



**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 Two Quotes

33 Schools Have Participants In Championships

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

Jared Haberman, Western State, 125, on his 16-1 tech fall against Joey Bareng of San Francisco State:

- On his tilt move that he scored points in the first period: "I've developed the tilt off a collar ride. It's something that you can't practice unless it's there to use."
- On his preparation for tonight's match: "I'll probably grab a bite to eat, relax and try not to think about it until it gets here. Just try to continue doing what got me here."
- On his opponent in the finals, Dustin Tovar of Nebraska-Omaha: "It doesn't matter who he is. I just need to come out and give 110%"

Merrick Meyer, Truman State, 141, on his 14-1 decision over Jason Rhoten of Minnesota State:

- On his scoring move late in the first period: "It's my signature move, use either a double or a signal followed by a turk."
- On returning to the championship (Meyer was runner up in 2003) "It's a great feeling, I've wanted to do it all year."
- On his opponent in the finals, Shane Barnes of Adams State: "He has a really tough tilt, so I have to stay out of the bottom and score on my feet."

Dustin Tovar, Nebraska-Omaha, 125, on his 11-5 decision over Andy Uhl of Findlay:

- "I felt a little sluggish, but I stuck with it and scored some points."
- "I'm up against some real tough guys. I am not going to get psyched out though. Hopefully I will come out on top."

Cole Province, Central Oklahoma, 133, claims his victory over Roylands Lucas of UNC.-Pembroke:

- "I haven't wrestled [next opponent] him this year, but know he is a tough kid. I just have to go out there and wrestle like always."
- "I want to win and for my team to win. To win would be my fourth time. It would be nice to come home with four national champions. If it all comes together, our team will win."

Patrick Allibone, Nebraska-Omaha, 149, takes the win over Jeremy Roe of South Dakota State:

- "I think I wrestled good. I wrestled him before, and we both came ready."
- "I don't know much about my next opponent. I know he was ranked first at the beginning of the year."

Jack Quintana, Western State, 157 on his 6-2 decision over defending national champion Paul Carlson of North Dakota State:

- "I wanted to put it on him with my offense, shoot through his shots. I got a take down right away and put on some funk with my legs, and then made him scream with my power half."
- On joining teammate Jared Haberman in the finals: "That's what I was planning on. It helps us a lot with team points."
- On his opponent in the finals, Travis Koppenhafer: "I beat him 10-4 earlier this year. I just need to stay out of ties and run my offense."

J.D. Naig, Nebraska-Omaha, 165, on his fall over Jordan Johnson of Chadron State at 5:34:

- "It feels a lot better right now than it did last night"
- On his pinning move: "He was pulling me back into him, and I got my hips up and fell into a headlock"

Shawn Silvis, Central Oklahoma, 165 on shooting for his third national championship title after beating South Dakota State freshman Nathan Alhoff 10-2:

- "It would be a good conclusion to my career. I've been wrestling since I was four years old. It's always been my dream. Most guys don't even get it once."
- On his championship match tonight: "I just hope for a fun match. I feel good. I'm in the best shape of my life."
- "I have a lot of confidence, but I'm not overconfident."

Justi Mautz, Mercyhurst, 197, claims his 8-5 victory over Josh Janousek of Minnesota State:

- “The match went pretty well. I knew he was going to come out strong. I just had to make my match.”
- “It was pretty important to get this win and it would be great for me to get the next win and to finish well this season.”

Andrew Ubben, Fort Hays State, 285, takes the win from Joe Bryce of North Dakota State:

- When asked how he felt his last match went: “It went very well. I wrestled a perfect match and had a good pace. That is what my game plan was.”
- “My next opponent is tough and won it last year.”
- “I set a goal early in the season to win. I lost to him earlier in the season, but I need to make less mistakes and get the win.”

Matt Herman, North Dakota State, 184, on his 4-2 decision over Ryan Kopiasz of MSU Moorhead:

- On advancing to the finals as a freshman: “It feels pretty good, one of the best feelings you can have.”
- On his takedown, late in overtime: “I hit a double (leg takedown) and finished it on the edge of the mat.”

Jeff Slyvester, Nebraska-Kearney, 197, on his 6-2 decision over Kevin Lochner of Central Oklahoma:

- On his opponent Lochner: “We’ve faced each other twice this year, once at National Duals, and once in a dual between us and Central Oklahoma. We split, and I had injured my foot before we wrestled last year.”
- On advancing to the finals: “It hasn’t quite hit me yet. Last year I finished seventh, so it’s an honor.”

