ROCHESTER, N.Y. -- For the first time since 1996, three SUNY Cortland wrestlers won his weight class at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Championships. Sophomore Jason Peck (Montgomery/Valley Central) and juniors Brent Rider (Tioga Center/Tioga) and Ben Locke (Bainbridge/Bainbridge-Guilford) qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships to be hosted by Loras College (IA) on March 5-6. In addition, sophomore Jason Chase (Rush/Rush-Henrietta) earned a ticket to nationals as one of the league’s eight “wild card” entries, selected by the coaches, after finishing second at 141 pounds.

The Red Dragons finished second as a team with 70.5 points. Brockport won the title with 105 points, followed by Cortland, Ithaca (62.5), Oswego (57), Oneonta (43.5) and RIT (8).

Peck, ranked third nationally in Division III and the top seed at 125 pounds, won his weight class for the second straight year. He opened with a 3-0 decision over fourth-seeded John Spinner of Oswego in the semifinals and defeated third-seeded Salvador Cruz of Brockport 7-4 in the finals to raise his record to 36-6 on the season.

Rider, ranked seventh nationally, entered the conference qualifiers as the third seed at 157 pounds and posted a 3-0 record. He recorded an 11-2 major decision in his first match versus Oswego’s Chuck Guttilla. In the semifinals, Rider faced second-seeded Chad Sutliffe of RIT and won a 7-5 decision in overtime. Rider won the title with a 3-2 win over fourth-seeded Romaine Malcolm of Brockport. Rider, who was an All-American at 157 pounds in 2002, improved his record to 22-6 on the season.

Last season, Locke qualified for the national meet as a “wild card” at 197 pounds. This year, Locke moved down to the 184-pound weight class and took the individual conference title as the third seed. He opened by pinning second-seeded Robert Stubbs of Ithaca in 2:39 in the semifinals, then defeated fourth-seeded Justin Chandler 8-5 in the finals to improve to 29-16 on the season.

Three Red Dragons finished in second place in their respective weight classes. Chase, the second seed at 141 pounds, earned a pin in 1:04 over Ithaca’s Adam Johnson in the quarterfinals. He recorded a 9-3 decision over third-seeded Clayton Walsh of Oswego in the semifinals before losing by pin at 1:02 to top-seeded Dan Roberts of Brockport in the finals. His record stands at 28-12 on the season. Freshman Stef Sair (Huntington) reached the finals of the 174-pound weight class as the third seed. He earned an 8-1 decision over RIT’s Gus Mancini in the quarterfinals, then posted a 4-2 decision over second-seeded Kyle Hauptfleisch of Oneonta in the semifinals. In the finals, Sair, 10-7 on the year, lost a 10-7 decision to top-seeded Matthias Keib of Ithaca.

Freshman Mike Karbowiak (Patchogue/Patchogue-Medford), the fifth seed at heavyweight, won three straight bouts to claim second in his weight class. After losing 12-3 to fourth-seeded Bryan Petti of Ithaca in his opening match, he defeated Adam Abdelhamed of RIT 9-3 to set up a rematch with Petti. Karbowiak earned a 3-2 decision, then defeated second-seeded Jeremy Calkins of Oswego 5-2 in the “true second” match. He finished the season with an 11-12 record.
2004 EMPIRE COLLEGIATE WRESTLING CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINAL TEAM SCORES
1) Brockport 105, 2) Cortland 70.5, 3) Ithaca 62.5,
4) Oswego 57, 5) Oneonta 43.5, 6) RIT 8

2004 Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference
Individual Placewinners
(Each weight-class champion, plus eight wild cards (**)
qualify for the NCAA Div. III Championships)

125 pounds
1st & 2nd Place
Jason Peck (Cortland) dec. Salvador Cruz (Brockport) 7-4
True Second
**Salvador Cruz (Brockport) dec. John Spinner (Oswego) 5-3
3rd & 4th Place
John Spinner (Oswego) dec. Kyle Kemmerer (Ithaca) 6-4

133 pounds
1st & 2nd
Tony D’Ambra (Brock) dec. Tenk Agyeman (Oswego) 16-9
True Second
**Tenk Agyeman (Osw) pinned Lance Dolson (Ithaca) 5:00
3rd & 4th
Lance Dolson (Ithaca) def. Eddie Ortiz (Cortland) Default

