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THE HUSKY VOICE

St. Cloud State University Wrestling Newsletter

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DIGGING FOR GOLD

2011-2012



SCSU Wrestling Team Ranked #1 In Pre-Season Polls

St. Cloud State enters the 2011-12 season as favorite in the NSIC and the No. 1 team in NCAA Division II wrestling, according to the NSIC Wrestling Preseason Coaches' Poll and the preseason NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches Association.

The Huskies, coming off a best-ever runner-up finish in last year's national tournament, narrowly beat Upper Iowa for the top spot in the NSIC with 55 points, one more than the Peacocks, who finished fourth nationally as a team in 2010-11. The points in the rankings were assigned from the top five individuals in each of the ten weight classes using the point system: 1st = 10, 2nd = 7, 3rd = 4, 4th = 2, 5th = 1.

In the national poll the Huskies received four of the eight first-place votes cast in balloting of coaches from around the country and finished with 153 points in earning the favorite's tag. Upper Iowa was ranked third in the nation followed by Augustana at sixth, Minnesota State in twelfth, while U-Mary and Northern State received votes.

In the individual national rankings the NSIC had five of the top wrestlers in the nation. Trevor Franklin of Upper Iowa was the top ranked wrestler at 133 pounds, Nate Herda of Augustana at 149 pounds, Tad Merritt of St. Cloud State at 165 pounds, Carl Broghammer of Upper Iowa at 197 pounds and Matt Meuleners of Northern State at 285.

In all the NSIC had 21 of its wrestler ranked in the top ten in the nation led by Upper Iowa with six, St. Cloud State with five, Augustana at four and Minnesota State at three. U-Mary, MSU Moorhead and Northern State each had one wrestler in the top ten.

2011-12 NSIC Wrestling Preseason Coaches' Poll

- 1 St. Cloud State 55
- 2 Upper Iowa 54
- 3 Augustana 44
- 4 Minnesota State 32
- 5 University of Mary 20
- 6 MSU Moorhead 17
- 7 Northern State 11
- 8 SMSU 7

NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches Association Top 20

- 1 St. Cloud State (Minn.) 153
- 2 Newberry (S.C.) 150
- 3 Upper Iowa 144
- 4 Nebraska-Kearney 132
- 5 Grand Canyon (Ariz.) 130
- 6 Augustana (S.D.) 124
- 7 Central Oklahoma 107
- 8 Pittsburgh-Johnstown 94
- 9 Wisconsin-Parkside 90
- 10 Ashland (Ohio) 74
- 11 Mercyhurst (Pa.) 70
- 12 Minnesota State 69
- 13 Adams State (Colo.) 63
- 14 Findlay (Ohio) 53
- 15 Maryville (Mo.) 47
- 16 Fort Hays State (Kan.) 44
- 17 Limestone (S.C.) 31
- 18 North Carolina-Pembroke 28
- 19 San Francisco State 23
- 20 Shippensburg (Pa.) 15



2011-2012 NCAA Division II Individual Rankings

125 Pounds

1. Connor McDonald, Newberry (S.C.)
2. Kyle Pedretti, Upper Iowa
3. Corey Ulmer, Minnesota State-Moorhead
4. Terrell McKinney, Maryville (Mo.)
5. Ben Sergent, Findlay (Ohio)
6. Jerry Huff, Adams State (Colo.)
7. Brandon Davis, Ashland (Ohio)
8. Shane Summerlin, Belmont Abbey (N.C.)

133 Pounds

1. Trevor Franklin, Upper Iowa
2. Jason Jeremiason, Augustana (S.D.)
3. Ryan Link, Pittsburgh-Johnstown (Pa.)
4. Trison Graham, Central Oklahoma
5. Matt Oliver, Newberry (S.C.)
6. Michael Magaha, Limestone (S.C.)
7. Dan Mandara, Ashland (Ohio)
8. Tyler Nelson, Colorado Mesa

141 Pounds

1. Dalton Jensen, Nebraska-Kearney
2. B.J. Young, Newberry (S.C.)
3. Jack Bachman, Pittsburgh-Johnstown (Pa.)
4. Dan Genetin, Ashland (Ohio)
5. Simon Rice, Shippensburg (Pa.)
6. Adam Hluschak, East Stroudsburg (Pa.)
7. Madison Gambrell, Grand Canyon (Ariz.)
8. Nick Wykoff, West Liberty (W. Va.)