Les Sigman, Nebraska-Omaha, 285, on his 15-0 tech fall at 7:00 minutes over Willie McCowen of Central Missouri State:

- On going to the finals: “It feels pretty good to get these three matches out of the way. One big one left to go though.”
- On the team race: “It huge. Guys are showing a lot of heart on both the front side and the back side.”
- On his opponent in the championships, Andrew Ubben: “I wrestled him last year in the semis. I just need to wrestle the way I have been. I give him a lot of credit.”

Brian Kraemer, North Dakota State, 197, on his cradle hold for a pin over Chadron State senior Jeff Rusher:

- “It’s something I practice all the time. I got him in a corkscrew ankle hold, blocked his knee, and he basically fell right into it so I locked it on.”
- On his trip to the championship round: “I glad I get another shot at a title. It’s the reason I’m out for wrestling.”
- “I’m pretty confident. I’ve been wrestling good lately.”
- “At this point in the season you get tired, but the atmosphere and the crowd gives you an adrenaline rush and that helps.”

Joey Simcoe, Findlay, 141, on his 16-0 victory over R.C. LaHaye:

- “This win for me personally means a lot. It’s nice to end on a good note with me being a senior.”
- “My mam and dad have never missed a meet since high school. My wife’s parents are also good supporters. It is really cool to have them be there and support me.”

Rick Rank, Colorado Mines, 157, on his 2-0 decision over Travis Peak of Chadron State:

- When asked what he knew about Peak, Rank said, “I’ve wrestled him three times this season and lost every time.”
- “My mom drove from Michigan and I was happy she was here to support me.”
- “Winning means I’ve finished my career on a good note.”

Raylondo Lucas, UNC-Pembroke, 125, on his 5-2 decision over Nick Magee of NDSU:

- On placing third: “It feels pretty good. Last year 125 was a hard cut for me, so this feels good.”

Eli Dominguez, Nebraska-Omaha, 141, on his 9-7 decision over Jason Rhoten of Minnesota State:

- On the last 30 seconds of the match, after Rhoten got a takedown: “I had to keep the pressure going. I didn’t want to get a stalling call.”
- On the team race: “It feels good to give the team a boost. Hopefully we can build off it.”

J.D. Naig, Nebraska-Omaha, 165, on his 4-1 decision over Mike Feidler of North Dakota State:

- On finishing third: “I’m just happy to help the team out.”
- On beating Feidler for the first time this season (previously 0-3 against him): “I knew I couldn’t let him get the first takedown. He’s had it the last three times.”
- On his approach to matches: “I just stay relaxed and let business take care of itself.”

Dan Dempsey, Wisconsin-Parkside, 157, with seventh-place victory by a fall of 23 seconds:

- “It’s been a long five years, but at the same time too short.”
- “Most of the guys knew I’d take him because I’ve beaten a lot of guys that way.”
- “It was my first time seeing him, so I just went out there and went for it.”

Greg Nurrenbern, Truman State, 184, seventh-place:

- “It’s my first time at nationals, and it has been exciting last couple of weeks.”
- This is something I’ve been looking forward to the last three years of college.”
- About opponent Bryan Tapley: “I’ve wrestled him before so I knew what to expect.”
- “When I knew I was winning, I didn’t try anything the last period because I didn’t want to do anything stupid.”
- “It’s very exciting to know that I’ve reached a milestone in my life — I can check that one of the list.” (About being at nationals)
- “I knew if I wrestled as good as I could, then I’d be able to win.”
- “Usually when you lose, you only defeat yourself, not by the opponent.”

Jordan Johnson, Chadron State, 165, seventh-place with a decision of 6-2:

- First time qualifying for nationals: “I’ve never seen him before so I didn’t know exactly what to expect.”
- “Feels really good to be at nationals. I’ve qualified 3 times now.”
- “I’m glad to have placed considering I’ve been sick for the last couple of weeks.”

Baron Blanchard, Northern State, 285, on his win to clinch third-place honors over Central Missouri State’s Willie McCowan:

- “I’ve wrestled him before a few times before. He beat me a couple times, but I beat him here where it counts the most.”
- “I got seventh place last year, but seventh didn’t satisfy me. Third place is a big improvement. It’s an honor just to be an All-American.”
- “It’s a good way to end my career, with a win.”

