESTERN | 19 Gabe Flores, ILL | 12 David Erwin, PSU | 10 Matt Delguyd, NU |
| 14 Cornell | 20 Reece Humphrey, OSU | 17 Jake Donar, WIS | 12 Brady Richardson, IND |
| 15 Lehigh | | 18 Eric Luedke, IOWA | 17 Nathan Moore, PUR |
| 16 Edinboro | 141 | 19 Will Durkee, NU | |
| 17 INDIANA | 4 Josh Churella, MICH | | 285 |
| 18 MICHIGAN STATE | 5 Andy Simmons, MSU | 174 | 1 Cole Konrad, MINN |
| 19 WISCONSIN | 6 Alex Tsirtsis, IOWA | 2 Jake Herbert, NU | 3 Greg Wagner, MICH |
| 20 Navy | 8 Ryan Lang, NU | 3 Mark Perry, IOWA | 11 Dustin Fox, NU |
| 21 Hofstra | 11 Dewitt Driscoll, PSU | 7 R.J. Boudro, MSU | 18 Ryan Fuller, IOWA |
| 22 Penn | 13 Manuel Rivera, MINN | 9 James Yonushonis, PSU | 19 Joel Edwards, PSU |
| 23 Cal Poly | | 11 Nick Roy, MICH | |
| 24 Northern Illinois | 149 | 13 Gabriel Dretsch, MINN | |
| 25 Kent State | 1 Dustin Schlatter, MINN | 14 Donny Reynolds, ILL | |
| | 2 Ty Eustice, IOWA | 16 Kelly Flaherty, WIS | |
| | 4 Eric Tannenbaum, MICH | 20 Blake Maurer, OSU | |
| | 9 Doug Withstandley, PUR | | |
| | 10 Jeff Jagers, OSU | | |
| | 11 Tyler Turner, WIS | | |
| | 13 James Woodall, PSU | | |
| | 16 Darren McKnight, MSU | | |

Other teams receiving votes:
 Northern Iowa, Oregon State

2006 BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 4-5, 2006
 ASSEMBLY HALL • BLOOMINGTON, IND.



All-Session Tickets
 Adult: \$30 • Students: \$15

Individual Sessions
 Adult: \$10 (1st), \$10 (2nd), \$20 (3rd)
 Students: \$5 (1st), \$5 (2nd), \$10 (3rd)

For more information...
 BIGTEN.ORG & IUHOOSIERS.COM