THE INSIDE TRIP
FOR FRIENDS OF
WESLEYAN WRESTLING

Wesleyan Wrestling Sends Two Competitors to the NCAA National Tournament with Three New England Finalists and Five all-New England Wrestlers during the 2008-09 Campaign

Dan Bloom ‘10 won a New England Championship at 125 pounds and competed in the toughest weight class at the 2009 NCAA Division III National Tournament with five returning All-Americans. Dan’s goal of becoming an All-American fell just short in the “All-American round” as he fell to the eventual third-place finisher, Mark Kist of Wartburg (Iowa), by the narrowest of margins, 4-3. Wartburg went on to win its seventh overall and second successive National Team Championship. Wartburg has either won or finished second in the National Tournament 15 of the last 17 years. Dan finished the season with a 34-6 record and received Wesleyan’s Most Outstanding Wrestler Award. Greg Hurd ’10 also earned a berth to the NCAA’s as a unanimous coaches choice for the first of four wildcards that the New England Wrestling Association (NEWA) received for Nationals in 2008-09. Greg competed hard at 174 pounds against the number-one competitor in the nation, Jerome Owens from Johnson & Wales U., and was New England runner-up. Greg finished his season at 35-6 along with the team’s “Iron Man Award.” Dan and Greg are co-captains for the 2009-10 team and will look to return to the NCAA Championships with their sights set on being All-Americans.

2008-09 WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY WRESTLING HIGHLIGHTS

Athletic Achievements:
• 9-6-1 dual-season record in 2008-09, 93-69-2 record this decade
• Defeated #27 team in the country, Springfield, 31-7 (1/31/09)
• Tied #25 team in the country, Rhode Island College, 21-21 (1/31/09)
• Plymouth St. Invitational Team Champions (1/10/09)
• Two nationally ranked wrestlers throughout the season (Dan Bloom, 8th at 125; Greg Hurd, 8th at 174). Both qualified for the NCAA Championships
• Five All-New England wrestlers including three finalists (Dan Bloom ‘10, champion at 125; Josh Berkovic ‘10, second at 165; Greg Hurd ’10, second at 174; Dan Conroy ’10, third at heavyweight; Dave Bachy ’10, fifth at 149)

Academic Achievements
• Second place in team GPA in the NEWA Conference (among 15 teams)
• “Scholar All-American Wrestling Team” with team GPA of 3.441 - seventh in the nation in Division III wrestling

Scholar All-Americans (must have a 3.2 GPA or higher and win 67% of matches or place in top-six of NEWA tournament)
• Dan Bloom - 3.56 GPA, 34-6 record, NEWA Champion, NCAA Qualifier
• Greg Hurd - 3.41 GPA, 35-6 record, 2nd place in NEWA, NCAA Qualifier
• Dan Conroy - 3.48 GPA, 18-10 record, 3rd place in NEWA
• Dave Bachy - 3.35 GPA, 24-14 record, 5th place in NEWA

On January 25, 2009, Head Coach Drew Black celebrated his 100th career victory at Wesleyan with a 33-9 win over Coast Guard. Coach Black is joined by his team, some alums and his children.
Dear Wesleyan Wrestling Alums, Parents, Wrestlers, Friends and Supporters:

I hope you received and enjoyed my weekly email updates on the achievements, improvements, and successes of the Wesleyan Cardinal Wrestlers and the team this past year. I am always very proud of the hard work, smart work, and teamwork our wrestlers put in during their tenure at Wesleyan. I always say that it takes a special person to be a top student and a top wrestler at Wesleyan University for four years. I am very fortunate and appreciative of the great young men who I got to work with and have worked with in my 11 years at Wesleyan. I want to first thank our graduating seniors for their dedication, commitment, and follow through during their time at Wesleyan. Thank you Alex Segal, Chris Mixon, and Jeremy Stuart as well as the senior class of 2008 in Josh Wildes and Tonni Uyehara. Every year I say to myself “Don’t be sad it is over, be happy that it happened.” Those words sum up the feelings a coach has at the end of each year. I will miss these young men, but at the same time, get excited about the incoming class of 2013. We had a fantastic group of newcomers this past season in Dave Amrhein ’12, Robert Barry ’12, Marty Buxton ’12, Vinny DeLalla ’11 (a transfer, you may recognize the last name, I love family traditions), Luke Erikson ’12, Ahmad Ismail ’12, Richard Leuchter ’12, Tom Oddo ’12, Abram Rowe ’12 and Sam Weiner ’12. All of these competitors helped our team immensely and this year’s incoming group (11 athletes in the class of 2013) is also very talented and will have an immediate impact on our program.

