SUNY Brockport Wins Fourth Consecutive Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Title

Golden Eagles to Send Six Wrestlers to NCAA Div. III Championships
Cortland’s Stef Sair Named Championship’s Most Outstanding Wrestler

CORTLAND, N.Y. – SUNY Brockport captured its fourth consecutive Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference title and six Golden Eagles earned trips to the NCAA Division III Championships at the conference championship and national qualifier hosted by SUNY Cortland.

Brockport won the title with 97.5 points, followed by Cortland (79.5), Ithaca (61.5), Oswego (54), RIT (29) and Oneonta (19). Cortland junior Stef Sair (Huntington) was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the Championship after successfully defending his league title at 174 pounds. Cortland fourth-year head coach Brad Bruhn was chosen as the league’s Coach of the Year.

Eighteen wrestlers from the league will compete at the national championships March 3-4 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J. – the 10 weight class champions and eight “wild cards” who were selected by the coaches following the tournament.

Three Brockport wrestlers won individual titles – junior Rob Vaccaro (East Islip) at 125 pounds, sophomore Donald Williams (Kendall) at 165 pounds and senior heavyweight Pat Bennett (Syracuse/Marcellus). Three other Golden Eagles earned wild card spots after placing second in their weight classes – senior Tony D’Ambra (Caledonia/Caledonia-Mumford) at 133 pounds, junior Don Ooton (Virginia Beach, VA/Great Bridge) at 149 pounds and sophomore Shaheim Bradshaw (Huntington) at 157 pounds.

Ithaca also claimed three individual titles in addition to one wild card slot. Senior Jad Duca (Monmouth Junction, NJ/South Brunswick) won at 157 pounds, senior Rob Stubbs (Levittown/General MacArthur) won at 184 pounds and junior Nick Calandrino (Emerson, NJ) was the 197-pound winner. The other Bomber heading to nationals is senior Matthias Keib (Fulton/G. Ray Bodley), who lost to Sair in the 174-pound final.

Cortland’s three representatives at nationals will be Sair, freshman Paul LeBlanc (Morrisville/Morrisville-Eaton) and sophomore Ryan Gadsby (Auburn). LeBlanc won the title at 141 pounds. Gadsby entered the 125-pound weight class as the top seed, but lost in the finals to third-seeded Vaccaro and also lost in the “true” second-place match.

Oswego won a pair of individual titles as freshman Joe Jewett (Watertown/Indian River) was the 133-pound winner and junior Dane LaPlante (Carthage/Beaver River) won at 149 pounds. Senior John Spinner (Burke/Franklin Academy), who defeated Gadsby in the 125-pound second-place match, earned a wild card ticket to nationals. RIT and Oneonta will each send one wrestler to nationals as a wild card. Senior Zach Greenberg (Saddle River, NJ/Northern Highlands) will represent RIT at 197 pounds and Oneonta sophomore Trevor Hilfa (Holland Patent) will compete at heavyweight. Both lost in the finals in their respective weight classes.

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2006 Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Championships
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL TEAM SCORES:
1) Brockport -- 97.5
2) Cortland -- 79.5
3) Ithaca -- 61.5
4) Oswego -- 54.0
5) RIT -- 29.0
6) Oneonta -- 19.0

2006 Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Weight Class Champions:
125 - Rob Vaccaro (Brockport)
133 - Joe Jewett (Oswego)
141 - Paul LeBlanc (Cortland)
149 - Dane LaPlante (Oswego)
157 - Jad Duca (Ithaca)
165 - Donald Williams (Brockport)
174 - Stef Sair (Cortland)
184 - Rob Stubbs (Ithaca)
197 - Nick Calandrino (Ithaca)
HWT - Pat Bennett (Brockport)

Wild Card Selections (advance to nationals):
John Spinner (Oswego) - 125 pounds
Ryan Gadsby (Cortland) - 125 pounds
Tony D’Ambra (Brockport) - 133 pounds
Don Ooton (Brockport) - 149 pounds
Shaheem Bradshaw (Brockport) - 157 pounds
Matthias Keib (Ithaca) - 174 pounds
Zach Greenberg (RIT) - 197 pounds
Trevor Hilfa (Oneonta) - Heavyweight

Wild Card Alternates:
1st - Pat Flynn (Brockport) - 141 pounds
2nd - Luke Baum (RIT) - 141 pounds
3rd - Jacob Taylor (Oswego) - Heavyweight

Outstanding Wrestler of the Championship:
Stef Sair (Cortland) - 174 pounds

2005-06 Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Coach of the Year:
Brad Bruhn (Cortland)

Results by Weight Class

125 pounds:
Quarterfinals:
(#1) Ryan Gadsby (Cortland) pinned Macario Alvarez (Ithaca), 1:42

