



**2004 NCAA DIVISION II WRESTLING  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
HOSTED BY MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO  
MYERS FIELD HOUSE &  
BRESNAN ARENA IN TAYLOR CENTER  
MARCH 12 & 13, 2004**

## Day One Quotes

### **33 Schools Have Participants In Championships**

**Mankato, Minn. ---** Listed below are quotes taken from selected participants and coaches from the first day of the 2004 NCAA Division II Wrestling National Championships hosted by Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**Joey Bareng**, San Francisco State, 125, on his double overtime victory in opening round:

- “He (Pickard) wrestled a teammate of mine last year at nationals, so I studied film from that.”
- “This was my first double-overtime win of the season, something you can’t practice for.”
- “Taking things one match at a time.”

**Cole Province**, Central Oklahoma, 133, takes the win over Sonny Phillip from Shippensburg:

- “I got the pin and I don’t get many of those, so anytime I get one is good.”
- “I hope to go out there and wrestle my best, and I think if I can do that, I can win.”
- When asked about what he expects from his next competitor: “He is a tough wrestler from Adams State. I wrestled him once before and beat him 4-1. I got to go out there and wrestle my match.”

**Jason Rhoten**, Minnesota State, 141, on his 2-0 win over Gerry Braun of Anderson:

- “I was a little nervous, it’s great to get the first one out of the way, shakes out the nerves”
- “I really didn’t know anything about him until we wrestled, first period was a feeling out period, got the escape in the second and then the riding time in the third. My goal was to get on and ride him out.”

**Willie Hilton**, UNC-Pembroke, 141, on his 9-5 overtime win over Andre VanderVelde of Augustana:

- “It was a good match, ugly, but it was a win and I’ll take it. I have a lot of confidence going into the next round.”

**Mitch Napier**, Indianapolis, 149, on his 3-1 overtime victory over Zach Stevens of North Dakota State:

- “I really had no clue about Stevens, to tell you the truth, I didn’t even look at the brackets, didn’t want to know.”
- “I’d rather get it done in the first overtime then the second, you set up for one good shot, and there’s no sense in forcing it. I countered his shot and fell into mine to pick up the win.”

**Travis Koppenhafer**, Adams State, 157, claims his 15-2 victory over Joe Kenton of South Dakota State:

- “My next competitor is a pretty tough guy and has been in my weight-class all five years, but I have never wrestled him.”
- “I am always expecting to win, but sometimes it doesn’t happen. I want to make it to the finals though and win.”

**Jordan Johnson**, Chadron State, 157, on his 2-1 victory over Ashland’s Matt Neely:

- “It came down to the end of the match and I think I just wanted the win more than he did.”
- “I feel pretty comfortable moving into the next round.”
- When asked how important it was to get a first round victory: “It’s very important to me to get into the next round, especially since I’m a senior and it’s my last shot. I’ve been here two times before and came away with nothing.”

**J.D. Naig**, Nebraska-Omaha, 165, on his 5-0 decision over Mark Glova of Pittsburgh-Johnstown:

- “I got a good move in and cornered him for my first takedown late in the first period.”
- “Shot out and got an escape to start the second, and then was trying to work for a major decision to help the team (score).”
- On his upcoming match against two-time champion Shawn Silvis of Central Oklahoma: “I need to wrestle my match and be aggressive, he works well on top.”

**Ryan Kopisaz**, MSU Moorhead, 184, on his 9-1 decision over Ben Holscher of Chadron State:

- “I didn’t know anything about him, sometimes it’s better that way.”
- “Made a bad move in the third and I put him on his back for some points, but couldn’t finish it”

**Greg Nurrenbern**, Truman State, 184, takes the win from Derek Brunson from UNC-Pembroke:

- “It is my first time at nationals and I felt pretty good.”
- “I was tired, but kept going.”
- “I expect everyone here is tough, but I will wrestle my match and will be fine.”
- When asked what he expects from the rest of the tournament:, “I hope to win it!”

