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Auggie Sports News

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No. 1 seed Augsburg attempts to claim title at NWCA Division III National Duals this weekend

MINNEAPOLIS (1/15/04) -- Augsburg College will attempt to win its second National Wrestling Coaches Association Division III National Duals championship this weekend as the top seed at the tournament, held at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Auggies, last year's NCAA Division III national runner-up and winners of eight of the last 13 national championships, are currently the top-ranked team in the latest Division III national poll, ahead of defending national champion Wartburg (Iowa) and third-ranked Delaware Valley (Pa.). Seven of the top 10 teams in the latest national rankings, and 13 of the top 30, are competing in the 16-team Division III bracket.

The NWCA National Duals is in the third year of a new format, where all three NCAA divisions compete in separate 16-team tournaments at one site. A total of 90 dual meets will be held in two days, comprising 16 teams each in Division I, Division II and Division III. In the old format, the defending Division II, Division III and NAIA national champions were invited to compete in the 16-team Division I National Duals.

After the first two years of the multi-division National Duals were held at Ohio State University, the tournament was moved north to Cleveland State, where the tournament will be held at the CSU Convocation Center and Woodling Gym. For the first time, a separate 10-team high school and four-team women's tournament will also be held, starting on Friday.

Augsburg's first match is against No. 16-seed Ohio Northern (unranked in the latest Division III national poll) on Saturday at 9 a.m. The second round will be held at 1 p.m., with semifinals set for 8:30 p.m. Championship match is at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Augsburg will provide continuous updates on its website at www.augsburg.edu/athletics/wrestling/ throughout the weekend tournament.

Augsburg is currently 4-0 in dual meets this season. Against teams from Divisions II and III, Augsburg is 181-10 since 1989-90 (losing just five matches since the 1995-96 season). Against Division III opponents, Augsburg is 203-15 since the 1979-80 season and 127-5 since 1989-90.

Last season, Augsburg finished second to Wartburg in the National Duals, losing 19-13 to the Knights in the championship match, the second straight year Augsburg and Wartburg met in the finals. Augsburg easily won its first three matches on the first day of the tournament, outscoring its opponents 101-13.

Augsburg and Wartburg have been the powers of small-college wrestling over the past decade. Either Augsburg or Wartburg, or both teams, have finished in the top two in the NCAA Division III national championship race every year since 1990. Augsburg has won eight of the last 13 Division III national titles (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002), while Wartburg won national titles in 1996, 1999 and 2003, finishing second six times.

Augsburg has eight individuals ranked in the latest Division III national rankings, released on Jan. 11 — **Marcus LeVesseur** (So., Minneapolis, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) is ranked No. 1 at 157 pounds; **Jamell Tidwell** (Jr., Burnsville, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) is ranked No. 1 at 141; **Joe Moon** (Jr., Ellendale, Minn./New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva HS) is ranked No. 2 at 174; **Matt Shankey** (Jr., Apple Valley, Minn.) is ranked No. 3 at 125; **Mark Matzek** (Jr., Ellsworth, Wis.) is ranked No. 3 at 133; **Justin Sorensen** (So., Owatonna, Minn.) is ranked No. 3 at 197; **Mark Simmonds** (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./Edison HS) is ranked No. 4 at heavyweight; and **Dustin Dahlblom** (Fr., Stillwater, Minn.) is ranked No. 8 at 149.

Augsburg College -- a tradition of wrestling excellence

Augsburg's wrestling team has dominated small-college competition in last decade.