The captain of our 2006-07 team, Dan deLalla ’07, left a very important legacy for our team -- a champion’s attitude and mentality, the “CAN-DO” attitude and outlook. This outlook and attitude has been passed down from year to year through our other great captains, seniors, and leaders. I have really enjoyed the last few years. Wesleyan wrestling has been represented at the NCAA Wrestling Championships three out of the last four years. This past season was one of the most successful with three finalists at the New England Championships (the most since 1986). Dan Blook ’10 came away with a title at 125 and the first wildcard for the NCAA tournament was 174 runner-up, Greg Hurd ’10. Josh Berkovic ’10 was our other finalist, placing second at 165. In addition Dan Conroy ’11 finished third at heavyweight behind two NCAA qualifiers and, so was Ryan Bandy was right in the mix finishing fifth at 149. I just completed my 11th year at Wesleyan and I truly believe that Dan Blook has the ability to become a national champion. Greg Hurd and Josh Berkovic are right in line with Dan and together these three young men will help lead Wesleyan into what looks like a very exciting 2009-10 wrestling season.

Two years ago I wrote about the incoming class of 2010, “This could be my best incoming class during my eight-year tenure at Wesleyan. Only time will tell.” This senior group is living up to that billing and will look to lead our team toward a very realistic goal of a 2010 New England Team Championship. The last team championship happened 25 years ago in 1984 with John Biddiscombe as head coach. Quad-Captains Hurd, Bloom, Berkovic and Bachy, along with fellow seniors Zack Rolfe ’10, Andrew DePalma ’10 and Sean Foley ’10 will all pave the way for what could be a tremendous year for the “Red & Black Attack.” I am getting fired up just thinking about this group of young men!

The summer is off to a great start despite the cloudy month of June. This is one of the best times of the year to spend a little more quality time with the family, reflect and think about the past and future year, and get ahead with some great professional growth. July is a big month for the Black Family as we celebrate the birthdays of Leah (5), Sean (10), and mine (the big 40) as well our 12th wedding anniversary. I feel like Jen & I have only been together for a few years, but if you ask my wife, she may say it feels like an eternity (ha, ha, I hope). I hope each of you has a fantastic summer and I look forward to communicating with you when the new school year begins.

I would now like to take this time to thank each of you for your support this past year. We are able to do many things with your generous contributions such as team practice apparel, video/computer expenditures, important overnight accommodations, team and individual awards for the wrestling banquet, team meals on the road, recruiting expenditures, sanitary items to keep our locker room, wrestling room, and bodies clean and healthy during competitions all year and many other useful things. I know the economic climate is challenging right now and it is important for you to know how grateful and appreciative we are for your support of our team and program. Each of your contributions and donations enable our team to experience a season of success, improvement, and achievement. For all the alumni and friends who have been contributing to the wrestling team and Wesleyan University, I want to 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 me. I hope we can continue our relationship working with our Wesleyan wrestling program and family.

Yours in wrestling,

Drew S. Black, Head Wrestling Coach

Most Recent 2008-09 Contributors to the Wesleyan University Wrestling Program

THANK YOU!!

