

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Wrestling



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Current record: 3-10 (1-4 Mid-American Conference)

McKNIGHT FALLS JUST SHORT AT NAAs

Sophomore *Mark McKnight (McDonald, PA/South Fayette)* was right back where he wanted to be on Friday evening at the NCAA Championships at the Savvis Center in St. Louis, despite having lost to 13 nationally-ranked opponents throughout the year and despite his national ranking of 19th. He was one of the 12 best wrestlers at 125 pounds in the nation and with a win against Efren Ceballos of Cal St. Bakersfield, McKnight would become the second UB wrestling All-American in as many years.

However, Ceballos dashed McKnight's hopes, beating the sophomore for the third time this season, 8-5. It was the second year in a row McKnight lost in the All-America round, losing in 2004 to this year's national champion, Indiana's Joseph Dubuque, 6-4.

McKnight's road to the All-America round of the NCAA Tournament couldn't have been longer, as his first round draw of second-seeded Nick Simmons of Michigan State resulted in a 3-0 loss and sent McKnight to the consolation bracket where he won four matches to reach his match with Ceballos.

REACHING NEW PEAKS

McKnight has proved a true trailblazer for head coach Jim Beichner, as the sophomore reached milestone wins 40, 50 and 60 this year faster than any non-transfer ever has at UB. He is also the first UB wrestler to reach the NCAA Division I Championships in his first two years of competition and with one more NCAA qualifier, McKnight could join Marcus Hutchins as the only UB Division I wrestlers to ever reach the championships three times.

McKnight also finished the year 31-15, becoming the first wrestler since UB joined the MAC to win 30 matches in his first two years of competition. With 35 wins next year, McKnight also could become the first UB wrestler to ever reach 100 wins as a junior.

A NICE TURNAROUND

After starting his season 14-9, losing eight matches to nationally-ranked opponents in the opening months of the season, McKnight finished the year 17-6 (.739), won the New York State Collegiate Championship and finished second at the MAC Championships.

2004-05 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

November

Sat., 17	Oklahoma Gold Classic	7th/11
Thu., 18	BLOOMSBURG	L, 9-21
Sat., 27	Mat Town Tournament (at Lock Haven)	11th/13

December

Fri.-Sat., 3-4	Las Vegas Invitational	31st/46
Sat., 11	Edinboro (at Jamestown, NY)	L, 9-24
Fri., 17	Beast of the East (Newark, DE)	4th/14
Thu., 30	UB OPEN	No Team Scoring

January

Sat., 8	<i>Buckeye Duals (at Ohio State)</i> vs. Northern Illinois* vs. Tennessee Chattanooga vs. Northwestern	L, 15-20 L, 6-29 L, 9-29
Fri.-Sat., 14-15	<i>Virginia Duals</i> vs. Cal State-Bakersfield vs. North Dakota State vs. Edinboro	L, 9-33 W, 25-15 L, 15-24
Fri.-Sat., 21-22	New York State Collegiates	2nd/16
Sun., 30	at Ohio*	L, 13-20

February

Sat., 5	at Eastern Michigan*	L, 19-20
Sat., 5	at Central Michigan*	L, 9-30
Fri., 11	KENT STATE*	W, 18-16
Thur., 17	SLIPPERY ROCK	W, 29-6

March

Fri.-Sat., 4-5	MAC Championships	6th/6
Thur.-Sat., 17-19	NCAA Championships	T-56th/69

* = Mid-American Conference matches

Home matches in **BOLD CAPS** held at Alumni Arena