149 Pounds

1. Nate Herda, Augustana (S.D.)
2. Mitchell Means, Fort Hays State (Kan.)
3. Tommy Abbott, Minnesota State
4. Josh Hensley, Adams State (Colo.)
5. Ethan Swope, Gannon (Pa.)
6. Deral Brown, Newberry (S.C.)
7. Nathan Link, Pittsburgh-Johnstown (Pa.)
8. Ryan Maus, Truman State (Mo.)

157 Pounds

1. Dillon Bera, Wisconsin-Parkside
2. T.J. Hepburn, Nebraska-Kearney
3. Jordan Shields, Mercyhurst (Pa.)
4. Teddy Bristol, Grand Canyon (Ariz.)
5. Cory Dauphin, Central Oklahoma
6. Marcus Edgington, Augustana (S.D.)
7. J.D. Horn, St. Cloud State (Minn.)
8. Winston Robbins, Upper Iowa

165 Pounds

1. Tad Merritt, St. Cloud State (Minn.)
2. Joey Wilson, Nebraska-Kearney
3. Mike Williams, North Carolina-Pembroke
4. Dylan Granard, Colorado Mesa
5. Sean Brynes, Newberry (S.C.)
6. Isaiah Jimenez, San Francisco State (Colo.)
7. Jordan Larsen, Colorado School of Mines
8. Ronald Tetreault, American International (Mass.)

174 Pounds

1. Michael Lybarger, Findlay (Ohio)
2. Luke Rynish, Wisconsin-Parkside
3. Victor Carazo, Grand Canyon (Ariz.)
4. Shamus O'Grady, St. Cloud State (Minn.)
5. Kelly Henderson, Central Oklahoma
6. Bryce Sopko, Limestone (S.C.)
7. Carl Serck, Augustana (S.D.)
8. Brendan Eichman, Minnesota State

184 Pounds

1. Ross Brunkhardt, Nebraska-Kearney
2. Mitch Schultz, Upper Iowa
3. Matt Gille, Wisconsin-Parkside
4. Derek Skala, St. Cloud State (Minn.)
5. Tanner Keck, Central Oklahoma
6. Brady Anderson, Mary (N.D.)
7. Brandon Tressler, King (Tenn.)
8. Londele Cox, Mercyhurst (Pa.)

197 Pounds

1. Carl Broghammer, Upper Iowa
2. Dan Scanlan, Limestone (S.C.)
3. Luke McPeek, Adams State (Colo.)
4. Matt Baker, Maryville (Mo.)
5. Pat Mahan, Minnesota State
6. Frank Morgan, King (Tenn.)
7. Eddie Ebewo, East Stroudsburg (Pa.)
8. Karl Reed, Newberry (S.C.)

285 Pounds

1. Matt Meuleners, Northern State (S.D.)
2. Jacob Kahnke, St. Cloud State (Minn.)
3. Jacob Southwick, Ashland (Ohio)
4. Jake Elkins, Newberry (S.C.)
5. Zach Rosol, Upper Iowa
6. Fred Hale, Mercyhurst (Pa.)
7. J.D. Ramsey, West Liberty (W. Va.)

2011-2012 SCSU Black and Red Classic



TEAM BLACK EDGES TEAM RED 24-12

The St. Cloud State University wrestling team kicked off the 2011-12 campaign at its annual Black/Red Classic on Friday, Nov. 4, in Halenbeck Hall. The Black team outscored the Red team 24-12 in front of a crowd of nearly 200 Husky wrestling fans.