- Dr. Allan F. Williams ’61
- Barry Family Foundation (c/o Loeb & Loeb) P’12
- John Segal P’09 • Henry B. Anderson ’40 • The Whizzer ’72
- Mike Charlton ’90 • Nick Bazos ’03 • Matt Ferrisi ’03
- Harold Buckingham, Jr. ’52 • Robert Kaplan ’79 • Dr. Seth Gendler ’79
- Dr. Francis K. Moll Jr. ’54 • Howard Black ’63 (I like that last name)
- Dan deLalla ’07 • Jason Chan ’02 • Eric Krasnow ’84 & Linda Krasnow
- Michael Whalen ’83 & Karen Whalen
- Drs. Douglas Hurd & Cynthia Parlato-Hurd P’10
- Dr. Merrill A. Symonds • Dr. Michael “Mickey” Levine ’60
- Santiago “Sandy” Bastia ’03 • Michael Leonard ’03 • Mr. Frank Leone ’71
- Mr. Vincent & AnnMarie deLalla P’07, P’11 • Michael Gottfried P’09
- USAWCT, Inc. • Franklin Templeton Investments
- Etonow Youth Lasek P’09
- Ronald L. Rose ’60 • John & Kathy Singleton P’10
- Thomas & Janet Bachy P’10 • Linda Berkovic P’10
- William Boutin & Janice Chaikin P’10 • Thomas & Donna Torrenti P’09
- Jerold and Paula Matayoshi P’11 • Rex Mixon & Susan Garcia P’09
- Bradely Rowe • Patrick & Ellen Capone • Carl & Rachael Swam
- Ward & Nancy Near • Mrs. Jane Segal P’99 • Mary Jacques
- Frances Decker • Anne Clark • Mohamed & Esther Maamouri
- Edward & Arden McLaughlin • Joanne Belmont
- Edward & Melissa McLaughlin • Bryant Jirvascic ’11
- Dennis Feinberg • Richard Bucaro • Nick Gallo/TW Promotions, Inc.
- Jeffrey Kraushaar • Euan Fucetti • Madeline & Charles Hoeg
- Brian Golub • Vincent Passavattia • Matt & Joanne Armstrong
- Barry & Christine Kleeman • Thomas Hoeg • Dr. Charles Hoeg P’11
- Jody Johnson • Robert & Stacey Buhrman • David & Despina Costa
- Bernard Novotney & Marcia Bellefeuille • Crag Little • Susan Dawson
- Andrew & Doreen Pilsak • Xenophon & Frances Beake • Leah Alvanos
- Charles & Susan Alvanos P’11 • Guy Dugas • Louise Tarantino P’11
- Renato Tarantino ’02 • David Greenberg • Dan Munro & Eileen Hoffman
- Jeffrey & Sally Stern • Anna Tarantino & Teresa Brooks
- Christine Privitera & Nicholas Liberante • Carmelo & Bernadette Privitera
- John & Diane DeMeo • Jerome & Lori Hill • Daisy Bacz
- Frank Denicola • Jean Lavelle • Robert Saasto • Louis & Christine Fiore
- Joan Demayo • Ada Conroy & Clare Connolly • Gail Conroy
- Robert & Ellen Conroy • Robert Zoitl • Kenneth Quat • Rachel Bloom
- Rhonda Karp • Ira & Beverly Mitlin • William & Doris Weinberg
- Arnold & Lois Freedman • Irwin & Ruth Hirtz
- Stanley & Reece Goldberg • Thonias & Linda Garnitz • Alice Bloom
- Jill Bloom • Steven Bloom & Marjorie Mitlin-Bloom P’10
- Stephen Bachy • Peter Striffler • Michael & Gail Giordano
- Ronald & Ann Burniske • James & Cynthia Godovin • Barbara Hirsch
- Kevin Ricotta • Lester & Heidi Manzano • Richard & Michele Johnson
- Brian Herz • Joseph & Cynthia Parlato • John Ricotta • Michael Hurd
- Betty Hurd • Eye Associates of Utica P.C. • Mark & Marica Elias
- Peter & Linda Hurd • John Hurd • Todd Hurd • Susan Morris
- Michael Gottfried • Ali Salg Giuffre • Wanda Muel & Francqui
- Carole Quiroz • Nancy Miles • Ellen Friedland • Daniel & Janet King
- Sonja Erickson • Wallace Erickson • Audrey Plunkett
- Bobbie & Meredith Whicker • Leo & Patricia Lenzewski
- Sara Gilbane • Penney Buxton • John & Pamela Buxton
- Don & Lesley Robertson • Milton & Barbara Martindell • Ross Harris
- Mark Wilkinson • Carol Al • Eric Matayoshi • Kathryn Matayoshi
- Ennette L. Au Au • Joy Devens • Paul & Setsiko Devens
- Ronald & Coralie Mataoshi • Victor & Anita Lim
- Herbert & Mary Matayoshi • Vicki Marani • Susan Coyne
- Elizabeth Kemper P’12 • Sharon Ellingsen • Jadwiga Henderson
- Clarence & Kathleen Kemper • Marcus Leuchter • Karen Weiner
- Elizabeth Rapoport P’12 • Catherine Kozachtenko • Todd Oronzio
- W.J. & Fredrica Rapoport • Susan Edsall • Thomas J. Oddo P’12
- Jeanne Cerbone • Andrea Capalbo • Kimberly Stevenson
- Drs. Andrews & Paula Smoller • William Hakius & Mrs. Lucanne Caruso
- Mark Martell • James & Melissa Palmer • Raineri Jewelers Inc
- Fred Perry • Barbara deLalla-Hoffman • Cathleen Nash
- Stephen Heilenday • Elizabeth Forrest • Carol Jason • Roberta deLalla
- Jock & Bonnie Wheeler • Dennis McCall & Mrs. Margaret Stiles
- Shelley Giordano P’11 • Andrew & Yael Weedeck • Brenda Chisholm
- Marlene Bane • Robert & Catherine Rolfe P’10 • John Way • Helen Stone
- Norman & Bertha Rolfe • Joseph Vanandel • Ken Burchesky
SUPPORT WESLEYAN WRESTLING

