

# ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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## Wrestling



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

### Bulls Prepare For Mid-American Conference Tournament

The Bulls are in the final days of preparation for the 2003 Mid-American Conference Championships on Saturday and Sunday at Central Michigan University.

Buffalo looks to better its fifth-place finish last season, while looking to continue its streak of NCAA qualifiers under head coach Jim Beichner. During Beichner's tenure (1995-present), the Bulls have sent at least one wrestler each season and 13 wrestlers in all to the national championships.

From 1998-2001, the Bull sent three wrestlers to the national event each season. Last year, 197-pounder **Kyle Cerminara (Lewiston, NY/Lewiston-Porter)** was the only Bull to advance after claiming the Mid-American Conference title.

"We're physically capable, we're healthy and we have a good group of guys out there that we feel have the potential to qualify for the NCAA Championships," said Beichner. "We have a group of five guys that we think are potential national qualifiers, some of them are potential All-Americans. We know we've trained them right, we know the conditioning is at a high level and mentally they're ready to go as well."

Eighteen wrestlers will be selected after the MAC Tournament to represent the conference (10 champions and eight wild cards) at the NCAA Championships in Kansas City's Kemper Arena.

### Cerminara Looks To Defend Crown

The Bulls will have to pull some upsets to earn any MAC crowns, as Buffalo enters the tournament without any No. 1 seeds. **Kyle Cerminara**, the defending champion at 197 pounds, is ranked No. 2 after suffering his only loss of his MAC career to Central Michigan's Brett Faustman in early February.

Here is where Buffalo's probable entries are ranked in the latest MAC Coaches rankings:

125 – Mike Sebaaly (4th)	165 – Tom Paladino (nr)
133 – Mike Trotta (3rd)	174 – Gary Cooper (t-3rd)
141 – Cliff Smith (nr)	184 – Garrett Bontempo (3rd)
149 – Ryan Bentley (4th)	197 – Kyle Cerminara (2nd)
157 – Labe Black (3rd)	Hwt – Tom Curl (nr)

### BULL-etins From The Mat

The Bulls recorded 230 takedowns in dual meet action this season, the fifth-best total in school history. The 1995-96 team recorded 291 en route to a 10-4 overall record.

With its two wins in the final weekend of the dual meet season, senior **Ryan Bentley (Ripley, NY/Ripley)** moved up in several categories. Bentley ranks 11th in career dual meet wins (36), seventh in two-point near falls (30), third in three-point near-falls (29), 12th in takedowns (78), tied for second in escapes (65) and tied for ninth in reversals (18).

Junior **Garrett Bontempo (DuBois, PA/DuBois)** became just the fourth UB wrestler to record more than 50 dual meet takedowns in a season this year. Bontempo finished the year with 52 takedowns, good for third best all-time behind John Stutzman (64 in 1996-97) and Jason Wartinger (57 in 1995-96). Bontempo ranks second all-time with 109 takedowns and will need just 27 takedowns to pass Stutzman, who is the career leader.

Senior **Gary Cooper (Adams, NY/South Jefferson)** continues to add to his school-record win total (109) and also finished his dual meet career sixth in falls (13), eighth in three-point near falls (16), 12th in takedowns (78), sixth in escapes (56) and 11th in reversals (17).

Redshirt freshman **Mike Sebaaly (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster)** had an impressive campaign, finishing with 21 wins and ranking 15th all-time for single-season reversals with 10.

### 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 (7)
Near Falls (3 points) .....	Gary Cooper (6)
Technical Falls .....	n/a
Escapes.....	Labe Black, Cliff Smith (22)
Reversals .....	Mike Sebaaly (10)
Riding Time Points .....	Garrett Bontempo (9)