Wesleyan Athletics "Hall of Fame Weekend"
Affectionately tabbed as WWW (Wesleyan Wrestling Weekend)
Homecoming/Family Weekend, October 19-20, was an historic time for Wesleyan Wrestling as our championship wrestling coach and former athletics director John Biddiscombe, along with the first New England Wrestling Championship Team (1983-84), were inducted into the Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Fame.

The weekend also featured the naming of the wrestling room to the Biddscombe Wrestling Room in honor of the 38 years of teaching, coaching, winning and leadership John provided during his Wesleyan tenure. It was a tremendous event as the Biddiscombe Wrestling Room was packed with over 150 people to commemorate the occasion.

WHAT A YEAR FOR THE CARDINALS - "It was in the Cards!"
• 2012 New England Wrestling Association (NEWA) Champions
• Jefferson Ajayi ’13 - All-American (7th place) at 184 pounds
• Five New England Finalists - Three Champions - Four NCAA Qualifiers
• 11-6 Dual-Meet Record - Ranked 29th Nationally in Division III
  • Third place in NEWA Duals
• Fourth-highest team GPA as Scholar All-American Wrestling Team
  • 2011-12 NEWA Coach of the Year - Drew Black
  • 2011-12 NEWA Assistant Coach of the Year - Dan Bloom

Wesleyan Wrestling Greats Recognized
Two of Wesleyan’s All-America wrestlers were inducted into the NEWA Hall of Fame at the 2012 NEWA Championships hosted by Wesleyan.

Scott Steele ’80

Matt Skalla ’85

John Biddiscombe
• Chair of the Physical Education Dept. and Athletics Director, 1987-2012.
• Head wrestling coach for 15 years with 127-80-3 record; New England title in 1983-84.
• Two-time New England wrestling Coach of the Year and member of the N.E. Wrestling Hall of Fame.
• National Association of Collegiate Athletics Directors Div. III Athletics Director of the Year, 1999-00.
1983-84 Wesleyan Wrestling Team

- First Wesleyan wrestling team to win a New England title.
- 14-2-1 dual-match record (13-1 vs. Div. III).
- Six finalists & two champions

COACHES "Stand in Motion"

Dear Wesleyan Wrestling Alums, Parents, Wrestlers, Friends and Supporters:

This past summer and fall have been great and very busy. My family and I have now moved to Cheshire, Conn., where we purchased a new home at the end of September. It was also a very productive time planning and organizing for our team’s trip to the National Duals in Illinois in January as well as the Homecoming/Family/Wesleyan Wrestling Weekend in October.

There is much to be excited about here at Wesleyan, especially with our wrestling program. We are attaining top goals with NEWA Duals and NEWA Tournament titles in the last two years, with eight NEWA finalists and four champions over the same stretch. We are proud of our achievements and continue to perform at a very high level. We have again cracked the top-30 nationally after starting the 2012-13 season with a fourth-place finish among 16 teams at the Doug Parker Invitational, a team title among 11 squads at the RIT Invitational and a solid victory over RIC along with a tight loss to #23-ranked Wilkes in our opening dual matches. Thus, I am writing to you not only to tell you what has gone on recently with the team, but also to talk to you about the future of Wesleyan wrestling and the ideas on the horizon.

As previously noted, we have named our wrestling room the Biddiscombe Wrestling Room. With the retirement of John Biddiscombe, we now have Mike Whalen, four-time New England wrestling heavyweight champion (1980-83) under Coach Biddiscombe, as our new Athletics Director. A former wrestling coach himself at Williams, Mike is a great advocate and leader for our sport at Wesleyan. We also hired Blair Tugman as a part-time assistant coach to help our program reach new levels. Coach Tugman was a three-time N.J. state placer, a former Division I wrestler at Lock Haven U. and recently took his Daniel Hand (Madison, Conn.) High School team to a third-place and second-place finish in the New England High School Championships in consecutive years.

In order to continue our success, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Our mission is to bridge the gap between what we have and what we need to maintain the quality of our program. To get the job done, we’re hoping for assistance from people we are close to and who want us to succeed as top students, athletes and community members.

This year we are in the process of upgrading our wrestling facility to make it one of the best in the country, endowing our wrestling program and, in terms of competition, we have been selected as a top-16 team with the opportunity to compete for a national dual title at the NWCA Division III Duals in Springfield, Ill. Jan. 12/13. This is the first time in Wesleyan wrestling history the Cardinals have been selected for this prestigious event. We really need to be able to raise enough money to meet our important objectives. In order to travel and compete at the National Duals, we need your help to raise $18,000.