Semifinals:
(#1) Ryan Gadsby (Cortland) def. (#4) Scott Gorman (Oneonta), 4-0
(#3) Rob Vaccaro (Brockport) def. (#2) John Spinner (Oswego), 6-4

Consolation Semifinals:
(#2) John Spinner (Oswego) def. Macario Alvarez (Ithaca), 8-2

Third-Place Match:
(#2) John Spinner (Oswego) major dec. (#4) Scott Gorman (Oneonta), 8-0

Finals:
(#3) Rob Vaccaro (Brockport) def. (#1) Ryan Gadsby (Cortland), 9-7

True Second-Place Match:
(#2) John Spinner (Oswego) major dec. (#1) Ryan Gadsby (Cortland), 8-0

133 pounds:
Quarterfinals:
(4) Julian Nicholas (RIT) major dec. Walter Moore (Oneonta), 8-0
(2) Tony D’Ambra (Brockport) major dec. Timothy Gammons (Ithaca), 11-3

Semifinals:
(1) Joe Jewett (Oswego) pinned (4) Julian Nicholas (RIT), 3:35
(2) Tony D’Ambra (Brockport) tech. fall (3) Eddie Ortiz (Cortland), 4:44 (17-1)

Consolation Semifinals:
(3) Eddie Ortiz (Cortland) major dec. Walter Moore (Oneonta), 14-2
(4) Julian Nicholas (RIT) major dec. Timothy Gammons (Ithaca), 8-0

Third-Place Match:
(3) Eddie Ortiz (Cortland) def. (4) Julian Nicholas (RIT), 7-2

Finals:
(1) Joe Jewett (Oswego) def. (2) Tony D’Ambra (Brockport), 6-4
(No true second-place match needed)

141 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(1) Paul LeBlanc (Cortland) pinned Rich Stevens (Oswego), 1:08
(3) Pat Flynn (Brockport) def. Scott Aronowitz (Ithaca), 11-5

Semifinals:
(1) Paul LeBlanc (Cortland) tech. fall (4) Derek Franc (Oneonta), 4:11 (15-0)
(3) Pat Flynn (Brockport) def. (2) Luke Baum (RIT), 6-4

Consolation Semifinals:
(2) Luke Baum (RIT) major dec. Rich Stevens (Oswego), 13-0
Scott Aronowitz (Ithaca) def. (4) Derek Franc (Oneonta), 6-2

Third-Place Match:
(2) Luke Baum (RIT) def. Scott Aronowitz (Ithaca), 7-2

Finals:
(1) Paul LeBlanc (Cortland) def. (3) Pat Flynn (Brockport), 9-6
(No true second-place match needed)

149 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(4) Mike Pietrowski (RIT) def. Nick Ryan (Oneonta), 5-3
(2) Dane LaPlante (Oswego) major dec. Mike Toscano (Ithaca), 13-0

Semifinals:
(1) Don Ooton (Brockport) def. (4) Mike Pietrowski (RIT), 4-0
(2) Dane LaPlante (Oswego) def. (3) Jason Chase (Cortland), 3-1 (ot, tb-1)

Consolation Semifinals:
(3) Jason Chase (Cortland) won by injury default vs. Nick Ryan (Oneonta)
(4) Mike Pietrowski (RIT) def. Mike Toscano (Ithaca), 10-8 (ot, sv-1)

Third-Place Match:
(4) Mike Pietrowski (RIT) def. (3) Jason Chase (Cortland), 4-3

Finals:
(2) Dane LaPlante (Oswego) def. (1) Don Ooton (Brockport), 2-1 (ot, tb-1)
(No true second-place match needed)
157 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(#4) John Franchi (Cortland) def. (#5) Nate Bachmann (RIT), 3-1
(#2) Jad Duca (Ithaca) pinned Wayne Lampi (Oswego), 4:39

Semifinals:
(#1) Shaheim Bradshaw (Brockport) pinned (#4) John Franchi (Cortland), 4:22
(#2) Jad Duca (Ithaca) def. (#3) Dave Ballard (Oneonta), 8-1

Consolation Semifinals:
(#3) Dave Ballard (Oneonta) def. (#5) Nate Bachmann (RIT), 4-2
(#4) John Franchi (Cortland) pinned Wayne Lampi (Oswego), 6:30

Third-Place Match:
(#4) John Franchi (Cortland) pinned (#3) Dave Ballard (Oneonta), 2:56

Finals:
(#2) Jad Duca (Ithaca) def. (#1) Shaheim Bradshaw (Brockport), 6-4

(No true second-place match needed)

