Let’s start this off by reflecting back and discussing the strong team and individual finish our team had to its wrestling season at the 2006 New England Championships. The Wesleyan wrestlers finished their season “peaking” at the most important time as originally planned way back at our team meeting in September. Our team and individual success may have been due in part to Wesleyan hosting the 28th annual New England Wrestling Championships. What a fantastic weekend for wrestling in our spacious Bacon Field House while holding the 10 championship matches in our new Wesleyan Arena, recently named the Silllows Gymnasium. When Wesleyan hosts an event, it gets done with great professionalism and class and this event was another great example. Our team was fired up, excited, and loose for these championships. You could feel it and see it within each wrestler that good things were going to happen for the “Red and Black Attack.” Wesleyan came away with a strong sixth-place finish in the 15-team field. The top four team finishers were all ranked in the nation’s top 25 at season’s end.

In the fifth-place match, Mike faced a Southern Maine opponent. This was the finish he set out for and accomplished. This is the type of wrestling we strive for at Wesleyan. Wearing the 10 championship matches in our new Wesleyan Arena, recently named the Sillows Gymnasium.

The last, but certainly not least, story was the finish of our co-captain Dan deLalla ’07. In simple terms, Dan deLalla was our “Nemo.” I’ve seen this movie many times having a seven-year-old and a two-year-old at home. Let me tell you about the “Dan deLalla Story.”

Here is a young man who trains and prepares himself year round. In our first competition of the year on November 12, Dan is running through and over all of his opponents like a man amongst boys. He wrestles his way to the finals bout competing against a Division I opponent from Boston University. In a 0-0 tie in the first period Dan dislocates his elbow and injury defaults the match. To this day he still feels like this match should not be on his record. Dan still wanted to wrestle but we had to stop the match. He is quite a fiery competitor. As it turned out, Dan had a small fracture and needed surgery to fix the break. His elbow took the entire season to heal and for Dan to get some strength and range of motion back in his arm. Dan’s next match would be the first round of the championships on February 18th. Dan had such a positive attitude all season and did what he could to keep his mind and body sharp. About 10 days prior to the championships, Dan got back on the mat and really started to get his mat awareness and conditioning back even though his arm was only 60-70 percent. I need to thank Coach Milo here. He became one of Dan’s main training partners going live matches with Dan to prepare him for the big tournament. Entering the tournament as the seventh seed with only five matches on the season. Dan managed to use his “little fin” to compete in six matches over the two days. Securing a spot in the finals by going 4-0, then losing for the first time in the title round. Dan came up with a match-deciding takedown on the edge of the mat in sudden-victory overtime for the 157-pound title. This bout during the “if needed” round in front of a jammed packed Wesleyan arena capped off the season for our team. This was the finish he set out for and accomplished. This is the type of victory that really creates excitement, optimism, and a reality that anyone who sets goals and works hard can be a champion too.

In addition to these three young men placing, Jeremy Stuart ’08 at 174 and Steve Campbell ’06 (who’ll return as a grad student in 2006-07), both were one victory away from becoming all-New England. This bodes well for the future of the Cardinal program. As one reflects back on the season and the year past, it is evident that success and achievements are not an accident. These young men were able to overcome and succeed due in great part to their ability and willingness to work. Also having a quality team and quality teammates who are right there alongside them, pushing, pulling, trying to be the starter for Wesleyan, made this team better. This is a perfect time to thank and give my best wishes to Chris Robichaud ’05 as he finished his tenure at Wesleyan as a grad student competitor. Chris, as many of you know, fell on many difficult times, sustaining season-ending injuries over his last three years at Wesleyan. Through all of his adversity he rose above it to be a great team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a competitor, a winner, and a great friend to all of us in the program.

The INSIDE TRIP FOR FRIENDS OF WESLEYAN WRESTLING

August 2006 • Freeman Athletic Center • Wesleyan University • Middletown, CT 06459

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Sometimes things did not always go as planned, but I know the type of person that Chris has become through this Wesleyan process because he gave 100 percent to this University and program. I am thankful and fortunate to be surrounded by good people. That is certainly one secret to success in any endeavor.

This team began the season as a young team, a season to gain experience and growth, and it ended with a team that worked for and enjoyed some great successes. This team will now transition into becoming a team of experienced, talented upperclassmen, a hardworking, coachable, and skilled sophomore class, along with a very talented incoming freshman class. The 2006-07 season looks to be an exciting time for Wesleyan wrestling. There will be more to come in our November newsletter on our newcomers to the program. This could be the best incoming class during my eight-year tenure at Wesleyan. Only time will tell. It will definitely be an exciting adventure.