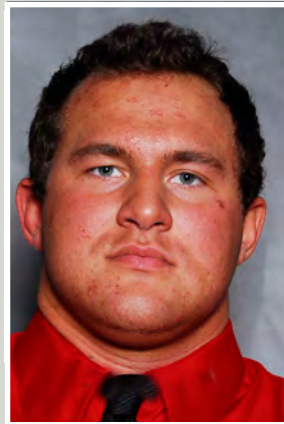
Before the match, the Huskies honored two former St. Cloud State University greats: Troy Molitor (Class of 1989 and Tom Anderson (Class of 2008). Both men served as honorary coaches for the event and received SCSU wrestling plaques for their participation.

Weight	Wrestlers	Results
125	Eric Forde vs Dylan Wright	Forde winner by decision 9-4
133	Andy Pokorny vs Zach Stewart	Pokorny winner by decision 5-3
141	Matt Nelson vs Matt Leibforth	Nelson winner by decision 7-3
149	Josh Howk vs Jacob R. Horn	Howk winner by fall 2:29
157	Jacob D. Horn vs Clint Poster	Horn winner by decision 9-3
165	Jack Barnes vs Cody Tibbetts	Barnes winner by decision 3-2
174	Kurt Salmen vs Ben McPhail	Salmen winner by decision 8-4
184	Trey Griffin vs Dan Dick	Griffin winner by decision 7-4
197	Luke Munkelwitz vs Mic Berg	Munkelwitz winner by decision 4-2 OT
285	Chris Brassell vs Shaun Little	Brassell winner by decision 4-2

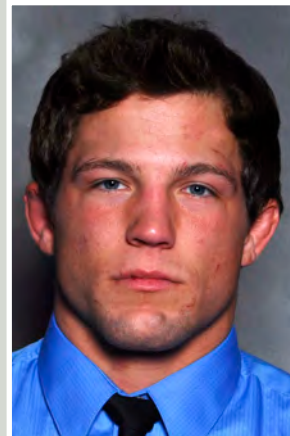


Tom Anderson (left) and Troy Molitor (Right)

Two St. Cloud State Wrestlers Claim Titles at SDSU Open



RsJr Jacob Kahnke
HWT



RsSr Derek Skala
184

The St. Cloud State University wrestling team, which is ranked #1 in the nation in the Division II Wrestling Coaches' Association 2011-12 preseason poll, opened its season with a trip to the Warren Williamson/Daktronics Open in Brookings, S.D. on Nov. 6.

SCSU brought home two titles from the Williamson/Daktronics Open, which was held on the campus of NCAA Division I opponent South Dakota State.

RS Junior Jacob Kahnke (Shakopee/Prior Lake H.S.) opened his year in top order as he won the bracket at 285-pounds. Kahnke charted a 4-0 record in the Open, which was capped by a big 8-3 win over Matt Meuleners of Northern State.

The victory was a bit of payback for Kahnke, as he lost a close match to Meuleners in the title bout at the 2011 NCAA Division II championships back in March 2011. Kahnke charted a technical fall (over Taylor Harris of Augustana), a pin (over Ben

Tammany of Illinois) and an 8-1 win (over Levitius Roberson of Midland Lutheran) to reach the title bout on Nov. 6.

SCSU senior Derek Skala (Owatonna), who missed the 2010-11 season as a redshirt at SCSU, returned to the mats in top order with a first place finish at 184 pounds. Skala charted a 5-0 record that was topped by a 6-5 win over Joel Bauman of Minnesota. Skala is one of five returning All-Americans on the SCSU roster this winter.

At 174-pounds, three-time All-American senior Tad Merritt placed second at the Williamson/Daktronics Open. He lost to Logan Storley of Minnesota in the title bout by a score of 9-4.

On his way to the finals, Merritt gained a fall over Jamestown's Marlon Branson, a 22-9 win over Illinois' Thomas Moman and a 6-0 win over NDSU's Kurtis Julson.

