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# **Auggie Sports News**

An immediate sports release from the  
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## **No. 2 Auggies aim for ninth NCAA Division III wrestling title this weekend in Dubuque, Iowa**

MINNEAPOLIS (3/2/04) -- With nine qualifiers in individual weight classes, Augsburg College will attempt to win its ninth NCAA Division III wrestling national championship, in competition this weekend at the wrestling national championships in Dubuque, Iowa.

Augsburg, last year's national runner-up and winners of eight of the last 13 national titles, is currently ranked second in the latest Division III national polls. Defending national champion Wartburg (Iowa) is ranked No. 1. Wartburg is the lone school to qualify individuals in all 10 weight classes to the national championships. Only three other schools have qualified as many as seven wrestlers to the national tournament -- No. 3 Brockport State (N.Y.) and No. 4 College of New Jersey have eight qualifiers each, and No. 8 Luther (Iowa) has seven qualifiers.

The national tournament will be held at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque, hosted by Loras College. Action begins at 11 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday at the ONU Sports Center. Friday's two sessions (11 a.m. and 6 p.m.) eliminate the field to the final eight in each weight class, which earn All-American honors. Saturday's 11 a.m. session includes championship semifinals and wrestlebacks, with championship finals and placing matches scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Championship finals will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Augsburg will provide continuous updates on its website at [www.augsburg.edu/athletics/wrestling/](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/wrestling/) throughout the weekend tournament.

Augsburg is one of seven NCAA schools -- and the only Division III school -- to have won eight wrestling team national championships. In Division I, Oklahoma State has won 31 team titles, while Iowa has won 20 and Iowa State has won eight. In Division II, California State-Bakersfield and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo have won eight national titles apiece, while Central Oklahoma has won six national titles.

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.

Six of Augsburg's nine qualifiers are ranked in the final Division III national rankings, released on Feb. 25. Defending national champion **Marcus LeVesseur** (So., Minneapolis, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) is ranked No. 1 at 157 pounds. Ranked second nationally in their weight classes are **Matt Shankey** (Jr., Apple Valley, Minn.) at 125, **Mark Matzek** (Jr., Ellsworth, Wis.) at 133, and **Jamell Tidwell** (Jr., Burnsville, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) at 141. **Joe Moon** (Jr., Ellendale, Minn./New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva HS) and **Mark Simmonds** (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./Edison HS) are ranked third nationally at 174 and heavyweight, respectively.

Also qualifying for the national championships from Augsburg are **Dustin Dahlblom** (Fr., Stillwater, Minn.) at 149, **Ryan Valek** (So., Belle Plaine, Minn.) at 165 and **Joe Cullen** (Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn.) at 197.

The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has a total of 12 wrestlers at the national championship meet. Joining the nine Auggies are three wrestlers from No. 20 St. John's -- top-ranked 125-pounder **Matt Vos**, 133-pounder **Matt Lefebvre** and 197-pounder **Dan Fiecke**.

# *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 189-12 since the 1989-90 season, and has lost just seven matches to non-Division I opponents since the 1995-96 season.
- Against strictly NCAA Division III opponents, Augsburg is 210-17 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 134-7 against Division III opponents.
- Against opponents from the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Augsburg is 187-2 since the 1975-76 season. In winning each of the 14 MIAC Team Dual Meet tournaments, Augsburg has outscored its conference opponents by a 3,266-145 margin in going 68-0. Augsburg has an 18-season, 88-match dual-meet winning streak against MIAC opponents. In this season's MIAC Team Duals on Jan. 24, Augsburg beat Concordia-Moorhead 55-0, St. Olaf 58-0 and St. John's 34-9, winning 27 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 since 1990, in the top four nationally the last 15 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, Augsburg is the only school to have finished in the top two nationally in 14 of the past 15 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 14 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 the 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 292-38. 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.