Please consider making a donation in support of Wesleyan University wrestling.

All donations are tax-deductible. Please note that this gift does not count toward the unrestricted “Wesleyan Fund,” but you will be counted as a participant in Wesleyan’s current fundraising campaign. We hope you also will support the Wesleyan Fund each year. Thanks for all your support!!

Name ____________________________________________________________

Class (Wes Grad or Parent [P’xx]) ________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________________________________________

e-mail Address ____________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Wesleyan University and put “wrestling” in the memo area. Return this form with your check to:

Drew Black, Head Wrestling Coach,
Wesleyan U., Middletown, CT 06459
To make your gift online, please go to: www.wesleyan.edu and click on “Give to Wesleyan.” Be sure to include wrestling in the comment area.

″Biddi″ Award Recipient

This award recognizes a “Friend of Wesleyan Wrestling” who gives back and helps support the Wesleyan wrestling program. The award is named after our current Athletics Director and former wrestling coach of 15 seasons, John Biddiscombe. The most recent and fourth annual “Biddi Award” was presented at our wrestling awards banquet in April, 2008, going to the parents of Alex Segal ’09, Mr. John Segal and Dr. Christy Schoedel.

The Segal family has been such a phenomenal supporter of the Wesleyan wrestling program. We are thankful for their support and all of the fantastic team dinners the family hosted after the Ursinus Duals and other tournament the past three years.

John Segal is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in biophysics. John played football for two years for the Quakers and was also a member of the rugby team each of his four years. After graduation, John worked as a real estate developer for 15 years. Shortly thereafter, John became the business manager for the practice of Christianne Schoedel M.D.

Christy graduated from Yale and went on to receive her Master’s Degree in biology and M.D. at the University of Maryland. Christy is a pediatric ophthalmologist and directs the two-physician practice of Christianne Schoedel M.D. located in York, Pa.

John Segal is the proud and happy father of four children (J.J., Sarah, Chris and, of course, Alex) along with his stepson Tom and daughter Brittany. John and Christy live outside of Philadelphia, Pa. in the lovely town of Malvern.

Thank you for all you have done for Wesleyan and Wesleyan wrestling!