165 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(#4) Ryan Higgins (Oneonta) pinned Colby Cooper (Oswego), 1:56
(#2) Brian Lockard (Ithaca) major dec. Brian Douangratdy (RIT), 10-0

Semifinals:
(#1) Donald Williams (Brockport) pinned (#4) Ryan Higgins (Oneonta), 1:52
(#3) Troy Tooley (Cortland) def. (#2) Brian Lockard (Ithaca), 7-3

Consolation Semifinals:
(#2) Brian Lockard (Ithaca) def. Colby Cooper (Oswego), 6-1
(#4) Ryan Higgins (Oneonta) def. Brian Douangratdy (RIT), 6-3

Third-Place Match:
(#2) Brian Lockard (Ithaca) def. (#4) Ryan Higgins (Oneonta), 8-2

Finals:
(#1) Donald Williams (Brockport) def. (#3) Troy Tooley (Cortland), 8-5

(No true second-place match needed)

174 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(#1) Stef Sair (Cortland) tech. fall Michael Hamilton (Oneonta), 4:36 (17-2)
(#2) Matthias Keib (Ithaca) tech. fall Craig Becker (Oswego), 6:52 (21-5)

Semifinals:
(#1) Stef Sair (Cortland) pinned Brad Strite (RIT), 2:46
(#2) Matthias Keib (Ithaca) def. (#3) Eric Van Patten (Brockport), 5-1

Consolation Semifinals:
(#3) Eric Van Patten (Brockport) def. Michael Hamilton (Oneonta), 8-2
Craig Becker (Oswego) def. Brad Strite (RIT), 8-6

Third-Place Match:
(#3) Eric Van Patten (Brockport) def. Craig Becker (Oswego), 9-2

Finals:
(#1) Stef Sair (Cortland) def. (#2) Matthias Keib (Ithaca), 6-3

(No true second-place match needed)
184 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(1) Rob Stubbs (Ithaca) pinned Justin Betz (RIT), 2:49
(3) Mario Schiano (Cortland) major dec. Dave Carroll (Oneonta), 16-7

Semifinals:
(1) Rob Stubbs (Ithaca) major dec. (4) Jon Jagatnarain (Oswego), 10-2
(2) Brett Giehl (Brockport) def. (3) Mario Schiano (Cortland), 2-1

Consolation Semifinals:
(3) Mario Schiano (Cortland) def. Justin Betz (RIT), 10-3
(4) Jon Jagatnarain (Oswego) pinned Dave Carroll (Oneonta), 1:42

Third-Place Match:
(3) Mario Schiano (Cortland) def. (4) Jon Jagatnarain (Oswego), 4-2 (ot, sv-2)

Finals:
(1) Rob Stubbs (Ithaca) def. (2) Brett Giehl (Brockport), 4-1

(No true second-place match needed)

197 pounds:

Quarterfinals:
(4) Matt Gough (Oswego) def. James Murray (Oneonta), 4-3
(2) Zach Greenberg (RIT) major dec. Stephen Spiegeleire (Brockport), 11-3

Semifinals:
(1) Nick Calandrino (Ithaca) major dec. (4) Matt Gough (Oswego), 10-0
(2) Zach Greenberg (RIT) def. (3) Phil Archer (Cortland), 3-2

Consolation Semifinals:
(3) Phil Archer (Cortland) major dec. James Murray (Oneonta), 15-3
Stephen Spiegeleire (Brockport) def. (4) Matt Gough (Oswego), 4-1

Third-Place Match:
(3) Phil Archer (Cortland) def. Stephen Spiegeleire (Brockport), 4-1

Finals:
(1) Nick Calandrino (Ithaca) def. (2) Zach Greenberg (RIT), 6-5

(No true second-place match needed)

Heavyweight:

Quarterfinals:
(1) Pat Bennett (Brockport) major dec. Matt Eldredge (Cortland), 13-2
(3) Jacob Taylor (Oswego) pinned Tyler Daffinee (Ithaca), 3:29

Semifinals:
(1) Pat Bennett (Brockport) def. (4) Micah Vore (RIT), 6-3
(2) Trevor Hilfa (Oneonta) def. (3) Jacob Taylor (Oswego), 7-5

Consolation Semifinals:
(3) Jacob Taylor (Oswego) pinned Matt Eldredge (Cortland), 0:41
(4) Micah Vore (RIT) def. Tyler Daffinee (Ithaca), 4-2

Third-Place Match:
(3) Jacob Taylor (Oswego) pinned (4) Micah Vore (RIT), 4:41

Finals:
(1) Pat Bennett (Brockport) pinned (2) Trevor Hilfa (Oneonta), 4:35

(No true second-place match needed)