Bucky Maughan, North Dakota State head coach:

- “There’s about a thousand different places where we could have had this wrapped up.”
- “Nebraska-Omaha has really come on strong”
- “Nothing went as it should today”
- “I feel we’ve had the best team here, but haven’t had a great luck of the draw. I wish we went to seeding the wrestlers.”
- On the pursuit of a team title: “None is more important than others, but it is a nice way to go out (of Division II).”

Jared Haberman, Western State, 125 on his 8-1 decision over Dustin Tovar of Nebraska-Omaha:

- “I expected nothing less than to win, it was good to come back from last season’s lost and end my career with a national championship.”

Cole Province, Central Oklahoma State, 133, on his 6-3 decision over Donald Lockett of San Francisco State:

- On being crowned a four-time national champion: “It feels like I have 10 million pounds lifted off my shoulders.”
- On his approach to every match: “I wrestle every match the same, no matter how big it is.”
- * On his future plans: “I plan on staying at Central Oklahoma coaching, becoming a graduate assistant.”

Merrick Meyer, Truman State, 141, on his 6-3 decision over Shane Barnes of Adams State:

- On his opponent Shane Barnes: “All the pressure on him (Barnes was defending national champion). I had nothing to lose went out there and did the best I could.”
- On his game plan: “To wrestle hard on his feet and not get tilted.”
- On winning a championship “It hasn’t sunk in. I felt all warm inside and couldn’t stop smiling.

Adrian Jiron, Western State, 149, on his 6-2 decision over Patrick Allibone of Nebraska-Omaha:

- “The way I look at it, it’s very fitting. It sounds kinda cliché, but it’s like a dream come true to be honest.” ”
- On taking away team points from Nebraska-Omaha with his win: “There a top notch team. They have lots of tradition and success. Anything we can do to get our tradition going as a team is great. It’s good to be a part of that.”

Travis Koppenhafer, Adams State, 157, on his 10-6 decision over Jack Quintana of Western State:

- On winning a championship: “I’m glad I won it. I’ve been trying for five years.”
- On his preparation this year after earning seventh last year “We practice our tails off. I don’t feel I was more prepared, but it was just my time. We all stay in Alamosa (Colo.) and work out over the summer.”
- On being caught in a reversal late in the match: “I kept hearing my coach say ‘You’re up four, and he (Quintana) hit that reversal. I just tried to get out and keep my cool and my head.

Waylon Lowe, Findlay, 165, on his 8-6 decision over Shawn Silvas of Central Oklahoma:

- On his rematch against Silvas “He rode me at regionals the whole time. I chose neutral to keep the pace up.”
- On his weight class this year after winning two straight titles at 149: “I moved up to be the best and prove to myself that I could be the best.”
- On his coaches :“They have given me so much and they have been a huge part of my life.”

Jason Tapia, Central Oklahoma, 174, on his pin of John Burda of Pittsburg-Johnstown in 1:25:

- “Its an awesome way to go out. I can’t even describe the feeling.”
- “I felt really confident throughout the whole tournament. I had a lot of intensity and that helped.”

Tom Meester, Augustana, 184 on his 10-1 decision over Matt Herrmann of North Dakota State:

- On opponent Matt Herrmann: “I wrestled him two times before and I knew he liked to bounce around, and I know I’m a smaller guy so I just had to pace my self.”
- “I just tried to wrestle my style and not give in to his style.”
- On winning national title after injury last season: “This means a lot to me. I can get a good nights rest now because this has been on my mind constantly all season.”

Jeff Sylvester, Nebraska-Kearney, 197, on winning a national title and virtually helping UNO to the team title with his victory over senior Brian Kramer from NDSU:

- “I just stuck to my routine and was able to adjust. It’s a great feeling since I lost to him last year in the first round of this tournament.”
- “They (UNO) have a great coach, a great program. I feel great to help them win it all, especially since they are from my state.”

Les Sigman, Nebraska-Omaha, 285, on his victory via injury default over Andrew Ubben of Fort Hays State:

- On the move thrown against Ubben to cause injury default: “I was driving across his knee and heard it pop, it was just like what I always do.”
- On winning a team title: “We are a real tight team. We are all real close. We are so young, its brining up our confidence.”
- On winning a championship: “ I’m still in shock.”

Mike Denny, Head Coach of the 2004 Team Champions, University of Nebraska-Omaha:

- On the team: “ I knew this was a real special group. We said it before, if tt had to come down to this (the heavyweight title) I’d want him (Sigman) there. He’ s our closer, our bookend. I wouldn’ t want it in anyone else’s hands.”
- On the losing only one match in the afternoon session: “Guys just stepped it up.”