

# “GRAPPLER REPORT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BUCKNELL WRESTLING PROGRAM



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## A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH DAN WIRNSBERGER



Greetings from Lewisburg!

I hope this note finds you doing well and that the Holidays and New Year have brought many blessings to your lives.

We are deep into the season and grinding toward the EIWA and NCAA Tournaments. This season, as expected, has been challenging for our young Bison athletes. Our challenging schedule will continue to give us opportunities to compete against the very best in the country. We have tried to show our young team the standard of competition the Bison community expects. The vision for our program from the start has been to be a place that athletes can compete to be amongst the best in the country on the mat and in the classroom. While we are still working to achieve this, it is important for us to show our athletes the level of wrestling with which we expect to compete. As we move into the final month of the season, we still have a great deal of wrestling left, including two home matches in February against Penn and American. Following our American match the preparation will begin for EIWA's and NCAA's where we hope to perform at a high level.

Finally, I'd like to talk about a serious need as we continue to build our program. First, thank you to everyone who continues to support our program financially. During the ongoing economic crisis, the wrestling program endowment has taken a considerable hit. As many of you know, the endowment covers everyday operating expenses, as well as, coaching salaries for the program. It is clear that the Endowment corpus has not recovered from the recession/market downturns of the past few years; and, for this reason, the endowment is not generating nearly as much spendable income for the wrestling program at this time - in fact, for this year our spendable income was down approximately \$30,000. This greatly affects our program. Our endowment and other financial support are essential for continued growth. With our current circumstance, we will not be able to operate our program at the level that the Bison Community expects. As the Bucknell wrestling family, we can come together to support the endowment or our annual fundraising account. I am asking you to make a financial commitment today in support of Bison Wrestling. I am well aware that we are still in a difficult economic time, but please know, our program needs your financial support in order to continue our goal to compete at the highest level. Your earmarked contribution for "WRESTLING" to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. I hope I can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

I hope to see many of you at some point this season or this spring at our annual golf outing. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan J. Wirnsberger".

Dan Wirnsberger  
Head Wrestling Coach

### Bison Wrestling Contact Information

<b>Head Coach:</b> Dan Wirnsberger	<b>Phone:</b> 570-577-1035
<b>E-Mail:</b> djw020@bucknell.edu	
<b>Assistant Coach:</b> Dave Hoffman	<b>Phone:</b> 570-577-1755
<b>E-Mail:</b> dah048@bucknell.edu	
<b>Assistant Coach:</b> David Marble	<b>Phone:</b> 570-577-3980
<b>E-Mail:</b> david.marble@bucknell.edu	
<b>Volunteer Coach:</b> Harry Zander	
<b>E-Mail:</b> hwz001@bucknell.edu	
<b>Fax:</b> 570-577-1660	<b>Hotline:</b> 570-577-1919



# GETTING TO KNOW ... FRESHMAN AUSTIN MILLER



Austin Miller, a true freshman from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, has been, without question, the biggest surprise of the season so far for the Bison. Miller, who wrestled just 112-lbs last year as a senior at Hempfield High School, has quickly learned that at this level, size doesn't matter when you prepare and do things the right way. "Keeping pace with bigger guys for an entire 7 minute match has been one of my largest challenges this year. Positioning is key when approaching power in wrestling. If I don't get out of position, it will be very hard for someone to score on me, regardless of strength. Also, in the tradition of fighting fire with fire, I try to put all of my strength behind my moves. I may be very undersized, but I try to make my opponent feel every single one of my 125 pounds."

So far, his strategy seems to be working as Miller currently leads the team with 15 wins, one of which came over nationally-ranked and returning EIWA finalist, Garrett Frey of Princeton. However, what's been most impressive to the Bison coaching staff has been his ability to manage the workload of a demanding Division I college wrestling schedule alongside an even more rigorous academic workload as a Chemical Engineering student. When asked how he made the transition from high school to college and handling two very serious demands, Miller said, "Any engineering major at Bucknell poses a very demanding workload. There is a lot more work than high school, but you just have to do it. Not to mention that wrestling is also more demanding than previously. I think above all, in order to be successful at balancing your schedule, you just have to focus on one thing: self-discipline. If you are disciplined in wrestling and in your studies, you don't have to be smart or talented, and you will excel. Hard work trumps everything else. Yes, I have to make more sacrifices than the average student, but that makes sense because I do not want to be average."

Although Miller is only a freshman, there have already been comparisons made to recent Bison grad, Kevin LeValley, who was never known for his talent, but his work ethic. Coach Wirsnberger said, "It's difficult to compare the two at this point in Austin's career, however, he has a lot of the intangibles that made LeValley so great. Austin might even be slightly ahead of where Kevin was at this point in his career. Their personalities are different, but they share the same passion and love for the sport." However different their personalities might be, those are exciting comparisons for any Bison wrestling fan. So, what's so different about Austin Miller that has helped him make such an immediate impact? According to Wirsnberger, "What makes him so good is his determination to be the best in everything he does. Also, he lives right and prepares right on a daily basis. He is our most consistent athlete on and off the mat."