## **Augsburg Auggie Sports News -- Augsburg Wrestling NCAA Division III National Championship Biographies -- Page 1**

**125 — Matt Shankey (Jr., Apple Valley, Minn.) — 23-1 overall (Augsburg career 23-1, overall career 51-16), ranked No. 2 in nation.**



Record includes five pins, two technical falls and five major decisions. Ranked as high as No. 1 during the season, but suffered 5-3 loss to current top-ranked **Matt Vos** of St. John's in dual meet on Jan. 24 and dropped to current No. 2 spot. Has won last nine matches in a row, including three pins, two major decisions and a technical fall. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 2-1 vs. No. 1 **Matt Vos** of St. John's; 1-0 vs. No. 5 **Dustin Brewer** of Simpson (Iowa); 1-0 vs. No. 6 **Justin McClintock** of Wartburg (Iowa); 1-0 vs. **Ty Klofa** of Ohio Northern. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 2-0 vs. No. 2 **Eric Sanders** of North Dakota State; 1-0 vs. No. 8 **Aaron Graumann** of Augustana (S.D.).

**Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 1-0 vs. third-place finisher **Aaron Hartnell** of Mary (N.D.). **2003-04:**

Transferred to Augsburg from Division I Iowa, but battled injuries early this season. Won championships at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13); Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29); North Country Invitational (Feb. 7) and NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21). 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 over Sanders and 10-4 decision win over Vos 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. **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.

**133 — Mark Matzek (Jr., Ellsworth, Wis.) — 31-4 overall (Augsburg career 91-21), ranked No. 2 in nation.** Record includes seven pins, four



technical falls and seven major decisions. Ranked as high as No. 1 during the season, but suffered 6-4 loss to current top-ranked **Ozzie Saxson** of Wartburg (Iowa) in finals of North Country Invitational on Feb. 7 and dropped to current No. 2 spot. Has won last four matches in a row, with a pin, two major decisions and a technical fall. In last 20 matches, has six pins, four technical falls and four major decisions. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 1-1 vs. No. 1 **Ozzie Saxson** of Wartburg (Iowa); 1-0 vs. **Quentin Christenson** of Simpson (Iowa), 1-0 vs. **Nate Lefebvre** of St. John's. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 1-0 vs. No. 4 **Derek Miller** of St. Cloud State (Minn.), 0-1 vs. No. 8 **Nick Magee** of North Dakota State. **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 0-1 vs. national champion **Caleb Schaeffer** of Montana State-Northern, 1-0 vs. **Boomer Mears** of Northwestern (Iowa) and 1-0 vs. **Michael Mathiason** of Dickinson State

(N.D.). **2003-04:** Won championships at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13), Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29) and Great Lakes Region on Feb. 21, shared title at 141 at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), finished second at Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10) and North Country Invitational (Feb. 7), placed fifth at 141 at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open on Nov. 15. Competed at 141 in first three weeks of season before returning to his normal 133 weight class for dual meet against Southwest Minnesota State on Dec. 9. At Dickinson State Classic, claimed two straight major-decision wins and a 16-0, technical-fall win over Dickinson State's **Micha Mathieson**, at the time ranked No. 8 in NAIA, before losing 8-3 to Montana State-Northern's **Caleb Schaeffer**, ranked No. 1 in NAIA, in championship match. At NWCA National Duals on Jan. 19, beat **Ozzie Saxson** of Wartburg (Iowa) 5-3 to vault over Saxson and take over No. 1 national ranking. Earned **Rory Jordan Award** for most falls in least time at MIAC Team Duals on Jan. 24, with three pins in 13:14 (only wrestler to record three pins). **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) — 41-3 record (Augsburg career 118-11), ranked No. 2 in nation.**



Record includes two pins, eight technical falls and seven major decisions. Was ranked No. 1 in nation earlier in the season, the first top-ranking nationally of his career. **Two-time national qualifier and 2002-03 All-American at Augsburg.** Has a chance to break Augsburg's all-time win record, 167 by **Matt Kretlow**. Has won last 10 matches in a row, including one pin, three technical falls and three major decisions. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 0-1 vs. No. 1 **Dustin Hirschberger** of Wartburg (Iowa); 1-0 vs. No. 5 **Nick Karls** of Wisconsin-Whitewater; 1-0 vs. **Joel Burdick** of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; 1-0 vs. **Garrett Miyake** of Pacific Lutheran. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 2-0 vs. No. 3 **Mathias Bitz** of North Dakota State; 1-0 vs. No. 2 **Andre VandeVelde** of Augustana (S.D.). **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 0-1 vs. national champion **James Guizar** of Menlo (Calif.), 1-0 vs. **Marcus Austin** of Dickinson State (N.D.), 1-0 vs.