- After winning three straight national championships, Augsburg finished second at the 2003 Division III national championships, its seventh national runner-up finish and 15th time Augsburg has finished in the top two nationally since 1975.
- Against opponents from Divisions II and III, Augsburg is 181-10 since the 1989-90 season, and has lost just five matches to non-Division I opponents since the 1995-96 season.
- Against strictly NCAA Division III opponents, Augsburg is 203-15 since the 1979-80 season. Augsburg had a 71-match winning streak against Division III opponents broken last year. Since the 1989-90 season, Augsburg is 127-5 against Division III opponents.
- Against opponents from the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Augsburg is 184-2 since the 1975-76 season. In winning each of the 13 MIAC Team Dual Meet tournaments, Augsburg has outscored its conference opponents by a 3,119-136 margin in going 65-0. Augsburg has a 17-season, 85-match dual-meet winning streak against MIAC opponents. In this season's MIAC Team Duals on Jan. 25, Augsburg beat St. Olaf 45-6, 50-3 over Concordia-Moorhead and 39-3 over St. John's, winning 26 of 30 individual matches. The MIAC no longer sponsors an individual tournament.

Augsburg is the most dominant wrestling team in Minnesota.

- The Auggies have won eight NCAA Division III national championships in the last 13 years (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002), the most in Division III history and just one of seven teams among all NCAA divisions to win at least six national championships. Augsburg also finished second five times in the last decade, in the top four nationally the last 14 seasons in a row and in the top 20 nationally (NCAA from 1983 to present, NAIA pre-1983) every year since 1971. Among NCAA schools in all divisions, only Augsburg has finished in the top two nationally in 13 of the past 14 years.
- Augsburg won the last 16 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team championships in a row, 26 of the last 28 and 29 titles overall since 1968 (30 total championships since 1961). The MIAC no longer sponsors an individual conference meet. Augsburg has also won all 13 MIAC Team Dual Meet tournaments held in conference history.
- Minnesota has had a reputation of being the "state of hockey." In fact, it could also be properly termed the "state of wrestling." Augsburg has won eight NCAA Division III national titles, including three in a row from 2000-02; Minnesota won Division I national titles in 2001 and 2002, and North Dakota State, with most of its wrestlers from Minnesota, has won two of the last four Division II national titles and is currently the top-ranked team in Division II.

Augsburg has a record of individual success nationally, both on the mat and in the classroom.

- Since **Pat Marcy** won the school's first NAIA national title at 150 pounds in 1972, Augsburg wrestlers have earned 31 individual national championships, including 27 Division III national titles, the second-most in Division III history. Montclair State (N.J.), which has competed in every Division III tournament since it began in 1974 (Augsburg has only been in NCAA Division III since 1983) has 28 individual national titles.
- Augsburg College has also been a success in the classroom. Over the past 20 seasons, Augsburg has produced 77 National College Wrestling Association (NWCA) Scholar All-Americans, the most of any college in any division in the nation. Augsburg had six Scholar All-Americans last season. Over the past six seasons the NWCA has awarded Division III academic team national championships, Augsburg has finished second twice and first once (1998-99). Last season, the Auggies finished sixth with a team grade-point average of 3.335 (4.00 scale). Augsburg is the only college to finish in the top 10 both on the mat and in the academic race in each of these six years of the academic team national title program. Augsburg has also had five Academic All-Americans, awarded by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) – Dan Lewandowski (1996-97), Josh Cagle (1998-99 and 1999-2000), Jim Peterson (1998-99) and Brian Jones (1999-2000).

Head Coach Jeff Swenson

- Head coach **Jeff Swenson** (Augsburg '79) is in his 22nd season as Augsburg's head coach (25 seasons overall in wrestling coaching) and has a career dual-meet record of 284-35. He is one of a handful of wrestling coaches in the nation to win at least 250 matches as a coach and 100 as a college wrestler. He was a three-time All-American and an NAIA national champion at 167 pounds in 1979, finishing his collegiate career with a 102-17 competitive record. Swenson has earned MIAC Coach of the Year honors 13 times, and has earned NWCA National Coach of the Year honors five times (1983, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2000). He was named Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year at the regional qualifier meet in 2003.



- During his tenure as Augsburg's head coach (1981-84, 1987-present), Swenson has coached 124 All-Americans, 28 individual national champions, while his teams have won eight national titles (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002) and 19 MIAC team championships. Under his commitment to academic as well as athletic success, Swenson's Auggies have earned 77 NWCA Scholar All-America honors, as well as earning the academic national team championship in 1999 (second in 1998 and 2000, third in 2002, fourth in 2001). No other school has finished in the top 10 both academically and on the mat in the six seasons of the NWCA's academic national rankings.