SCSU's Zach Stewart scored a third place finish at 133-pounds, which included a 4-1 record that was highlighted by a 6-1 win over teammate Dylan Wright in the match for third place at 133-pounds. Wright finished his trip to the Open with a 4-2 record.

In the bracket at 149-pounds, Jacob R. Horn claimed a fifth place finish as he earned a forfeit win over NDSU's Mark Erickson in that match. Horn was 4-2 in action at the Open.

SCSU's other top five finisher at the Open was sophomore Chris Brassell, who placed fifth in the 197-pound division. Brassell chalked up a 6-5 win over Nick Mart of SDSU in the bout for fifth place. Brassell ended his day in Brookings with a 4-2 record.



Jacob Kahnke Named NSIC Wrestler of The Week

St. Cloud State University junior Jacob Kahnke (Shakopee/Prior Lake H.S.) has been named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Wrestler of the Week for Oct. 31-Nov. 6. Kahnke wrestles for the Huskies at 285-pounds this season, and is currently ranked #2 in the nation in the Division II Wrestling Coaches' Association preseason poll.

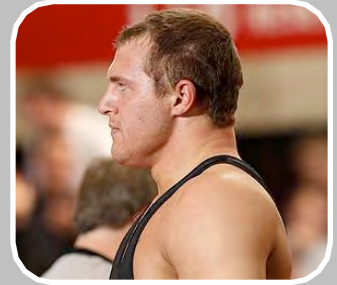
To achieve the NSIC weekly award, Kahnke won first place honors in the 285-pound bracket at the 2011 Warren Williamson/Daktronics Open on Sunday, Nov. 6 in Brookings, S.D.

Kahnke rolled to the title with a perfect 4-0 record that included a first round bye, a second technical fall over Augustana's Taylor Harris and a third round pin at 1:36 against Illinois' Ben Tammany. In the semi-finals, Kahnke posted an 8-1 win over Leviticus Roberson of Midland Lutheran.

To cap the event, Kahnke scored an 8-3 win over defending NCAA Division II champion Matt Meuleners of Northern State in the title bout. Kahnke is now 4-0 on the season for the Huskies.



PHOTO ALBUM



Harold Nichols Cyclone Open

The #1 St. Cloud State University wrestling ventured to the 2011 Harold Nichols Cyclone Open on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on Nov. 13. This meet featured many of the nation's top wrestlers from all levels of college wrestling.

The Huskies showed very well at the tournament with 13 top six performances and three runner-up finishes.

At 133-pounds the Huskies saw 2 place winners with Zach Stewart and Dylan Wright. They both made it to the fifth and sixth place match with 3-2 records.

At 141-pounds, SCSU saw three unattached wrestlers place. Matt Nelson took second with a 3-1 record, Jay Hildreth battled his way back to a third place finish with a 5-1 record after losing first round and winning 5 straight, Jared Kust took sixth with a 2-3 record.

At 149-pounds, freshman Josh Howk placed fourth in the tournament with a 4-2 record and 4 falls.

At 157-pounds, SCSU's unattached wrestler Clint Poster placed third capping a 4-1 record.

At 165-pounds two of SCSU's unattached wrestlers Dan Dick and Cody Tibbetts advanced to the 5th and 6th place match up.

At 174-pounds, junior Kurt Salmen enjoyed a big weekend at the Nichols Open with a fourth place ending in the bracket. Salmen carded a 3-2 record in the tournament and lost a close 8-6 match in the bout for third place against Northern Iowa's Cody Caldwell. Salmen is 7-4 this season for the Huskies.

At 184-pounds, senior Derek Skala continued his impressive return to the mats after being a medical redshirt in 2010-11. Skala placed second at the Nichols Open with a 2-1 record. His lone loss coming from Ryan Loder of Northern Iowa (4-1) in the championship bout at 184-pounds. Skala now owns a 7-1 record this season.