141 pounds
1st & 2nd
Dan Roberts (Brock) pinned **Jason Chase (Cortland) 1:02
3rd & 4th
Clayton Walsh (Oswego) def. Joe Sanders (Oneonta) Default

149 pounds
1st & 2nd
Dan Song (Brockport) dec. **Rory Tobias (Oneonta) 6-4
3rd & 4th
Dane Laplante (Oswego) def. Greg Skiff (Ithaca) 4-2

157 pounds
1st & 2nd
Brent Rider (Cortland) dec. **Romaine Malcolm (Brock) 3-2
3rd & 4th
**K.C. Beach (Ithaca) dec. Chad Sutliffe (RIT) 4-3

165 pounds
1st & 2nd
Artie Weidler (Brock) dec. **Frank Petrucci (Oswego) 5-2
3rd & 4th
**Marc Israel (Ithaca) dec. Otis Place (Oneonta) 12-8

174 pounds
1st & 2nd
Mathias Keib (Ithaca) dec. Stef Sair (Cortland) 10-7
3rd & 4th
Kyle Hauptfleisch (Oneonta) pinned Gus Mancini (RIT) 1:41

184 pounds
1st & 2nd
Ben Locke (Cortland) dec. Justin Chandler (Oneonta) 8-5
True Second
Robert Stubbs (Ithaca) dec. Justin Chandler (Oneonta) 7-2
3rd & 4th
Robert Stubbs (Ith) dec. Jonathan Jagatnarian (Osw) 9-5

197 pounds
1st & 2nd
Robert Cuffie (Brock) dec. Nick Castellano (Oneonta) 6-2
3rd & 4th
Nick Calandrino (Ithaca) dec. Trevor Comeau (Cortland) 7-1

CORTLAND RESULTS

1st & 2nd
(1) Jason Peck (1st, 2-0 record)
Def. #4 John Spinner (Oswego), 3-0
Def. #3 Salvador Cruz (Brockport), 7-4

True Second
(5) Eddie Ortiz (4th, 2-2)
Major dec. #4 Alex Hojnowski (Oneonta), 19-5
Lost to #1 Tenk Agyeman (Oswego), 15-5
Def. Nathan Garrel (RIT), 6-5
Lost #3 Lance Dolson (Ithaca), Default

(2) Jason Chase (2nd, 2-1 record)
Pinned Adam Johnson (Ithaca), 1:04
Def. #3 Clayton Walsh (Oswego), 9-3
Lost to #1 Dan Roberts (Brockport), Pin 1:02

(4) Jaret Misener (0-2 record)
Lost to #5 Rory Tobias (Oneonta), 13-9
Lost to #3 Greg Skiff (Ithaca), 11-9

(#3) Brent Rider (1st, 3-0 record)
Major dec. Chuck Guttilla (Oswego), 11-2
Def. #2 Chad Sutliffe (RIT), 7-5 OT
Def. #4 Romaine Malcolm (Brockport), 3-2

(#5) Matt Slate (0-2 record)
Lost to #4 Otis Place (Oneonta), 2-1
Lost to #2 Marc Israel (Ithaca), 5-2

(#3) Stef Sair (2nd, 2-1 record)
Def. Gus Mancini (RIT), 8-1
Def. #2 Kyle Hauptfleisch (Oneonta), 4-2
Lost to #1 Matthias Keib (Ithaca), 10-7

(#3) Ben Locke (1st, 2-0 record)
Pinned #2 Robert Stubbs (Ithaca), 2:39
Def. #4 Justin Chandler (Oneonta), 8-5

(#4) Romaine Malcolm (Brockport), 14-5
Def. Mat Gough (Oswego), 11-5
Lost to #3 Nick Calandrino (Ithaca), 7-1

(#5) Mike Karbowiak (2nd, 3-1 record)
Lost to #4 Bryan Petti (Ithaca), 12-3
Def. Adam Abdelhamed (RIT), 9-3
Def. #4 Bryan Petti (Ithaca), 3-2
Def. #2 Jeremy Calkins (Oswego), 5-2