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125 — Matt Shankey (Jr., Apple Valley, Minn.) — 8-0 overall (Augsburg career 8-0, overall career 36-15), ranked No. 3 in nation. Record includes one technical fall and one major decision. Current No. 3 ranking the highest national ranking of his career. One of two unbeaten wrestlers on the team (with 157-pounder **Marcus LeVesseur**). Transferred to Augsburg from Division I Iowa, but battled injuries early this season. Made Augsburg debut by winning 125-pound championship at St. Cloud State Invitational on Dec. 13, with third-period 16-1 technical fall, 14-4 major-decision win in semifinals and 10-4 decision win over **Matt Vos** of St. John's, at the time ranked No. 1 in Division III, in the championship match. Went 4-0 to win Orange Bowl Sunshine Open Dec. 28-29 at Lakeland, Fla., beating Division I Naval Academy's **Sam Gray** 3-2 in the finals. Beat **Aaron Graumann** of Augustana (S.D.), ranked No. 8 in Division II, 12-8 in dual meet on Jan. 6. **At University of Iowa:** Compiled 28-15 record in two seasons and competed in 76-kilogram class at 2001 FILA Junior World Championships. **Prep/Personal:** Two-time state champion and two-time state runner-up at Apple Valley HS with 174-20 prep career record (86-1 in his final two seasons); two-time prep and junior All-American (Amateur Wrestling News); four-time regional champion; four-time all-conference and all-state selection; Set school records for most takedowns (309) in career and most team/match points. Communications major at Augsburg; career goal is to become a firefighter.



125 — Ben Moss (Fr., Council Bluffs, Iowa/Lewis Central HS) — 21-4 overall (Augsburg career 21-4). Record includes eight pins and two major decisions (lost twice). Began season as top Augsburg wrestler at 125 before **Matt Shankey** earned top spot in December. Has finished third at 125 at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13) and at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10). Pinned **Ricky Aguirre** of Menlo (Calif.), ranked No. 7 in NAIA, in 5:51 in wrestlebacks at Dickinson State Classic. **Prep/Personal:** Two-time state placewinner at Lewis Central HS (Council Bluffs, Iowa), finishing second at 130 pounds in 2002 and fourth at 125 in 2001 (Iowa Class 3A). Also qualified for state at 103 in 2000. Undecided major at Augsburg.



133 — Mark Matzek (Jr., Ellsworth, Wis.) — 16-2 overall (Augsburg career 76-19), ranked No. 3 in nation. Record includes one pin, two technical falls and four major decisions. Won championships at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13) and Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), shared title at 141 at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), finished second at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10), placed fifth at 141 at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open on Nov. 15. Defeated North Dakota State's **Lucas Christiansen**, ranked No. 7 in Division II, 3-2 in title match at St. Cloud State Invite. Lost 9-4 to Wisconsin-Whitewater's **Nick Karls**, ranked No. 6 in Division III at 141, at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Competed at 141 in first three weeks of season before returning to his normal 133 weight class for dual meet against Southwest Minnesota State. At Dickinson State Classic, claimed two straight major-decision wins and a 16-0, technical-fall win over Dickinson State's **Micah Mathieson**, ranked No. 8 in NAIA, before losing 8-3 to Montana State-Northern's **Caleb Schaeffer**, ranked No. 1 in NAIA, in championship match. **2002-03:** Went 40-7 and qualified for NCAA Division III national tournament for first time, earning All-American honors with fourth-place national finish at 133. After first-round loss, rallied through consolation bracket to reach third-place match, where he lost 8-3 to **Barry Wise** of Delaware Valley (Pa.). Won titles at three tournaments, including Great Lakes Regional. **2001-02:** Primarily White Team (junior varsity) wrestler, won one individual championship and finished 20-10. Started the season at 141 pounds, moving down to 133 for second half of season. **Prep/Personal:** Two-time state high school champion at Ellsworth (Wis.) HS, earned state runner-up honors his sophomore season. Three-time conference champion and two-time regional and sectional champion. Math and secondary education major who has a 3.47 college GPA, while compiling a 4.0 high school GPA. Earned NWCA Scholar All-American honors and Verizon Academic All-District (CoSIDA) first-team honors in 2002-03.