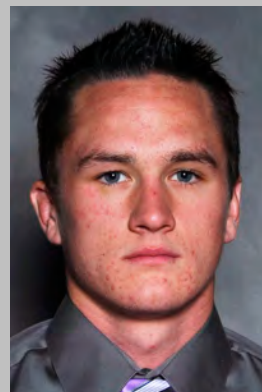
At 197-pounds Senior Luke Munkelwitz was another placewinner for the Huskies at the Nichols Open. At 197-pounds, Munkelwitz scored a third place ending that included a 5-3 win over Davion Willis of UW-Parkside in the consolation bracket finals. Munkelwitz was 4-1 in Open action and he now owns a 5-3 record this winter.

At 285-pounds, junior Jake Kahnke moved his record to 7-1 on the season after the Cyclone Open. He went 3-1 in tournament action and lost in the finals by a 5-0 margin to Matt Gibson of Iowa State. On the way to the finals, Kahnke earned wins over three Division I opponents.

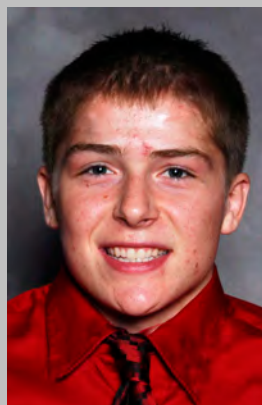
PHOTO ALBUM



Matt Nelson



Jay Hildreth



Clint Poster

Giving Back to The Community

PHOTO ALBUM



For the 5th year in a row the St. Cloud State University wrestling team volunteered to lend a helping hand with the Mississippi River Clean-up Sponsored by the SCSU Outdoor Endeavors Program on Oct. 8.

The river clean-up is considered to be the most consistent river clean-up in the state of Minnesota and community volunteers usually collect over 600-pounds of garbage. Volunteers spent 3 hours on Saturday cleaning up the banks of the Mississippi river surrounding the SCSU campus.

"I really appreciate our guys volunteering their time to help out the St. Cloud community," said SCSU assistant coach Tyson Reiner. "We have continued to make an effort give back to the St. Cloud community. Our wrestlers understand that it's important for our program to give back to the

community and take pride in the St. Cloud community and University.

The Huskies also took part in the Catholic Charities Scouting for Food Drive on Oct. 8. This marks the second year in a row the Huskies have helped out at this event. The Husky Wrestlers spent four hours loading and stacking boxes of donated food items for the less fortunate.

"I was very proud of our young men for lending a helping hand," Said coach Steve Costanzo. "This event is an annual event to help the less fortunate in our community. I was very impressed with our attitude and willingness to help out."

Members of the SCSU wrestling team have also donated their time serving lunches to students at Sartell High School throughout the year.



Featured Coach Of The Month

Grad-Assistant: Tyson Reiner



Tyson Reiner joins the SCSU staff after serving as an assistant wrestling coach at Wartburg College during the 2010-11 season. Reiner helped lead Wartburg to a NCAA Division III team title last winter along with first place finishes in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the NWCA/Cliff Keen Division III National Duals. Wartburg saw seven of its athletes earn top seven finishes at the NCAA championships in 2011, including two individual National Champions.

A 2010 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Reiner wrestled for the Panthers from 2005 to 2010. A two-time team captain and three-year starter at UNI, Reiner earned one Western Wrestling Conference crown and was a two-time NCAA Division I national qualifier.

A native of Mitchell, S.D., Reiner claimed two South Dakota state high school titles and was a two-time state runner-up as a prep wrestler. He was also a two-time high school All-America.

“Tyson has earned the respect of his peers as an outstanding leader in and out of the wrestling room,” said Costanzo. “He has proven experience as a winner and will be invaluable to the Husky wrestling program in our quest to retain a top quality program.”

Coach Reiner recently published an article in The Coaches Insider on Sept. 28, 2011. The article deals with the SCSU wrestling team's weight maintenance program.

To check out the complete article go to

<http://store.coachesdirectory.com/site/wrs-stcloudweight.html#.ToM3JQeRiYw.twitter>