To ensure that we continue to conduct a first-rate program, we need to raise $25-30K annually. Here are the top budget items we need to cover each year:

- Training apparel (sweats, training shirts, shorts) - $9,000
- Travel (bus) - $2,500  • Team meal for each event - $2,000
- Assistant wrestling coach - $3,000  • Annual awards banquet/dinner - $3,000
- Recruiting costs (travel to events, recruit database info) - $2,000
- Taking JV wrestlers to NEWA Futures Tournament - $500
- Hotels - $3,000  • Bringing assistant coach to NCAAs - $1,000
- Wrestler/welfare/health cleaning items for locker and wrestling rooms - $700
- Offer guarantees to have more home matches each year - $1,000
- Webcast home events - $500

TOTAL: $28,200 ($46,200 this year with the National Duals)

I am making a personal appeal to you to help support and continue to support our team with a tax-deductible contribution (please see the form on the next page). Any amount helps with our mission, direction and value of Wesleyan Wrestling.

Thanks to each of you who supported us this past year. We are able to do many things, as noted on the list above, with your generous contributions. I want you to know how grateful and appreciative we are for your support of our team and program. Each of your contributions enables our team to experience a season of success, improvement and achievement. For all the alums and friends who have been donating to the wrestling team and Wesleyan University, I sincerely thank you. If you have supported us in the past, please consider supporting us in the future. If you have any questions or need any information about Wesleyan and the wrestling program, please do not hesitate to call or email me. I hope we can continue our relationship working with our Wesleyan wrestling program and family.

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

- Varsity ($25-49)  • All-Conference ($50-99)
- Conference Champion ($100-249)  • All-American ($250-499)
- National Champion ($500-999)  • World Champion ($1000-4999)
- Olympic Champion ($5000-9999)  • Hall of Fame ($10,000+)

Most Recent 2011-12 Contributors to the Wesleyan Wrestling Program: THANK YOU!!

- Bill & Janet Robichaud ’05
- Thomas & Janet Bachy ’10
- Allan F. Williams ’61
- Barry Family Foundation c/o Loeb & Loeb (P’12)
- Drs. Douglas Hurd & Cynthia Parlato-Hurd P’10
- Matt ‘04 & Rebecca Moran
- Eric ‘94 & Linda Krasnoo
- Frank Leone ’71
- Jan & Andrea Tobochnik P’13
- Daniel & Kathleen Mena P’13
- Louis & Sally Cannon P’14
- Paul Amoruso ’87
- Oren Baratz and Susanne Wish-Baratz P’15
- Howard Black ’63
- Britton Boyd ’02
- Edward Brown ’90
- Louis and Sally Cannon P’14
- Mike Charlton ’89  • Steve Goldberg ’83
- John Gottlieb ’09  • James Gramentie ’56
- Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation
- Joseph & Bernice Tenenbaum Foundation (P’13)
- Gregg and Laura Kelley P’15
- Michael Leonard ’03  • Michael Levine ’60
- Ronald Loose  • James MacKenzie ’65
- Nancy Moran P04
- Kevin and Lorie Nagata P13
- David ’87 and Anne Robinson
- Glenn & Rosemary Sblendorio P15
- Jeremy & Robin Schwartz P14
- Michael Toohy ’81  • Frank Uible
- Gary Westergren ’62  • Michael Whalen ’83
- Robert White ’72  • Daniel Yee

Wesleyan Athletic Advantage Program

In 2008, Wesleyan began a job-shadowing program that places current Wesleyan student-athletes with former Wesleyan student-athletes so they can explore job opportunities they might enjoy after graduation. Since that time, the program has expanded into something now called the Wesleyan Athletic Advantage, which includes a number of ways alumni can assist current Wesleyan student-athletes. A complete explanation of the Wesleyan Athletic Advantage program is available on the Wesleyan athletic web site at:

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/athletics/wesappro/index.html>

If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting venture, please contact Coach Black at <dbblack@wesleyan.edu> or 860-685-2907. Thank you very much.
This award recognizes a “Friend(s) of Wesleyan Wrestling” who gives back and helps support the Wesleyan Wrestling Program in every way. The support of Wesleyan Wrestling has been tremendous. The award is named after our current Athletics Director and former wrestling coach of 15 seasons, John Biddiscombe. The seventh annual “Biddi Award” recipient(s) were recognized at our annual wrestling awards banquet in April. They were:

- Mr. Robert & Deborah Barry
- Mr. Louis & Sally Cannon
- Mr. Tom and Veronica Oddo
- Mr. Bill & Janet Robichaud
- Mr. Joseph & Rita Roosa
- Mr. Glenn & Rosemary Sblendorio
- Mr. Russell & Maureen Scotto
- Mr. Al and Wendy Williams

And a very special thank you to the Robichaud Family (Bill & Janet Robichaud), the Barry Family (Robert & Deborah), and the Williams Family (Al & Wendy) for their consistent support of Wesleyan Wrestling. In honor of these great contributors, we now have the Robichaud (Chris ’05) Family Wall of Excellence (All-Americans); the Al Williams ’61 Wall of Excellence (all-New England/all-Northeast); and the Barry (Robert ’12) Family Wall of Excellence (Scholar All-Americans).