141 — Jamell Tidwell (Jr., Richfield, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) — 24-1 record (Augsburg career 101-9), ranked No. 1 in nation. Record includes one pin, three technical falls and four major decisions. Current No. 1 ranking the first top-ranking nationally of his career. Two-time national qualifier and 2002-03 All-American at Augsburg. Won weight-class titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13) and Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Suffered first loss of season in finals of Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic on Jan. 10, where he lost 10-3 to **James Guizar** of Menlo (Calif.), ranked No. 1 in NAIA. Had a technical fall, first-period pin and 6-2 win over **Fernando Flanagan** of Menlo, ranked No. 8 in NAIA, at tournament. Beat **Mathias Bitz** of North Dakota State, ranked No. 8 in NCAA Division II, in finals of St. Cloud State Invite. Defeated **Nick Karls** of Wisconsin-Whitewater, ranked No. 6 in NCAA Division III, 5-2 in finals of Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Scored two technical falls and two major decisions in winning Orange Bowl Sunshine open. Could become Augsburg's all-time victory leader; current record-holder is **Matt Kretlow** (1987-91), who won 167 matches. **2002-03:** Earned All-American honors for first time with third-place Division III national finish at 141 pounds, setting single-season school record with 50 victories (50-2). Won titles at six of eight tournaments -- Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open on Nov. 16, Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open on Nov. 22, Minnesota-Morris Cougar Open on Dec. 7, St. Cloud State Invitational on Dec. 14, North Country Invitational on Feb. 8 and Great lakes Regional on Feb. 22. Finished second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open Dec. 28-29, with lone loss a non-countable defeat to an adult unattached wrestler (**Evan Robinson**, a former Division I wrestler from Purdue). **2001-02:** Started the season at 141 and moved up to 149 midway through the season, qualifying for the national tournament. Lost in two straight matches at national meet to finish his freshman season with a 27-6 record. Earned championships at four tournaments, eventually being rated as high as fifth nationally. **Prep/Personal:** One of most impressive prep records of any in Augsburg's 2001 recruiting class, winning two Minnesota state titles, earning three state Greco-Roman titles and two freestyle All-American honors, also four-time state freestyle runner-up. Member of Minnesota senior all-star wrestling team. Health and physical education major at Augsburg.



141 — Adam Ketcher (Fr., Minnetonka, Minn./Minneapolis Lutheran HS) — 15-5 overall (Augsburg career 15-5). Record includes three pins, no technical falls (lost one) and no major decisions. Primarily White Team (junior varsity) wrestler. Placed fifth at 141 (silver) at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), third at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), third at 133 at Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13), fourth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Claimed a pin and a 3-1 overtime win over **Greg Waag** of Central Missouri State in third-place match at Dick Walker Invite. Went 3-2 to take fourth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open, including an 8-4 win over Naval Academy's **Adam Bricker** and a 5-4 win over **Josh Boggs** of Cumberland (Ky.). **Prep/Personal:** State tourney qualifier for Minnehaha Academy/Minneapolis Lutheran combined team in 2003 as section champion and Metro Alliance Conference MVP. Section runner-up at 125 in 2002. Business finance major at Augsburg.



