

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Wrestling



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Current record – 8-4 Overall, 0-2 MAC

Bulls Drop Close Decision at #16 Central Michigan

Central Michigan, ranked 16th in this week's National Wrestling Coaches Association poll, used a pair of key victories at 174 and 197 pounds to down visiting Buffalo, 19-12, in a Mid-American Conference match at Rose Arena.

The Chippewas (10-3 overall, 2-1 MAC) got upsets at both weight classes to overcome a good effort by the visiting Bulls, who fell to 8-4 overall and 0-2 in MAC action.

The match started at 149 pounds with No. 9-ranked Ty Morgan winning by decision over **Ryan Bentley (Ripley, NY/Ripley)** by an 8-2 score. However, UB's **Labe Black (Ventnor, NJ/Absegami)** got Buffalo a huge win at 157 pounds when he upset tenth-ranked David Bolyard by a 6-4 score, getting a takedown with :10 left in the match. Black improved to 9-3 in dual meets and 24-11 overall with the clutch win.

The Chippewas regained the lead when eighth-ranked Kevin Carr held off UB's **Tom Paladino (Bethpage, NY/Bethpage)** by a 4-1 score, before getting one of two victories that swayed the match. At 174 pounds, Mitch Hancock broke the 18-match winning streak of UB's **Gary Cooper (Adams, NY/South Jefferson)** with a 6-3 win to give Central a 9-3 lead in the dual. It was Cooper's first dual meet loss of the season.

Buffalo's **Garrett Bontempo (DuBois, PA/DuBois)** would get Buffalo to within 9-6 on the scoreboard with a solid 8-2 win over Alex Lammers to improve to 28-6 and 10-2 in dual meets. However, Central scored another upset when Brett Faustman handed Buffalo sophomore **Kyle Cerminara (Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter)** his first-ever loss against a MAC opponent. The match went to overtime with neither competitor able to score in the first overtime before Faustman rode Cerminara out for the full :30 to claim a 3-2 win that put the Chippewas up 12-6 in the match.

Buffalo again rallied, as freshman heavyweight **Tom Curl (Gibbstown, NJ/Paulsboro)** scored a 6-4 win over Bill Stouffer. However, the only other victory the Bulls could manage was a 9-2 decision by junior **Mike Trotta (Oceanside, NY/Oceanside)** at 133 pounds. Trotta won his fourth straight dual match with the victory and improved to 26-11 on the season.

Bulls Slam Slippery Rock

The Bulls closed their home meet season in fine fashion last Tuesday night by downing visiting Slippery Rock, 33-9, in a non-conference match at Alumni Arena.

The Bulls dominated a match that featured a forfeit, a medical forfeit and a disqualification for stalling. Buffalo jumped on top 10-0 as freshman **Mike Sebaaly (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster)** scored a come-from-behind win and junior **Mike Trotta** won by forfeit at 133 pounds.

Sebaaly was taken down early, but twice scored reversals as well as a trio of near-falls to post a 12-2 victory in the night's opening match at 125 pounds.

Slippery Rock rallied behind back-to-back wins by D.J. Clark and Brad Cielecki. Clark used a riding time point to edge **Cliff Smith (Merrick, NY/Merrick)**, 6-5, while Cielecki downed Ryan Bentley by an 8-1 score at 149 pounds.

The Bulls, as they have done all season, put the match away from 157 to 197 pounds with five straight wins. 157-pounder **Labe Black** scored an impressive 9-0 win over Jason Cardillo, getting two near-falls and a reversal, before **Tom Paladino** scored a solid 9-4 win at 165 pounds.

At 174 pounds, Buffalo senior **Gary Cooper** moved to 11-0 in dual meets this season with a medical forfeit victory when Justin Stamm could not continue in the second period. Cooper led 8-2 at the time. At 184 pounds, junior co-captain **Garrett Bontempo** dominated John Opfar, scoring his 100th career takedown early in the match and recording a pair of three-point near falls en route to a 17-3 win.

Buffalo's final win of the night belonged to sophomore **Kyle Cerminara** who earned a stalling disqualification over Corey Hart, who was warned the maximum four times. Cerminara led the match 5-0 when the match was called.

BULL-etins

Junior **Garrett Bontempo** became just the third Bull to record 100 takedowns in the match versus Slippery Rock. Bontempo now has 106 career takedowns, second all-time behind career leader John Stutzman (135). In addition, his 49 takedowns this season rank fourth best for a single season.

2002-03 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Result/Time
11/16	Oklahoma Gold Classic @ Brockport	7 th of 10
11/21	LOCK HAVEN	W, 23-20
11/24	@ Binghamton	W, 34-7
11/30	Mat Town Tournament (at Lock Haven)	7 th of 10
12/20	Beast of the East Tournament (at Delaware)	3 rd 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	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	W, 44-3
1/11	at Clarion University	L, 20-17
1/17-18	NEW YORK STATE COLLEGIATES	1st of 18
1/25	KENT STATE*	L, 22-9
2/2	MERCYHURST	W, 31-12
2/4	SLIPPERY ROCK	W, 33-9
2/7	at Central Michigan*	L, 19-12
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)