

# ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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## Wrestling



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**Current record – 7-3 Overall, 0-1 MAC**

### **Bulls Rebound From Early Deficit To Pin Mercyhurst**

The University at Buffalo wrestling team rallied from an early deficit to win the final six matches and claim a 31-12 win over visiting Mercyhurst at Alumni Arena.

The Bulls got a pair of major decisions and two pins to rebound from the deficit. Buffalo improved to 7-3 in dual matches while Mercyhurst fell to 7-5.

Buffalo started out sluggishly, losing three of the first four matches. The only winner for Buffalo was junior **Mike Trotta (Oceanside, NY/Oceanside)** who scored an impressive 17-4 win over Mike Shumac at 133 pounds. Trotta twice scored near-fall points and added a reversal and three takedowns in the win.

Mercyhurst took a 12-4 lead when Jake Squire scored a fall at 5:41 over Buffalo freshman **Kiel Illg (Lackawanna, NY/St. Francis)**, before the Bulls rallied in the upper weights.

Sophomore **Labe Black (Ventnor, NJ/Absegami)** started the Bulls' rally with a strong 12-3 victory at 157 pounds, getting a three-point near fall in the second period to turn the match in his direction. At 165 pounds, sophomore **Tom Paladino (Bethpage, NY/Bethpage)** continued to wrestle well, posting a 14-6 win with five takedowns and a reversal. Paladino's win squared the match at 12-12.

It was all Buffalo from there, as senior **Gary Cooper (Adams, NY/South Jefferson)** scored his 17th straight victory with a pin at 1:47 over Jared Snyder. Cooper had already built a 7-0 lead when he put Snyder in a cradle for the fall. It was Cooper's 13th career dual meet fall.

Junior **Garrett Bontempo (DuBois, PA/DuBois)** kept the momentum going with a solid 12-3 win over Ben McAviney by getting four takedowns – giving him 99 in his dual match career – as well as riding time. At 197 pounds, **Kyle Cerminara (Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter)** scored a 3-2 decision over Justin Mautz, who placed fifth at the Division II National Championships last season.

The Bulls finished the meet in style as heavyweight **Tom Curl (Gibbstown, NJ/Paulsboro)** pinned Angelo Caponi at 4:27 to close the match. Curl got his second takedown of the match to put Caponi on his back and secured the fall from there.

### **Bulls Salute Seniors In Final Home Match of the Year**

Buffalo will close the home portion of the 2002-03 season with a match versus Slippery Rock on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Alumni Arena.

The Bulls will salute three seniors before the match – all-time winningest wrestler **Gary Cooper**, 149-pounder **Ryan Bentley** and 141-pounder **Adam Grillo**. Cooper and Bentley will be in the starting lineup for Buffalo while Grillo completed his degree work and his career with the wrestling team in December.

Buffalo will close the '02-03 campaign with three straight Mid-American Conference road matches – at Top 20-ranked Central Michigan on Saturday, at Northern Illinois with Eastern Michigan on Feb. 22 and at Ohio on Feb. 23rd. The Huskies of Northern Illinois have also been ranked in the Top 25 this season.

### **BULL-etins**

Junior **Garrett Bontempo** has moved up to third place all-time in career takedowns with 99. The career leader is John Stutzman with 135. Bontempo leads the Bulls with 42 takedowns this season.

Two Bulls are ranked first in their weight class in the Mid-American Conference Wrestling Rankings conducted by the MAC coaches. **Gary Cooper** – currently 10-0 in dual meets and riding a 17-match winning streak – is No. 1 at 174 pounds, while sophomore **Kyle Cerminara** – who has never lost a MAC match in his career – is No. 1 at 197 pounds. Cerminara won the MAC championship last season and advanced to the NCAA Championships as a true freshman.

### 2002-03 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Result/Time
11/16	Oklahoma Gold Classic @ Brockport	7 <sup>th</sup> of 10
11/21	<b>LOCK HAVEN</b>	<b>W, 23-20</b>
11/24	@ Binghamton	W, 34-7
11/30	Mat Town Tournament (at Lock Haven)	7 <sup>th</sup> of 10
12/20	Beast of the East Tournament (at Delaware)	3 <sup>rd</sup> of 15
w/ Virginia Tech, Old Dominion, Princeton, Drexel, George Mason, Citadel, Binghamton, and Bloomsburg		
12/28-29	Wilkes Open (at Wilkes-Barre, PA)	No scoring
1/4	Tennessee-Chattanooga#	W, 38-9
	Indiana#	L, 19-16
	Eastern Illinois#	W, 41-3
	Drexel#	W, 25-10
1/9	<b>AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>W, 44-3</b>
1/11	at Clarion University	L, 20-17
1/17-18	<b>NEW YORK STATE COLLEGIATES</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> of 18</b>
1/25	<b>KENT STATE*</b>	<b>L, 22-9</b>
2/2	<b>MERCYHURST</b>	<b>W, 31-12</b>
2/4	<b>SLIPPERY ROCK</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
2/7	at Central Michigan*	7:00 pm
2/22	vs. Northern Illinois*	10:00 am
	at Eastern Michigan*	12 noon
2/23	at Ohio University*	1:00 pm
3/8-9	Mid-American Conference Championships at Central Michigan University	1:00 pm
3/20-22	NCAA Championships at Kemper Arena, Kansas City, MO	TBA

### **HOME IN BOLD CAPS, Away in italics**

\* - Mid-American Conference Matches  
# - at Buckeye Duals, hosted by Ohio State

### 2002-03 DUAL MEET & INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Winning percentage .....	Gary Cooper 27-4 (.871)
.....	Garrett Bontempo 26-6 (.813)
.....	Kyle Cerminara 26-8 (.765)
Dual Meet Wins .....	Gary Cooper (10)
Takedowns .....	Garrett Bontempo (42)
Falls .....	Gary Cooper (4)
Near Falls (2 points) .....	Gary Cooper (6)
Near Falls (3 points) .....	Gary Cooper (6)
Technical Falls .....	n/a
Escapes.....	Labe Black (17)
Reversals .....	Mike Sebaaly (7)
Riding Time Points .....	Garrett Bontempo (6)