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149 — Dustin Dahlblom (Fr., Stillwater, Minn.) — 18-7 record (Augsburg career 18-7), ranked No. 8 in nation. Record includes four pins (pinned five times), two technical falls and three major decisions. Finished second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15) and Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), fourth at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13). Claimed major decision and first-period pin before falling to Naval Academy's **John Cox** 6-4 in finals at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open. Pinned in first period by **Mike Champagne** of Mary (N.D.), ranked No. 5 in NAIA, in finals of Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Claimed 16-1 technical fall win over Minnesota State-Moorhead's **Brandon Kok** in dual meet on Nov. 26, had second-period pin over **Nate Martinez** of Southwest Minnesota State in Dec. 9 dual meet. **Prep/Personal:** Four-time state tournament qualifier and two-time Minnesota state champion at Stillwater HS, finishing fourth at junior nationals following his senior season. Won state titles his junior and senior seasons, finishing second his sophomore year. Academic All-State recipient his junior and senior seasons. Business management major at Augsburg.



149 — Josh Erlandson (Jr., Ellsworth, Wis.) — 3-4 record (Augsburg career 56-24). Record includes one pins (pinned three times), no technical falls and no major decisions. Placed seventh at 149 at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15). Has competed on White Team (junior varsity) this season. **2002-03:** Compiled 26-10 record with three pins as member of White Team, finishing third at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open, winning consolation title at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open, winning title at Minnesota-Morris Cougar Open, taking third at Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational, fifth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open and fourth at Wisconsin-Eau Claire Invitational. **2001-02:** Compiled 21-8 record with four pins as member of White Team. **2000-01:** Compiled 6-2 record and received medical redshirt. **Prep/Personal:** Member of state tournament championship team at Ellsworth HS as a senior, won state individual championship as a senior (2000, 140). Also a member of Ellsworth football team as running back/safety. Secondary education/history major with 3.13 GPA, earned NWCA Scholar All-American honors in 2002-03.



157 — Marcus LeVesseur (So., Minneapolis, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) — 18-0 record (Augsburg career 62-0), ranked No. 1 in nation. Record includes nine pins (most on team), three technical falls and two major decisions. **Defending NCAA Division III national champion at 157 pounds. Has yet to lose a match in his collegiate wrestling career.** Currently holds second-longest consecutive-match winning streak in school history at 62 straight matches, two away from school record of 64, set by **Henry Gerten** from 1996-98. Holder of one of only three 60-plus match winning streaks in school history. Only one college wrestler has ever completed all four seasons unbeaten -- Cael Sanderson of Iowa State, who went 159-0 in his career (1999-2002), winning four Division I championships. No NCAA Division III wrestler has ever won four individual national championships; only four wrestlers in NCAA history (two in Division I, two in Division II) have ever won four individual national titles. LeVesseur won the 157-pound class and earned Outstanding Wrestler of the Meet honors at the prestigious St. Cloud State Invitational on Dec. 13 with two pins and a technical fall, gaining a 1:23 pin of North Dakota State's **Paul Carlson**, the top-ranked wrestler in Division II and the defending D-II national champion, in the meet's title match. Earned Outstanding Wrestler of Meet honors at the Orange Bowl Sunshine Open on Dec. 28-29 in Lakeland, Fla., winning 157-pound class with two pins and an 11-2 major-decision win over Naval Academy's **Mike Carbonaro** in championship match. **2002-03:** Became just the fourth Augsburg wrestler to ever go through a single season unbeaten in going 44-0 to win Division III national championship in 2002-03, first national championship appearance. LeVesseur wrestled as an unattached, independent wrestler in fall semester of 2002-03, became eligible to wrestle on Augsburg roster at end of fall semester and finished 2002-03 season on varsity roster. Earned Outstanding Wrestler honors at three tournaments in 2002-03, won each of eight tournaments entered in 2002-03, including Great Lakes Regional (earning Outstanding Wrestler of Meet honors) and national championships. Earned **Rory Jordan Award** (most pins in shortest time) at 2002-03 MIAC Team Duals, with two pins in 2:39. **Prep/Background:** Transferred to Augsburg from Division I Minnesota after enrolling at Minnesota for one semester (fall 2001). Was considered one of the top recruits in the country in 2001, listed by the InterMat wrestling service as the nation's No. 2-ranked recruit, among all weight classes, in the 2000-01 Top 200 Recruit Rankings. LeVesseur was one of the most-decorated prep wrestlers in Minnesota history. Accumulated a state-record 212 wins (212-17) and is one of only 10 wrestlers in Minnesota history to win four state high school titles -- winning titles at Minneapolis Roosevelt HS in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and at Bloomington Kennedy HS in 2001. Set a state record with 141 straight victories to close out his career, finishing his senior year with a 46-0 record. Registered state-record 110 pins in his career, including 28 in his senior season. Named Minnesota's "Mr. Wrestler" by the state high school coaches association in 2001, after earning MVP honors at the Minnesota-Wisconsin All-Star Meet. Earned All-City and All-Conference honors six times, All-County honors three times and All-State and All-America four times. Also played football for three seasons and track and field for one season in high school, earning Metro Athlete of the Week and All-State honors in football. Health and physical education major at Augsburg.



