



**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**

**Opening Round of National Championships Complete**  
**Myers Field House Packed With Fans**

**Mankato, Minn.** — The 2004 NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championships are in full swing on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato. North Dakota State University, who sent all 10 of their wrestlers to nationals, have claimed an early lead in the team standings, earning 12.5 points. Central Oklahoma stands second with 11.5, and Nebraska-Omaha is third with 11.

At 125 pounds, six of the eight ranked wrestlers advanced. Joey Bareng of San Francisco State upset third-ranked Curry Pickard of UNC-Pembroke in a 6-5 victory in double overtime. Seventh seeded Aaron Graumann of Augustana beat Chonci Houston of Carson-Newman 6-2 to advance to the quarter-finals.

Three-time defending national champion Cole Province of Central Oklahoma picked up a fall over Sonny Phillip of Shippensburg in 3:51 to advance to the quarter-finals in the 133-pound weight class. Province is looking to become just the third wrestler in NCAA Division II history to win four national championships.

The 141-pound weight classes saw Merrick Meyer of Truman State defeat Pacifico Garcia of San Francisco 2-0. Seven matches were clinched via decision, with top-ranked Shane Barnes of Adams State claiming the only major decision with a 12-0 victory.

At 149-pounds, sixth-ranked David Nordhues of Fort Hays State defeated fifth-ranked R.J. Paterniti of Gannon to advance to the quarter-finals. The quarter-finals will pit third-ranked Mitch Napier of Indianapolis against fourth-ranked Adrian Jiron of Western State.

Defending national champion Paul Carlson of North Dakota State picked up a 7-6 decision in the 157-pound weight class over Rick Rank of Colorado School of Mines. Travis Koppenhafer of Adams State picked up a 15-2 victory over Joe Kenton of South Dakota State to advance to the quarter-finals where he will face Ryan Hunter of Central Missouri State, who is ranked fifth.

The top seven wrestlers in 165 pounds all advanced to the quarter finals, with Shawn Silvis of Central Oklahoma State picking up a technical fall victory over Tyler Lancaster of Western State. Silvas, the two-time defending national champion, will face J.D. Naig of Nebraska-Omaha in the quarter-finals. Naig picked up a 5-0 decision over Mark Glova of Pittsburgh-Johnstown.

There were no upsets at 184-pounds as all eight of the top-ranked wrestlers advanced to the quarter-finals. Top-ranked Tom Meester of Augustana will face six-ranked Corey Jacoby of Shippensburg in the quarter-finals.

The 197-pound weight class also saw no upsets as all ranked wrestlers advanced. Prior to the event, two wrestlers (Ben Strandberg of Nebraska-Omaha and Tim Boldt of South Dakota State) were disqualified from the NCAA Division II Wrestling National Championships.

Les Sigman of Nebraska-Omaha, the defending national champion at heavyweight, picked up a 17-2 technical fall over Matt Meyer of Wisconsin-Parkside. The biggest upset of the day came in the same class, where Aldo Campea of Ashland defeated second-ranked Baron Blanchard of Northern State 5-3.

The quarter-final round and consolation round wrestle backs will begin tonight at 6 p.m. in Myers Field House on the campus of Minnesota State.