COACHES "Stance in Motion"

Dear Wesleyan Wrestling Alumnus, Parents, Wrestlers, and Wesleyan Supporters:

Can you all believe that it is August already? This has been a great summer, no complaints here. My wife and I are in the second year as homeowners so we are up to the usual things such as getting a "feel" for the house, painting rooms, rearranging furniture, hanging pictures and enhancing our investment. This is such a great time of the year. I am enjoying the family time taking my son Sean, now seven years old, and my daughter Leah, now two years old, to the town pool most afternoons. Sean spends a lot of time as a ninja, army man, spy, cowboy, and athlete pending the day and minute. I am really excited with the progress Leah is making as a swimmer. She can swim underwater a bit on her own and more importantly she is a little cutie. What fun it is seeing these two grow up. It is also a great time to barbecue, go to the beach, and get some great personal workouts in. In addition to all the fun in the sun, I also manage to reflect on the past season, make some changes, and get excited about the new season ahead. I believe we have a very talented team next season and the seasons beyond. This team will have great leadership with Dan deLalla as our captain, along with a much-improved Dan Zeigarnik '07, graduate student and heavyweight Steve Campbell '06 and the steady drive, work ethic and team attitude of Ed Kenney '07. The team becomes junior class dominant with great talent in Jeremy Stuart '08, Josh Wildes, Mike Lima, Don Torrenti '08, Tomi Uyehara '08, Drew Marvin-Smith '08, and Andrew Meyer '08. Our team will return four all-New England competitors including an NCAA qualifier. Add in our skilled sophomore class and the fantastic newcomers to our program and we are looking like a well-balanced, talented team. The class of 2010 arrives on Tuesday, August 29 and we will begin yet another exciting, thrilling, and challenging academic and athletic year ahead.

I would now like to take this time 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, team t-shirts, overnight accommodations, awards for the wrestling banquet, meals on the road, recruiting expenditures, Gatorade and fruit for the athletes during competitions all year and many other useful things. 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 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 the future. If you have any questions or need any information about Wesleyan and Wesleyan University I want to thank you for your support this past year. We are able to do many things with your generous contributions such as team practice apparel, team t-shirts, overnight accommodations, awards for the wrestling banquet, meals on the road, recruiting expenditures, Gatorade and fruit for the athletes during competitions all year and many other useful things. 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 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 the future. If you have any questions or need any information about Wesleyan and Wesleyan University I want to thank you for your support.

Thank you for your support!!

Yours in wrestling,

Drew S. Black, Head Wrestling Coach

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 them as well. Thank you.

Most Recent 2005-06 Contributors to the Wesleyan University Wrestling Program

THANK YOU!!

- Bill & Janet Robichaud (friends and family member P '05)
- Dr. Allan F. Williams '61
- Thomas & Donna Torrenti (friends and family member P '07)
- Mr. Henry B. Anderson '40
- The Whizzer '82
- Mr. Mike Charlton '89
- Mrs. AnnMarie deLalla (friend and family member P '07)
- Mr. Vincent deLalla (friend and family member P '07)
- Dr. Joao Lima (friend and family member P '08)
- Mrs. Sandra D. Lima (friend and family member P '08)
- Mr. James Gramentine '56
- Dr. Michael Levine '60
- Ms. Christy Schoedel (friend and family member P '09)
- Mr. John Segal (friend and family member P '09)
- Mr. Alan Wiener '63
- Mr. Frank Leone '71
- Mr. Andrew Yawitz '98
- Mr. Stephen Wainwright '61
- Mr. Michael Leonard '03
- Mr. Ronald R. Loose '60
- Mr. Dennis Spencer '98
- USAWCT, Inc.

Recruiting

Please feel free to get in touch with me about any outstanding high school student wrestlers. There are so many Wesleyan wrestling alumni 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.

Alumni in the News

I would like to share some news on two of our prestigious alumni. This first alumnus recently received a “Distinguished Alumnus Award” during commencement weekend for his 30+ year career at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. This alumnus is responsible for the use of safety belts and child restraints that so many of us did not use during the 1970s. His work resulted in the adoption of child restraint laws in every state. Maybe some of you have heard of the “Click It or Tick It” campaign. I know my son likes to say this all the time. He was a principal architect of this program. I want to say thank you and recognize one of our own, Dr. Allan Williams ’61, P’89 for his great successes, work, and his continued support of our wrestling program.

Another prominent alumnus I want to mention graduated just a short time ago from the class of 1940. He is a veteran of World War II and was one of Wesleyan’s many presenters of the “WESeminars” during commencement weekend. I was unable to attend the seminar, but I hear his firsthand accounts of the mood on campus, around the country, and his personal war experiences was a very popular and well-received seminar. I will be sure to make it to his next presentation. I also want to thank Henry Anderson for his continued support of Wesleyan and our wrestling program.

I would like to expand this section of our newsletter in the future. It is fantastic information to know where our alumni are and what they are doing. I saw Mr. Michael Toohey ’81 and his beautiful family at commencement weekend as well. Time goes by so fast and it is always nice to catch up and hear from our wrestling alumni. My next thoughts and plans are to try and begin a “Wesleyan Wrestling Hall of Fame.” This could be something real fun and exciting to look back and recognize our best and brightest. Stay in touch and thank you all for your support of Wesleyan and Wesleyan wrestling.
SUPPORT WESLEYAN WRESTLING

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

Your donation is tax-deductible and goes directly to support the wrestling program.