**Reese Boehm** of Mary (N.D.). **2003-04:** Won weight-class titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open (Dec. 6), St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13), Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), North Country Invitational (Feb. 7) and Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21). 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. Other two losses have come to Wartburg wrestlers **Wil Kelly** (2-0 in dual meet Jan. 18) and **Dustin Hirschberger** (4-1 in dual meet Jan. 30). 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. 3 in NCAA Division II, in finals of St. Cloud State Invite. Also beat Bitz 7-2 in dual meet on Jan. 27. Defeated **Nick Karls** of Wisconsin-Whitewater, ranked No. 5 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. On pace to become Augsburg's all-time career 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

## **Augsburg Auggie Sports News -- Augsburg Wrestling NCAA Division III National Championship Biographies -- Page 2**

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.

**149 — Dustin Dahlblom (Fr., Stillwater, Minn.) — 27-7 record (Augsburg career 27-7).** Record includes four pins (pinned once), four technical falls and seven major decisions. Won nine matches in a row before falling in finals of NCAA Great Lakes Regional to **Ryan Hlinak** of Chicago (Ill.) 7-4. Qualified for national tournament as wild card. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 1-0 vs. **Ross Babcock** of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 0-1 vs. **Ryan Hlinak** of Chicago (Ill.). **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 1-0 vs. No. 1 **Ryan King** of Augustana (S.D.). **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 0-1 vs. national runner-up **Danny Castellio** of Menlo (Calif.), 0-2 vs. **Mike Champagne** of Mary (N.D.), 1-0 vs. **Frankie Schoonover** of Dickinson State (N.D.), 1-1 vs. No. 6 **Kyle Nay** of Dickinson State (N.D.). **2003-04:** Won Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open (Dec. 6), Spartan Classic (Jan. 31), North Country Invitational (Feb. 7), finished second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29), Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22) and NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21), 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.



**157 — Marcus LeVesseur (So., Minneapolis, Minn./Bloomington Kennedy HS) – 36-0 record (Augsburg career 80-0), ranked No. 1 in nation.** Record includes 18 pins (most on team), three technical falls and eight major decisions. **Defending NCAA Division III national champion at 157 pounds. Has yet to lose a match in his collegiate wrestling career.** Currently holds longest consecutive-match winning streak in school history at 80 straight matches, breaking the old 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 (1998-2002), 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 -- Sanderson, **Pat Smith** of Oklahoma State (1990-92, 1994), **Dan Russell** of Portland (Ore.) State (1988-91) and **Tim Wright** of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (1984-87). Six wrestlers have accomplished the feat in NAIA wrestling history. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 1-0 vs. No. 3 **Cory Connell** of Wartburg (Iowa); 1-0 vs. **Rick Lamas** of Elmhurst (Ill.). **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 2-0 vs. No. 1 **Paul Carlson** of North Dakota State. **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 1-0 vs. fourth-place **Abel Trujillo** of William Penn (Iowa), 1-0 vs. **Tom Iverson** of Jamestown (N.D.). **2003-04:** Has team-best 18 pins, including 14 first-period match-enders and six pins in his last nine victories. Average pin time this season is 1:53.4. Quickest pin was a 17-second pin of **Jacob Malone** of St. John's on Feb. 7. Average margin of victory in non-pin matches is 11 points -- 13.5 to 2.5. Won all four matches at Division III National Duals Jan. 17-18, one by pin and two by major decision. 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. Beat Carlson for second time this season in battle of No. 1 small-college wrestlers (third overall) in dual meet on Jan. 27, a 7-1 victory. 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. Has also won titles at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open on Dec. 6, North Country Invitational (Feb. 7) and NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21). **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/Personal:** Transferred to Augsburg from Division I Minnesota after enrolling at Minnesota for one semester (fall 2001). Did not compete as a Gopher wrestler; LeVesseur left before official start of Minnesota's season. Was considered one of the top recruits in the country in 2001, listed by the InterMat online 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 then-state-record 218 wins (218-12; now third-best in state history) 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.