165 — Ryan Valek (So., Belle Plaine, Minn.) — 20-4 record (Augsburg career 40-22). Record includes four pins, no technical falls and five major decisions. First season as Augsburg varsity wrestler, spending most of season as starter at 165 while also splitting time with **Tyler Marr**. Has won championships at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13) and Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10). Finished fourth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Won five matches, including 14-7 win over **Brian Daly** of Augustana (Ill.), to claim Dick Walker title. Used a fall and major decision to reach finals at Dickinson State Classic, beating **Eddie Lucatero** of Menlo (Calif.), ranked sixth in NAIA, 12-7 in championship match. **2002-03:** Primarily White Team (junior varsity) wrestler, compiling record of 20-18 with nine pins and two major decisions. **Prep/Personal:** Two-time state qualifier and three-time all-conference for Scott West wrestling program (cooperative between Belle Plaine and Jordan, Minn., HS), finishing fifth in state at 140 his junior year and fourth at 152 his senior year. Record of 90-27 his final three high school seasons. Also played baseball and football at Belle Plaine HS. Undecided major at Augsburg with 3.57 GPA.



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165 — Kirk Rall (So., West St. Paul, Minn./Henry Sibley HS) — 7-6 record (Augsburg career 23-22). Record includes one pin, no technical falls and two major decisions. Primarily a White Team (junior varsity) wrestler, went 0-2 at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15) and 1-2 at Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13), also competed at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Best performance of season was at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10), where he finished third with 4-1 performance, lone loss a 6-4 decision to **Eddie Lucatero** of Menlo (Calif.), ranked sixth in NAIA. Had pin and decision in championship bracket and rallied with two major decisions in consolation bracket, including 11-0 win in third-place match. **2002-03:** Primarily White Team (junior varsity) wrestler, compiling record of 16-16 with three pins. **Prep/Personal:** State qualifier and all-state honoree at Henry Sibley HS in wrestler, also all-conference linebacker in football. Brother **Bart** played football at Augsburg in 1999; younger brother **Adam** is currently top-ranked wrestler at 160 pounds in Minnesota Class AAA as a senior. The two were recently profiled in St. Paul Pioneer Press, as Bart is in need of a bone-marrow transplant to battle leukemia, and Adam will be the likely donor. Kirk is helping to organize fundraisers to pay for Bart's medical bills. Kirk is a finance major at Augsburg with a 3.5 GPA.