If you ask Miller, he has a slightly different take on things, but there's no denying that there is a common theme here: prepare longer and work harder than the opponent. "Mostly what has made me successful on the mat this year is faith; faith in my coaches and, even more importantly I think, in myself. I work a lot individually with the coaching staff. I have put in many extra hours working on my areas of lesser strength. Therefore, I know I possess the abilities to win. I trust my coaches to prepare me properly for my matches, which they have not yet failed to do, and I trust my own ability to win every time I step onto the mat."

So, what can we expect from Miller as the EIWA and NCAA tournaments are lurking just around the corner? Well, so far he is 3-0 in the conference, and gaining valuable confidence with every win. "I believe that I can beat anyone I wrestle and that has made the difference. Wanting to win and believing that you will

win are two different things entirely. My goals for the rest of this year are to win the rest of my regular season matches, win EIWA's, and become an All-American at the NCAA tournament in St. Louis." No doubt Miller will be put to the test as, once again, the Bison travel to take on the #1 Oklahoma State Cowboys and then return home for a grueling stretch of matches in early February that sees the Bison wrestle four duals in a seven-day period. Being perfect for the rest of the year is a tall order for anyone, especially an undersized freshman, but as long as Miller continues to focus on his areas of "lesser strengths" and improve every day, anything is possible.

# BUCKNELL WRESTLING RECRUITING CLASS ANNOUNCED

Coach Wirmsberger recently announced his latest recruiting class. The eight-person group features wrestlers from six different states, including two from Pennsylvania, and the brother of a current Bison grappler.

"I am really excited about the group of guys that we have coming in next year," said Wirmsberger, who ranks second on the program's all-time wins list. "When we recruit student-athletes, we try to find guys that are like-minded and that wrestle our style, which is physical, aggressive, and unrelenting. When I look back at years' past, I think that we have had some talented classes, but this class is the toughest and grittiest that we've ever brought in and I anticipate that translating well to the type of schedule that we wrestle. This group has a chance to make an immediate and significant impact, not only within our program and conference, but nationally as well."

The Class of 2016 will be joining a Bison program that will lose just one senior to graduation after the 2011-12 campaign.

Bucknell's wrestling program has posted tremendous success in recent years with eight different student-athletes combining for 18 NCAA berths over the last five seasons.

**Rustin Barrick (Mechanicsburg, Pa./Mechanicsburg) - 157** - Rustin Scott Barrick ... born Aug. 18, 1993 in Camp Hill, Pa. ... son of Roger and Stacey Barrick ... earned four letters in wrestling and one in water polo at Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School ... three-time wrestling team captain ... two-time wrestling state qualifier ... father wrestled for Millersville University ... mother played field hockey and ran track at Franklin & Marshall College ... has two brothers, Rogan and Ryan.

**Chuck Boddy (Abington, Pa./Germantown Academy) - 285** - Charles P. Boddy ... born Jan. 4, 1994 in Willingboro, N.J. ... son of Sharon Boddy ... earned four varsity letters in football and three in wrestling at Germantown Academy ... First Team All-Interac in wrestling as a junior ... placed at Beast of the East and Ironman Tournaments as a senior ... football team captain as a senior ... two-time All-Interac offensive lineman ... Third Team All-City as a senior.

**Mark Edmonds (Holyoke, Colo./Holyoke) - 133** - Mark William Edmonds ... born Jan. 9, 1994 in Aurora, Colo. ... son of Bert Edmonds ... earned four varsity letters in wrestling at Holyoke High School ... two-time state champion in Colorado ... placed third in state as a freshman in 2008-09 ... two-time first-team all-state selection ... honorable mention all-state as a freshman ... two-time team captain ... member of NWCA National Team ... earned First Team Academic All-State honors ... half-sisters Lisa Wilson, Amy Fordyce and Kristi Knowles played softball in college ... has seven half-siblings ... enjoys longboarding, playing video games and hunting ... favorite food is seafood.

**Colin Farawell (Verona, N.J./Verona) - 197** - Colin James Farawell ... born May 4, 1993 in Paterson, N.J. ... son of John and Phyllis Farawell ... three-sport student-athlete at Verona High School ... member of wrestling, football and lacrosse teams ... two-time district champion in wrestling ... won county title in 2011 ... two-time region finalist, including title in 2011 ... 121 career victories ... lacrosse team captain ... three-time all-conference selection ... also all-state and all-county honoree ... helped football team to state title in 2009 ... named all-conference as a senior ... father played college rugby at Mount St. Mary's ... has three sisters: Jessica, Kelly and Christine.

**Robert Marchese (Oak Hills, Calif./Oak Hills) - 184** - Robert Bruce Marchese ... born March 15, 1994 in Upland, Calif. ... son of Bruce and Corinne Marchese ... three-time wrestling team captain at Oak Hills High School ... four-time all-league selection ... three-time All-San Bernardino County ... NHSCA Academic Award ... also a member of football team ... has one brother, Vincent.