Annual Wrestling Awards Banquet

After each season we have a semi-formal banquet so we may reflect on the past season and recognize the team and each individual for their improvements, successes, and achievements. This past season we again celebrated at First & Last Tavern on Main Street in Middletown. This special award recipients for 2011-12 were:

- Excellence in Wrestling, Leadership, & Scholarship – Luke Erickson ’12 and Howard Tobochnik ’13
- Excellence in Scholarship - Howard Tobochnik ’13
- Ironman Award - Jefferson Ajayi ’13, Luke Erickson ’12, Maika Nagata ’13, Kyle Roosa ’13, Nick Scotto ’13, Howard Tobochnik ’13
- Gorrianian Award (most falls) - (11 pins) Howard Tobochnik ’13 (his third straight year winning this award)
- 11th Man Award – Alex Cannon ’14, Maika Nagata ’13, Nick Treuer ’14
- Most Improved Wrestler – Mike Baratz ’15, Zach Larabee ’15, Austin Frank ’15
- Turnaround Wrestler Award – Luke Erickson ’12
- Peak Performer Award - Jefferson Ajayi ’13, Kyle Roosa ’13
- Newcomer of the Year – Ryan Sblendorio ’15
- SENIOR APPRECIATION AWARD – Dave Amrhein ’12, Luke Erickson ’12, Richard Leuchter ’12, Tom Oddo ’12

WEBCASTS FOR THE 2012-13 SEASON

Brought to you by Collaborative Consulting
< http://www.collaborative.com >

Three Home Dates - Five Matches
Saturday, December 8th @ 4:30 pm vs. Rhode Island College
Saturday, January 19th vs. Trinity, Roger Williams & WPI
(all three matches will be webcast consecutively starting at noon)
Saturday, February 16th @ 1:00 pm vs. Oswego State

Webcast link < http://wescast.wesleyan.edu >

Recruiting

Please feel free to get in touch with me about any outstanding high school student wrestlers. There are so many Wesleyan Wrestling Alums out and about the country, it is an exceptional way to help Wesleyan get the edge in maintaining a competitive, winning, wrestling team. One can never have enough help in recruiting. I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Weekly Update Throughout the Wrestling Season

I would like to keep the wrestling alumni, parents and friends of Wesleyan wrestling abreast of the weekly events, competitions, news, and happenings with the wrestling program via a weekly email newsletter. This has been very well received and enjoyable for our supporters to be able to get a pulse on the team and where we are heading next. Please send me your email address or a change in your email address to dbblack@wesleyan.edu or call me at 860-685-2907. I look forward to hearing from our wrestling alumni. If you have email addresses of other teammates and/or friends of Wesleyan wrestling, and you think they might want to be included, please send those as well. Thank you.

Drew Black (right) and Al Williams ’61 (left) enjoy a moment during the dedication ceremony of the Biddiscombe Wrestling Room Friday, October 19. Included in the room is the Al Williams ’61 Wall of Excellence.
Friends of Wesleyan Wrestling
Freeman Athletic Center
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06459

2012-13 WESLEYAN WRESTLING SCHEDULE/RESULTS
11/17/12: Doug Parker Invitational at Springfield - 4th of 16 teams
12/1/12: RIT Invitational - 1st of 11 teams
12/8/12: Wilkes, 16-24 ; RIC, 34-9 L./W.
Jan. 5 (Sat.) North-South Duals# Ursinus 9:30
12/13 (Sa./Su.) NWCA National Div. III Duals Springfield, IL 9/11
19 (Sat.) Trinity/Roger Williams/WPI HOME 12:00
27 (Sun.) NEWA Duals JWU 9:30
Feb. 2 (Sat.) Springfield Away 3:00
9 (Sat.) Williams/Oneonta St./WNEU Williams 1:00
16 (Sat.) SUNY Oswego HOME 1:00
24 (Sun.) NEWA Futures Championships RWU 11:00
Mar. 2/3 (Sa./Su.) Northeast Championships WPI 2:00/10:00
15/16 (Fr./Sa.) NCAA Div. III Tournament^ Cedar Rapids, Iowa
^by qualification only
#vs. McDaniel, Cortland St., Delaware Valley & Messiah

Don't forget to mark your wrestling calendar for Saturday & Sunday, March 2-3, 2013 when Wesleyan University looks to defend its regional title at the Northeast Wrestling Championships at WPI. Joining the NEWA teams will be Cortland, Oneonta, Oswego and Ithaca in the new regional format. WPI hosted the 1983-84 Championships won by the Cardinals!