Please fill out this form along with your check made out to:

"Friends of Wesleyan Wrestling"

and mail to:

Drew Black
Wrestling Coach
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06459

Your dollars go a long way toward making an impact on our athletic teams. Thank you very much!!

Name _______________________________ 

Class (Wes Grad or Parent [P'xx]) ____________ 

Address __________________________________

Phone _________________________________

e-mail Address ____________________________

"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 19 seasons, John Biddiscombe. The second annual “Biddi Award” recipient was recognized at our annual wrestling awards banquet. This year’s winners are the parents of recent graduate Chris Robichaud ’05, GR ’06, Mr. Bill and Janet Robichaud.

Bill is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Collaborative Consulting, LLC. Bill is charged with growing the company and establishing it as a premier provider of business and technology services for leading organizations in New England and beyond. In seven years, he has seen the organization he founded grow from a single employee—himself—to over 200 employees. Along the way, he has directed profitable expansion into Atlanta, Ga. and New Jersey.

Bill has nearly 25 years of information systems experience, including substantial consulting, recruiting, sales and management expertise. He received a bachelor of science degree in political science from Salem State College.

In addition, Bill has contributed to and been featured in several business and industry publications, and recently authored a chapter of Inside the Minds: CEO Leadership Strategies, from Aspatore Books.

Bill and his wife Janet live in Reading Mass. There they raised their three children. The Robichaud family was inducted into the Massachusetts Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002 for their contributions to the Reading Memorial High School wrestling team. In 2004, Janet and Bill were honored by Reading wrestling as recipients of the “FOREVER FRIENDS OF READING WRESTLING” award. Both the Reading and Wesleyan plaques are proudly displayed in Bill’s office at Collaborative Consulting. Janet and Bill’s contributions to Reading wrestling include: a new wrestling mat, a Reading wrestling wall of fame, and an annual contribution to provide the team with a wrestling consultant, who happens to be in the New England Wrestling Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a high school head coach.

2005-06 Wesleyan Wrestling Highlights

- Dual-match victories over Johns Hopkins, Trinity, WPI, Coast Guard, Southern Maine and Western New England.
- Wesleyan hosted the 28th annual New England College Conference Wrestling Association (NECCWA) Championships. The Finals venue was our new Wesleyan Arena where we had the largest crowd for an athletic event in 13 month existence, approaching 1,000.
- We finished the championship season very strong with a sixth-place finish out of 15 teams at the New England Championships where we had three all-New England wrestlers, which included New England champion and national qualifier Dan deLalla.
- Three all-New England Wrestlers: Josh Wildes at 133 pounds (third place), Mike Lima at 197 pounds (fifth place), New England Champion-Dan deLalla at 157 pounds.

Academic Achievements

- Second place in team GPA in the NECCWA Conference (of 15 teams).
- Seventeenth place in the Nation Scholar All-American Wrestling Team rankings (3.151 GPA, the team’s fifth consecutive top-20 national finish).
- Dan deLalla, Scholar All-American (criteria: 3.2 GPA and 66.7% winning percentage or place in conference championship).

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, and the special award recipients were:

- 11th Man Award………………………………………Don Torrenti
- Most Improved Wrestler……………………………Mike Lima
- Ironman Award ………………………………………..Josh Wildes
- Excellence in Scholarship……………………………Jeremy Stuart
- Excellence in Wrestling, Leadership, & Scholarship .Dan deLalla
- Turnaround Wrestler of the Year ……………………Josh Wildes
- Newcomer of the Year…………………………………John Gottfried
- Most Exciting Match of the Year…………………..Dan deLalla
- Lifter of the Year……………………………………..Nate Pritchett

2005-06 All-New England Honorees

Wesleyan had three individuals earn all-New England honors at the 2006 NECCWA tournament hosted by Wesleyan February 18-19. Pictured (L to R) are assistant coaches Matt Moran and Camilo Rincon-Camacho, Mike Lima ’08, Dan deLalla ’07, Josh Wildes ’08 and head coach Drew Black.
Friends of Wesleyan Wrestling
Freeman Athletic Center
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06459

Front Row (L to R): Dan Zeigarnik, Ravid Chowdhury, Josh Wildes, Don Torrenti, Dan deLalla, Chris Robichaud, Andrew Meyer, Ed Kenney, Tomi Uyehara, John Gottfried. Back Row (L to R): Camilo Rincon-Camacho (assistant coach), Mike Lima, Cam Maloni, Jeremy Stuart, Drew Marvin-Smith, Nate Pritchett, Alex Segal, Alex Footman, Steve Campbell, Chris Mixon, Joe Fountain (head athletic trainer), Drew Black (head coach). Missing: Matt Moran (assistant coach).