174 — Joe Moon (Jr., Ellendale, Minn./New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva HS) — 21-1 record (Augsburg career 87-13), ranked No. 2 in nation. Record includes six pins, one technical fall and four major decisions. No. 2 national ranking is highest ranking of his career. Team co-captain for second straight year. Has won titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13) and Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10), finishing second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Lone loss of season at finals of Orange Bowl meet, falling 7-1 to **Thetlon Detree** of Cumberland (Ky.), currently ranked No. 1 in NAIA at 174. Claimed one of biggest wins of season in first meet, as he beat Wisconsin-Stevens Point's **Cody Koenig**, at the time ranked No. 1 in Division III (now No. 3), 5-3 in championship match of Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Earned Most Outstanding Wrestler honors at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open, going 4-0 with a pin and technical fall. Won title at St. Cloud State meet with 4-3, overtime-tiebreaker win over North Dakota State's **Thad Pike**, ranked No. 1 in Division II. Won title at Dickinson State tournament with four wins, including two major decisions, a pin and a 6-0 win over Montana State-Northern's **Jesse Juarez**, ranked No. 4 in NAIA. **2002-03:** Finished 38-7 and earned All-American honors for the first time in his career with fifth-place national finish at 174. Scored an 18-0, technical-fall win in opening national tournament match, but was pinned in semifinal match by Koenig (4:36) and lost in wrestleback semifinals. In fifth-place match, claimed 11-0, major-decision win over Wartburg's **Mark Sturm**. Claimed championships at three tournaments, including Great Lakes Regional. Team co-captain in 2002-03, first time that a sophomore has been a team co-captain in the history of Augsburg's wrestling program. **2001-02:** Received a medical redshirt season. **2000-01:** Finished with a 28-5 record in freshman campaign in 2000-01, earning team's Outstanding Freshman award. **Prep/Personal:** Earned three prep All-American honors and three national titles as an amateur wrestler. Won two state championships, placing at state tournaments three times (also fifth place as sophomore) in high school career, earning Outstanding Wrestler honors at the Minnesota-Wisconsin All-Star Meet in 2001. Also was an all-area and all-conference selection in both football and baseball in high school. Marketing major at Augsburg.



184 — Clint Hodgdon (Jr., Ostrander, Minn./LeRoy-Ostrander HS) — 18-6 overall (Augsburg career 45-26). Record includes seven pins, one technical fall and two major decisions (lost three times). First season as primarily varsity wrestler, team co-captain. Won titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15, shared with **Brad Tupa**), finished second at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), third at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10), third at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29) and fifth at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13). Scored 4:24 pin in dual-meet win over Southwest Minnesota State's **Greg Frank** on Dec. 9. Lost 13-5 to top-ranked wrestler in Division II, **Tom Meester** of Augustana (S.D.), in Jan. 6 dual meet. Had two pins in third-place finish at Dickinson State meet, losing 6-5 to **Eric Simburger** of Mary (N.D.), ranked No. 8 in NAIA. **2002-03:** Compiled 13-9 record with two pins as White Team (junior varsity) wrestler. **2001-02:** Had 9-6 record as White Team wrestler. **2000-01:** Compiled 5-5 record before season ended on medical redshirt. **Prep/Personal:** Three-time Minnesota state tournament entrant at LeRoy-Ostrander HS, finishing second in state tournament in 2000. Academic All-State recipient. Also played football, earning all-state honors as a linebacker. Business management major at Augsburg.



184 — Brad Tupa (Jr., Dundas, Minn./Faribault HS) — 9-5 record (Augsburg career 23-10). Record includes two pins, two technical falls and one major decision. Has seen limited varsity action this season, splitting time with **Clint Hodgdon** at 184. Shared title with Hodgdon at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), finished fourth at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10). Scored 10-plus points in all three matches, including 16-0 technical fall, in claiming title at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Has not competed in a varsity dual meet this season. Claimed two pins and a technical fall in finishing fourth at Dickinson State meet, losing 9-8 to **Kyle Fisher** of Montana State-Northern, the top-ranked wrestler at 184 in NAIA. **2002-03:** Did not compete. **2001-02:** Compiled 3-0 record in limited action. **2000-01:** Compiled 11-5 record as White Team (junior varsity) wrestler. **Prep/Personal:** Three-time Minnesota state placewinner in high school at Faribault HS, finishing fifth at 152 as sophomore, second at 160 as junior and winning state title at 171 as a senior. Math major at Augsburg; career goal is to be a math teacher.