## **Augsburg Auggie Sports News -- Augsburg Wrestling NCAA Division III National Championship Biographies -- Page 3**

**165 — Ryan Valek (So., Belle Plaine, Minn.) — 35-8 record (Augsburg career 55-26).** Record includes nine pins, one technical fall and seven



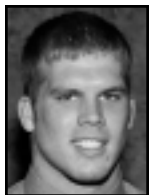
major decisions. First season as Augsburg varsity wrestler, spending most of season as starter at 165 while also splitting time with Tyler Marr. Has won last seven matches in a row. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 2-0 vs. Brian Daly of Augustana (Ill.), 1-0 vs. Brad Bishop of Loras (Iowa), 0-1 vs. Andrew Knaack of Wartburg (Iowa). **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 0-1 vs. No. 1 Mike Fiedler of North Dakota State. **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 1-0 vs. seventh-place Eddie Lucatero of Menlo (Calif.), 1-0 vs. David Cole of Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.), 1-0 vs. Aaron Jensen of Montana State-Northern. **2003-04:** Has won championships at Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Dick Walker (Wartburg) Invitational (Dec. 13), Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10) and NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21). Placed third at Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open (Dec. 6) and North Country Invitational (Feb. 7), finished fourth at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Won five matches, including 14-7 win over Daly, to claim Dick Walker title. **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.

**174 — Joe Moon (Jr., Ellendale, Minn./New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva HS) — 35-2 record (Augsburg career 101-14), ranked**



**No. 3 in nation.** Record includes 11 pins (pinned once), three technical falls and eight major decisions. Ranked as high as No. 2 this season. Team co-captain for second straight year. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 1-1 vs. No. 2 Cody Koenig of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1-0 vs. Jeff Zastrow of Wisconsin-Whitewater. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 2-0 vs. No. 1 Thad Pike of North Dakota State; 1-0 vs. No. 3 Dusty Wilking of Augustana (S.D.), 1-0 vs. No. 4 Andy Sinclair of Northern State (S.D.). **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 0-1 vs. national champion Thetlon Detree of Cumberland (Ky.), 1-0 vs. fifth-place Jesse Juarez of Montana State-Northern, 1-0 vs. Omar Ortiz of William Penn (Iowa), 1-0 vs. Ben Hummel of Northwestern (Iowa). **2003-04:** Has won titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22), Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open (Dec. 6), St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13), Dickinson State (N.D.) Classic (Jan. 10) and NCAA Great Lakes regional (Feb. 21), finishing second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29). Lost first match of season in finals of Orange Bowl meet, falling 7-1 to eventual NAIA national champion Thetlon Detree of Cumberland (Ky.). Second loss came in a 1:34 pin by Cody Koenig of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in dual meet on Feb. 13. The win for Koenig avenged one of Moon's biggest wins of season, as Moon beat Koenig 5-3 in championship match of Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open on Nov. 15. 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. Topped Pike again with a 5-2 decision in dual meet on Nov. 27. Since loss to Detree, has won 20 of last 21 matches, with six pins and two technical falls. **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.

**197 — Joe Cullen (Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn.) — 31-8 overall (Augsburg career 68-35).** Record includes nine pins (pinned once), no technical



falls and three major decisions (lost once). Primarily a White Team (junior varsity) wrestler in first two seasons, moved into varsity lineup in late January, supplanting defending 197-pound national qualifier Justin Sorensen. Has won nine of last 10 matches. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 2-2 vs. Dan Fiecke of St. John's, 0-1 vs. No. 1 Akeem Carter of Wartburg (Iowa), 1-0 vs. No. 8 Bart George of Simpson (Iowa). **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 0-1 vs. No. 4 Brian Kraemer of North Dakota State. **Against wrestlers in NAIA championships this season:** 1-0 vs. second-place Niko Koliastasis of Briar Cliff (Iowa), 1-0 vs. sixth-place Shane Hall of Missouri Valley, 1-0 vs. Phil Dawes of Dana (Kan.), 2-0 vs. Stacey Mellow of Jamestown (N.D.), 0-1 vs. national champion Emmett Wilson of Montana State-Northern. **2003-04:** Won Si-Tanka Huron (S.D.) Open (Dec. 6), Red Raider Invitational (Jan. 24) and North Country

Invitational (Feb. 7). Placed second at NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21), 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). Rallied from loss to Fiecke in finals of Great Lakes Regional with 9-2 win over Sean Barnes of Chicago (Ill.) in "true-second" match to earn spot in national meet as wild card entrant. **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.