**Brenan McAllister (Salisbury, Md./Parkside) - 157/165** - Brenan Sanders McAllister ... born March 2, 1994 in Salisbury, Md. ... son of Todd and Julie McAllister ... member of varsity wrestling and varsity golf teams at Parkside High School ... three-time wrestling team captain ... three-time Maryland State High School Wrestling Championship Tournament qualifier ... ranked third at 152 pounds by Maryland State Wrestling Association in January 2012 ... member of 2010-11 Maryland State Wrestling Association All-Academic Team ... placed sixth in state at 140 pounds in 2010-11 ... 134-25 career record as of mid-January 2012 ... three-time team captain of high school's golf team ... four-time Maryland State High School Championship Tournament qualifier ... 2011 state finalist ... 2011-12 Bayside Conference Fall Sport Athlete of the Year ... 2011-12 Bayside Conference Lowest Average Score award winner ... member of National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor society ... Wendy's High School Heisman Trophy award winner ... eight-time Minds in Motion award winner ... 4.4 GPA ... father was a four-year member of Bloomsburg University's swimming team ... grandfather, Roger Sanders, wrestled at West Chester University and was the 1964 NCAA College Division national champion at 157 pounds ... grandfather is also the former head wrestling coach at Bloomsburg ... has one sister, Morgan, who is a field hockey player in her high school's Class of 2015.

**Paul Petrov (Cedar Lake, Ind./Hanover) - 125/133** - Paul Nicholas Petrov ... born March 9, 1994 in Munster, Ind., ... son of Nick and Bessie Petrov ... earned four letters in wrestling at Hanover Central High School ... two-year team captain ... two-time first-team Academic All-State ... state runner-up at 103 pounds in 2010 ... finished fourth in state at 112 pounds in 2011 ... earned team's Mental Attitude Award ... has two brothers, George and John Petrov, who have both wrestled collegiately ... George wrestled two years at Purdue University ... John is a current member of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville wrestling squad.

**Robert Schlitt (Haddonfield, N.J./Haddonfield) - 165** - Robert Ludwig Schlitt ... born Jan. 9, 1994 in Fort Defiance, Ariz. ... son of Mark and Beth Schlitt ... four-time letterwinner in both wrestling and soccer at Haddonfield Memorial High School ... wrestling and soccer team captain ... 2011 New Jersey Region 7 finalist in wrestling ... placed eighth in the state in 2011 ... helped soccer team to South Jersey title in 2011 ... brother, Ray, is a current sophomore on the Bucknell wrestling team ... also has a sister, Helene ... father wrestled at Penn and was a team captain.



Bucknell University  
Wrestling Office  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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## MIDLANDS INVITATIONAL FEATURES FASTEST FALL AWARD



*Alex Pellicciotti*

For the third straight year, the Bison traveled to the Midwest over the Christmas Holiday season to compete in the country's most prestigious wrestling tournament, the Midlands Invitational. The Bison fared well early, fueled by a plethora of bonus-point victories, and found themselves in a 14th place tie with Maryland after the first day of competition. In fact, of the Bison's 14 individual wins on day one, 10 came by way of bonus points (5 Falls, 3 Major Decisions, and 2 Medical Forfeits).

Corey Lear led the charge for the Bison with three wins (2 Falls, 1 Maj. Dec.), and was the only wrestler to battle through to compete on day two. In order to place, Lear would have to upset fellow Pennsylvania native, Mike Evans. Evans, a redshirt freshman for the Iowa Hawkeyes, was seeded 8th at Midlands, but is now currently ranked 6th nationally. Lear fell to Evans 9-4, and ultimately fell one win shy of placing; ending the Bison's bid to bring home a medalist for the third straight year. However, the Bison didn't come home completely empty-handed. Sophomore, Alex Pellicciotti, won the Fastest Fall Award with an impressive 14-second pin over Luther College's Stephan De La

Cruz. Pellicciotti's fall was one of 98 total pins at the 2011 Midlands Invitational, but no one came close to touching his time as the next closest fall came in at a fast, yet distant, 37 seconds.

## SAVE THE DATE --- ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 18

Although you may be sitting there scratching your head, looking out the window as the snow cascades down from the sky, and asking yourself if it's too early to be thinking about golf, the answer is NO! The 2nd Annual Wrestling Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament is set for Friday, May 18th at the Bucknell Golf Club here in Lewisburg, and it will be here before you know it.

Thanks to all of our sponsors, we had a great time at the inaugural tournament. However, due to so many summer travel plans and family expectations, we have decided to move this year's tournament up a few weeks. So, now that you don't have to force another event into an already over-packed summer, there's no excuse to miss out. Start reaching out to friends, family, and teammates now in order to start assembling your team before you're stuck with Coach Hoffman or Coach Marble on your team!