**Eric Sanders**, North Dakota State, 125, on his first career NCAA Championship victory (4-3) over West Liberty State senior Doug Curnes:

- “Well, it obviously feels a lot better than my last match, since I lost (the previous match).”
- “Now, I just need to get ready to go and prepare for my next match so I can become an All-American.”

**Andy Uhl**, Findlay, 125, on his 6-3 decision over Seth Groff of Chadron State:

- “I heard he (Groff) wasn’t very good on bottom. Once I broke him down, I could work him.”
- “I’m excited about becoming an All-American, but my goal is to become a champion. It is a nice status though (All-American).”

**Cole Province**, Central Oklahoma, 133, on his 5-4 double overtime victory against Kourtney Lake of Adams State:

- “I’ve wrestled him before and knew he was tough.”
- On the overtime period “My theory was that he shot kind of wild. I thought I had a take down, and he rolled through it and almost got two on me.”
- On the quest for a fourth consecutive national title “Obviously it’s been a dream of mine, it’s been on my mind since this time last year. The pressure weighs on you.”

**Jason Rhoten**, Minnesota State, 141, on his last second victory over Wisconsin-Parkside senior Brad Russell:

- “I beat him before this season, but now is when it counts, its feels good.””
- “Everything happened (the last seven seconds of the match) so fast, I honestly don’t even know what happened, Brad was trying to hit an arm spin and I just heard my coach yelling do a Russian (wrestling move) it was just instinct. I definitely need to watch the tape so I can see what happened.””

Rhoten on how it feels to be one match from the championship round: “Its exciting, but I just need to take it one match at a time. Right now I just need to focus on my next match.””

**Jeremy Roe**, South Dakota State, 149, on his 7-5 victory over David Nordhues of Fort Hays State:

- “I like to use my riding skills to the best of my ability. I’m a smaller 149 pounder , and I like to get on top and wear him out”
- On guaranteeing All-American status: “It feels unbelievable. It’s been a goal of mine for the last three years. It feels so good.”

**Paul Carlson**, North Dakota State, 165, on his 6-5 victory over Dan Dempsey of Wisconsin-Parkside:

- On being defending national champion: “ It feels good. This match (against Dempsey) was harder than the rest, more nerves.”
- On the importance of a team title: “ It’s more important than an individual one.”

**Waylon Lowe**, Findlay, 165, two-time defending national champion on his 9-3 decision over Mike Fiedler of North Dakota State:

- “ I was more focused and less timid than when we wrestled last time (a 3-2 Lowe victory). I expected the same from him, and got an early takedown.”

**Shawn Silvis**, Central Oklahoma, 165, two time defending champion on his 7-1 victory over Nebraska-Omaha’s J.D. Naig:

- “ He wrestled real well on his feet. Last time (we wrestled) I rode him a lot. He was very well prepared.”
- On the quest for a third consecutive team title: “ Both year’s I’ve won, we’ve won as a team. I can’t imagine winning an individual title and losing a team title. I think a team title is twice as important as an individual title.”

**Josh Janousek**, Minnesota State, 197, on his 11-2 major decision over Clint Salisbury of Findlay:

- “ It feels great, but I got some more to go. It’s whoever wants it most. There’s no time to sit around and feel sorry for yourself. You gotta bounce back quick.”
- On the team race: “We want to finish as high as possible. With only five guys we gotta get the win first and then go for bonus points.”

**Jamie Andersh**, Northern State, 133, on his pin at 8:23 (double overtime) against Zach Meisser of Ashland:

- “ You gotta give it your all. I had nothing to lose and left it on the mat. It was do or die and I couldn’t hold back.”
- On earning All-American Status: “It’s awesome, I can’t describe it, you practice all year, and know you know that it (practice) paid off.”

**Ryan King**, Augustana, 149, on his 12-6 decision over R.J. Paterniti of Gannon:

- “ I went 0-2 last year, so it’s a relief to get to the next level. I have my confidence back heading into my next match.”