## **Augsburg Auggie Sports News -- Augsburg Wrestling NCAA Division III National Championship Biographies -- Page 4**

**HWT — Mark Simmonds (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn./Edison HS) — 33-7 record (Augsburg career 33-7, overall career 67-39), ranked No. 3**



**in nation.** Record includes 10 pins, three technical falls and four major decisions. Transferred to Augsburg this season from Division II Southwest Minnesota State. Has won eight of last nine matches entering national meet. **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division III championship field this season:** 1-2 vs. No. 2 **Blake Gillis** of Wartburg (Iowa), 0-1 vs. No. 1 **Ryan Allen** of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 1-0 vs. **Brett Christensen** of Simpson (Iowa), 1-0 vs. No. 6 **Matt Schoenherr** of Milwaukee School of Engineering (Wis.). **Against wrestlers in NCAA Division II championships this season:** 1-1 vs. No. 2 **Baron Blanchard** of Northern State (S.D.), 0-1 vs. No. 3 **Joe Bryce** of North Dakota State. **Against wrestlers in NIAA championships this season:** 0-1 vs. sixth-place **Ken Pamanian** of Menlo (Calif.), 1-0 vs. **Dan Williams** of William Penn (Iowa). **2003-04:** Has won titles at Auggie-Brute-Adidas Open (Nov. 15), Concordia-Moorhead Cobber Open (Nov. 22) and NCAA Great Lakes Regional (Feb. 21). Finished second at St. Cloud State Invitational (Dec. 13), second at Orange Bowl Sunshine Open (Dec. 28-29) and North Country Invitational (Feb. 7), 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 Invitational. 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. After 4-1 win over Wartburg's Gillis on Jan. 18 at NWCA National Duals, has lost twice to No. 2-ranked wrestler -- 6-1 in dual meet Jan. 30 and 3-1 in finals of North Country Invitational on Feb. 7. Dropped 7-2 decision to Wisconsin-La Crosse's Allen, ranked No. 1, at NWCA National Duals on Jan. 17. **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.

### **NCAA Division III Team National Rankings**

*(As of 2/25/04; team's number of national qualifiers listed in parenthesis)*

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Wartburg (Iowa) (10)        | 16. Springfield (Mass.) (3)         |
| 2. <b>Augsburg (Minn.) (9)</b> | 17. York (Pa.) (3)                  |
| 3. Brockport State (N.Y.) (8)  | 18. Wis.-Whitewater (5)             |
| 4. College of New Jersey (8)   | 19. Ithaca (N.Y.) (3)               |
| 5. Montclair State (N.J.) (3)  | 20. St. John's (Minn.) (3)          |
| 6. Wisconsin-La Crosse (4)     | 21. John Carroll (Ohio) (5)         |
| 7. Delaware Valley (Pa.) (5)   | 22. Augustana (Ill.) (4)            |
| 8. Luther (Iowa) (7)           | 23. Williams (Mass.) (2)            |
| 9. Wis.-Stevens Point (4)      | 24. King's (Pa.) (2)                |
| 10. Simpson (Iowa) (5)         | 25. Manchester (Ind.) (2)           |
| 11. Ursinus (Pa.) (6)          | 26. Case Western Reserve (Ohio) (2) |
| 12. Cortland State (N.Y.) (4)  | 27. Lawrence (Wis.) (2)             |
| 13. Buena Vista (Iowa) (3)     | 28. Coe (Iowa) (2)                  |
| 14. Loras (Iowa) (4)           | 29. Lycoming (Pa.) (2)              |
| 15. Oswego State (N.Y.) (2)    | 30. Elmhurst (Ill.) (2)             |