Wesleyan Job-Shadowing Program

Recently Wesleyan began a job-shadowing program which places current Wesleyan student-athletes with former Wesleyan student-athletes for an opportunity to experience real-world job situations. Sponsored by the athletics department and the Athletics Advisory Council, WEShadow helps scholar athletes explore careers through shadowing a Wesleyan athletic alum during spring break or the summer months. Shadow opportunities range from one day to two weeks. If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting new venture, please go to the following web link, and thank you.

< http://wesleyan.edu/alumni/councils/aac/jobshadowing >.

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 year we celebrated at the Cantina Cafe’ Ristorante on Court Street in Middletown. This year’s special award recipients were:

• 11th Man Award.................................Dave Amrhein
• Most Improved Wrestler.......................Tom Oddo
• Ironman (x3) Award ............Greg Hurd, Dave Bachy, Josh Berkovic
• Excellence in Scholarship......................Bryant Jiravisitcul
• Excellence in Wrestling, Leadership, & Scholarship ....Dan Bloom
• Turnaround Wrestler of the Year ...............Luke Erickson
• Newcomer of the Year .........................Tom Oddo, Dave Amrhein
• Most Exciting Match of the Year...............Vinny deLalla

(141-lb. match vs. R.I.C., a 9-7 win to clinch a team tie against the nationally ranked Anchormen)

• Gorrarian Award (most falls-10) ......Dan Bloom, Chris Alvanos
• Senior Appreciation Award.................. Alex Segal, Chris Mixon

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 help.

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 dblack@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.

On Sat., June 13, 2009, Sandy Batsista ’03, pictured with Coach Drew Black, tied the knot with his Wesleyan sweetheart and former women’s ice hockey standout Gabby Carson ’03 at Gore Place in Waltham, Mass. Sandy was a four-year wrestler for the Cardinals and served as a team quad-captain in both 2001-02 and 2002-03. Serving as Sandy’s best man was four-year wrestler and fellow team quad-captain Nick Bazos ’02 (left in bottom photo). Also in attendance was Mike Leonard ’03 (right in bottom photo) who celebrates his nuptuals Sat., July 25, 2009 in Pequannock, N.J. Leonard wrestled for three seasons as was a team quad-captain in 2002-03.

Alumni News
2009-10 WESLEYAN WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Nov. 14 (Sat.) Roger Williams Tournament  RWU  10:00
21 (Sat.) Doug Parker Invitational  Springfield  10:00
Dec. 5 (Sat.) R.I.T. Invitational  RIT  9:30
Jan. 9 (Sat.) Ursinus Duals  Ursinus  10:00
15 (Fri.) Trinity/Roger Williams  HOME  4:00
16 (Sat.) Johnson & Wales/So. Maine  JWU  2:00
24 (Sun.) NEWA Duals  Springfield  11:00
29 (Thu.) WNEC  HOME  7:00
30 (Sat.) Springfield/R.I.C./M.I.T.  RIC  1:00
Feb. 6 (Sat.) Williams/Lycoming/Oneonta St.  Oneonta  11:00
14 (Sun.) NECCWA J.V. Championships  Springfield  11:00
20/21 (Sa/Su) NECCWA Championships  WNEC  10/9:30

Note: The NCAA Division III Championships will be held at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa beginning Fri., March 5.

CAPTION FOR PHOTOS AT LEFT:
Top Photo: Wesleyan wrestling standout and all-New England 184-pounder Chris Robichaud '05 (right) poses with his father Bill (left) and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft (middle) during the Massachusetts Wrestling Hall of Fame dinner at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. Oct. 27, 2007. Chris’ high-school coach, Frank Smith, was being inducted into the Hall of Fame.
Bottom Photo: Coming together during the 2009 NEWA Championships at Springfield College Feb. 21-22 are (L to R) four-time New England heavyweight champ for Wesleyan Mike Whalen '83; two-time New England heavyweight champ, All-American and former six-year Wesleyan assistant wrestling coach Joe Gaboury; Wesleyan wrestling mentor Drew Black; and three-year Wesleyan assistant wrestling coach Chris Eldridge.