



**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**

Thursday Press Conference Recap
33 Schools Have Participants In Championships

Mankato, Minn. --- Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted a press conference in advance of the 2004 NCAA Division II Wrestling National Championships to be held on Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13, that featured representatives from MSU, the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) and several head coaches of participating schools. Speaking at the press conference were NCAA Division II NWCA President **Vince Monseau**, Minnesota State Director of Athletics **Kevin Buisman** and MSU wrestling head coach **Jim Makovsky**. In addition, head coaches **Mike Denny** of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, **David James** of the University of Central Oklahoma, **Shawn Nelson** of the University of Findlay, **Pat Pecora** of the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown and **Bucky Maughan** of North Dakota State University. Following are selected quotes from each of the speakers comments.

Vince Monseau

NCAA Division II NWCA President

- “Well, we’re obviously glad to be here in Mankato, Minnesota”
- “We’re thrilled to be here and I know Kevin and his staff has done an awful lot of work in preparation for the tournament.”

Kevin Buisman

Minnesota State Director of Athletics

- “We’re just excited to finally be at zero hour.”
- “I couldn’t be prouder of the effort everybody has put in to this tournament.”
- “We’re committed to making this one of the best Division II national championships ever hosted.”
- “We’re really excited about Saturday night and hoping we have one of the largest crowds ever in the Taylor Center in Bresnan Arena.”
- “It’s a competitive bid process.”
- “Our goal was to be tournament ready by Wednesday... We met that challenge and are anxious to open the doors tomorrow.”
- “It’s really about the student athletes.”

Jim Makovsky

Minnesota State Head Coach

- “This is really exciting for me... We’re excited to have it.”
- “We think this is going to be a benefit for our program as well.”
- “A lot of people are going to have their eyes opened.”
- “We wanted to get a championship feel in the [Field House].”

Mike Denny

Nebraska-Omaha Head Coach

- “We’re hosting the national championships in 2005... that will be our fourth one.”
- “We’re excited to wrestle here... we’re ready to get going.”
- “Every weight class has a story.”

David James

Central Oklahoma Head Coach

- “We’re glad to be here... the community has done a great job to get it set up.”
- “We’re excited about our chances... It’s going to be a good championship.”

Shawn Nelson

Findlay Head Coach

- “We just want to get it on and see who’s who.”
- “We’ve got some good chances and we’ll take it from there.”

Pat Pecora

Pittsburgh-Johnstown Head Coach

- “The tournament format and the dual format are two different animals in the sport of wrestling.”

Bucky Maughan

North Dakota State Head Coach

- “I think it’s going to be as good a tournament as we’ve ever had.”
- “We’ve had a good year... but it’s a whole new ballgame.”
- “It’s going to be a great victory for whoever wins this.”
- “Division II wrestling just has a nice niche... D-II wrestling is where my heart will always be.”