

# ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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**Current record – 9-6 Overall, 1-4 MAC**

### Cerminara Wins MAC Wrestler of the Week Award

Sophomore **Kyle Cerminara** (*Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter*) became Buffalo's third Mid-American Conference Wrestler of the Week winner when he earned the honor based on his 3-0 record in UB's final weekend of dual meets.

Cerminara led Buffalo to a 19-16 win over Eastern Michigan by defeating Travis Craft, 11-5, in the night's pivotal final match. Cerminara also posted wins over Northern Illinois and Ohio opponents over the weekend to improve to 11-2 in dual meets and 30-9 overall on the season.

Cerminara looks to defend his 197-pound MAC title on March 8-9 at the MAC Championships at Central Michigan. Cerminara advanced to the NCAA Championships as a true freshman last season, going 1-2 at nationals.

**Gary Cooper** and **Labe Black** had both won the MAC award earlier this year.

### Bulls Go 1-2 in Final Weekend of Dual Meet Season

The University at Buffalo wrestling team was criteria points away from finishing their weekend of Mid-American Conference action with a pair of wins. As it was, the Bobcats of Ohio University earned one more near-fall than the Bulls and, despite a 16-16 tie, were credited with the victory.

Buffalo finished the regular season with a 9-6 dual meet mark and 1-4 in the Mid-American Conference. Buffalo defeated Eastern Michigan, 19-16, while losing to Northern Illinois by a 31-6 score on Saturday at Ypsilanti, MI.

Sophomore **Kyle Cerminara** (*Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter*) was the only Bull to go unbeaten on the weekend, posting a 3-0 mark to improve to 30-9 on the season, 11-2 in dual meets and 4-1 against MAC competition. Seniors **Ryan Bentley** (*Ripley, NY/Ripley*) and **Gary Cooper** (*Adams, NY/South Jefferson*), sophomore **Labe Black** (*Ventnor, NJ/Absegami*) and freshman **Mike Sebaaly** (*Lancaster, NY/Lancaster*) all went 2-1 on the weekend for Buffalo.

The Bulls opened with a 19-16 win over Eastern Michigan, remaining unbeaten against the Eagles in Buffalo's MAC tenure. Sebaaly, **Mike Trotta** (*Oceanview, NY/Oceanview*), Bentley, Black and Cooper posted wins for Buffalo, but the match was tied at 16-16 until Cerminara downed Travis Craft by an 11-5 score to give the Bulls the win.

The Huskies of Northern Illinois gained a share of the MAC title with a strong 31-6 win over Buffalo in the second match of the day. Cerminara and Bentley each won for the only Buffalo victories. In a matchup of Top 20-ranked wrestlers, NIU's Ben Heizer (ranked eighth) defeated 20th-ranked **Garrett Bontempo** (*DuBois, PA/DuBois*) by an 11-2 score at 184 pounds. Labe Black's only loss of the weekend came to third-ranked Scott Owen by a 13-2 score in the same match.

Wins by Sebaaly, Black, Cooper, Bontempo and Cerminara helped Buffalo earn a 16-16 deadlock with Ohio, before the Bobcats won on back points scored in the match. Ohio heavyweight Erik Jones beat UB's **Tom Curl** (*Gibbstown, NJ/Paulsboro*) by a 4-0 score in the final match to pull the match even.

Buffalo is now off until the Mid-American Conference Tournament at Central Michigan on March 8-9.

The final MAC standings:

School	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	T Pct.	W	L	T Pct.
Central Michigan	4	1	0 .800	12	3	0 .800
Kent State	4	1	0 .800	15	4	0 .789
Northern Illinois	4	1	0 .800	14	6	0 .700
Ohio	2	3	0 .333	9	8	0 .529
Buffalo	1	4	0 .000	9	6	0 .600
Eastern Michigan	0	5	0 .000	7	10	0 .412

### 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>W, 33-9</b>
2/7	at Central Michigan*	L, 19-12
2/22	vs. Northern Illinois*	L, 31-6
	at Eastern Michigan*	W, 19-16
2/23	at Ohio University*	L, 16-16
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
- won on criteria (more near-fall points)

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

Winning percentage .....	Gary Cooper 30-6 (.833)
.....	Kyle Cerminara 30-9 (.769)
.....	Garrett Bontempo 29-9 (.763)
Dual Meet Wins .....	Gary Cooper (13)
Takedowns .....	Garrett Bontempo (49)
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 (19)
Reversals .....	Mike Sebaaly (9)
Riding Time Points .....	Garrett Bontempo (8)