

SPORTS NEWS



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Wrestling

For Immediate Release: March 10, 2003 • Contact: John Hartrick

Bearcats place eighth at CAA Championship

Binghamton advanced three wrestlers to the semifinals and placed eighth out of 11 teams at the Colonial Athletic Association Championship, hosted by Hofstra on Friday and Saturday. The Bearcats totalled 26.5 points - just two points behind seventh place George Mason. Binghamton finished ahead of Old Dominion (23), Campbell (21) and Wagner (5). Sophomore 141-pound **Josh Ruff (Bainbridge, N.Y./Bainbridge-Guilford)** placed second, senior 157-pound **Joe Privitere (Johnson City, N.Y.)** was fourth, as was sophomore 165-pound **Ryan Jantzen (Shoreham, N.Y./Shoreham-Wading River)**.

"I'm pleased with our performance," head coach Mike Fusilli said. "We finished higher than last year and had more placewinners. But almost as important, two of our three placewinners will be back in the lineup next year."

Ruff is runner-up, will advance to NAAs

Sophomore 141-pound **Josh Ruff (Bainbridge, N.Y./Bainbridge-Guilford)** placed second and qualified for the NCAA Championship, March 20-22 in Kansas City. Ruff, who entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed, opened with a pin in 2:24 over an unseeded foe from George Mason. In the semifinals, he scored a 2-0 decision over the No. 3 seed, Pat Diez, of James Madison. Having already secured an NCAA bid, Ruff was defeated 8-3 in the final by top-seeded Mike Messina of Sacred Heart. It was the third time this season nationally-ranked Messina has defeated Ruff.

"Josh wrestled real well," Fusilli said. "He had a good semifinal match against a past NCAA qualifier. Diez was ready for him but Josh had a great match."

Ruff becomes the program's second NCAA Division I qualifier in as many years. Last season, heavyweight Craig Tefft was runner-up at the CAA Championship and advanced to the NCAA Championship.

"It will be hard for Josh to place at his weight," Fusilli acknowledged. "It will be a great experience for him to build on for the next two years though. If he could win a match or two out there, that would be great."

Privitere ends brilliant career with fourth place showing ; just misses NCAA berth

Senior 157-pound **Joe Privitere (Johnson City, N.Y.)** had his four-year career come to an end one point and perhaps one vote shy of an NCAA bid. Privitere, seeded fourth, was defeated 3-2 by third-seeded Rob Bellville in the match for third place, and Bellville wound up as one of the seven wild card picks, while Privitere was eighth on the list, and will be the first alternate.

"It's hard to swallow," Fusilli said of Privitere's loss on the mat and in the post-tournament wild card meeting. "It was such a competitive weight with three nationally ranked guys, and Joe was so close to each one. I'm still having a hard time with how the coaches voted in the wild card meeting."

Privitere, who concluded his career with a 97-36 record, didn't allow a takedown in the pivotal match. He scored a second period takedown, but Bellville used two escapes and riding time to eke out the 3-2 win.

"Joe did so much for our program, especially in the community," Fusilli said. "His competitiveness ... the way he was with the guys on the team ... the way he treated people ... he will be missed, that's for sure."

2002-03 Sched./Results (7-15)

NOVEMBER	
16 Sat.	BEARCAT OPEN no scoring
24 Sun.	BUFFALO (West Gym) L 7-34
26 Tue.	ARMY L 11-30
DECEMBER	
6 Fri.	EASTERN MICHIGAN L 16-22
	BOSTON UNIVERSITY L 3-43
8 Sun.	+Gardner-Webb W 24-19
	+Mercyhurst L 23-24
	@ Kent State L 3-41
20 Fri.	@ Delaware Beast of East no scoring
JANUARY	
11 Sat.	^George Mason W 30-10
	^UNC-Greensboro W 28-16
	^Campbell W 25-13
17 Fri.-	@ NYS Championship 5th of 18
18 Sat.	hosted by Buffalo
22 Wed.	@ Wagner W 44-6
24 Fri.	%Old Dominion W 22-21
	%Drexel L 13-31
25 Sat.	%James Madison L 16-19
	%Hofstra L 6-38
29 Wed.	@ Rider L 9-31
FEBRUARY	
1 Sat.	PRINCETON W 30-13
	FRANKLIN & MARSHALL L 16-21
8 Sat.	@ Sacred Heart L 5-34
15 Sat.	SLIPPERY ROCK L 15-17
19 Wed.	EAST STROUDSBURG L 12-22
21 Fri.	@ Columbia L 17-26
MARCH	
7 Fri.-	Colonial Athletic Association 8th of 11
8 Sat.	Champ. hosted by Hofstra
20 Thu.-	NCAA Championship TBA
22 Sat.	in Kansas City, Mo.
	%CAA Duals hosted by George Mason
	^ N.C. State Duals