197 -- Justin Sorensen (So., Owatonna, Minn.) — 21-4 overall (Augsburg career 58-21), ranked No. 3 in nation. Record includes six pins, no technical falls and one major decision. Has won championships at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), finished second at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13), third at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29) and third at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10). Claimed 7-2 win over Luther's **Wyatt Reyerson** in title match at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open. Won first 10 matches in a row to start season before first loss, a 5-3 upset by Southwest Minnesota State's **Joel Wipperfurth** in a Dec. 9 dual meet. Claimed two pins in placing third at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open, with lone loss a 2-0 defeat to Naval Academy's **Thayer Paxton**. Scored 13-0 major-decision win over **Tyler Bullerman** of Augustana (S.D.) in Jan. 6 dual meet. Claimed two pins, including 53-second match-ender, at Dickinson State meet, with lone loss a 9-0 defeat by Montana State-Northern's **Mazi Burke**, ranked No. 5 in NAIA. **2002-03:** Compiled 37-17 record in first Auggie season to reach national tournament for first time, going 1-2. Qualified for national tournament as a wild-card entrant after finishing third at the Great Lakes Regional. Won championship at Minnesota-Morris Cougar Open on Dec. 7. Primarily a White Team (junior varsity) wrestler early in season, moved into varsity lineup after third-place finish at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open. **Prep/Personal:** Two-time state tournament qualifier in high school, placed second in state tournament as a senior. Business management major at Augsburg.



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197 — Joe Cullen (Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn.) — 17-6 overall (Augsburg career 54-33). Record includes eight pins (pinned once), no technical falls and two major decisions (lost once). Primarily a White Team (junior varsity) wrestler this season. Placed third at Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13), third (tie with **Justin Sorensen**) at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10), fourth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), and fifth at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22). Had two major decisions and a pin to rally from early loss to place third at Dick Walker Invite, with 6-4 overtime triumph over **Aaron Granell** of Augustana (Ill.) in the third-place match. Had one pin at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open, and one pin at Dickinson State meet. Pinned in 1:40 by **Emmett Wilson** of Montana State-Northern, the top-ranked wrestler in NAIA, at Dickinson State meet. **2002-03:** Compiled a 21-15 record with three pins as a White Team (junior varsity) wrestler. **2001-02:** Compiled a 16-12 record with seven pins as White Team wrestler. **Prep/Personal:** Two-sport athlete at Augsburg; also a defensive lineman on Augsburg's football team. Earned All-MIAC honorable-mention recognition for second straight season in 2003 in football, with 59 tackles and a team-high eight sacks. Mathematics major with 3.433 GPA at Augsburg. Named to CoSIDA Academic All-District second team in football in 2003, as well as Academic All-MIAC honors. Also earned NWCA Scholar All-American honors in wrestling in 2002-03.



HWT — Mark Simmonds (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./Edison HS) — 19-5 record (Augsburg career 19-5, overall career 53-37), ranked No. 4 in nation. Record includes eight pins, one technical fall and four major decisions (lost once). Transferred to Augsburg this season from Division II Southwest Minnesota State. Has won titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22). Finished second at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13) and second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), finished fifth at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10). Won first 11 matches in a row until first loss, a 4-3, overtime loss to **Baron Blanchard** of Northern State (S.D.) in championship match of St. Cloud State meet. Blanchard is ranked third in Division II. Scored major decision and pin in winning Auggie-Brute Adidas Open. Had two pins and an overtime win over Blanchard in Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open. Scored major-decision, 13-2 win over **Ray O'Connor** of Augustana (S.D.) in Jan. 6 dual meet. **2002-03:** Did not compete. **2001-02:** Went 18-9 in sophomore season at Southwest Minnesota State. **2000-01:** Went 16-23 in freshman year, but rallied late in campaign, placing second at Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference meet and fourth at NCAA Division II regional to qualify for Division II national tournament. Earned All-NSIC honors in 2001. **Prep/Personal:** Also played two seasons of football as a defensive lineman at Southwest Minnesota State. Two-time state placewinner (sixth and second at heavyweight) at Edison HS), earning all-conference honors four times. Was a lineman (offense and defense) in football, earning all-conference honors twice and all-city honors once. Also was a weight thrower in track and field. Health and physical education major at Augsburg.



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