

# Six grapplers take All-America honors, team 3rd at NAAs

By LORI SHONTZ  
Collegian Sports Writer

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Six wrestlers earned All-America honors this weekend as the wrestling team placed third at the NCAA Tournament.

Jeff Prescott won the national championship at 118 pounds and the Outstanding Wrestling Award. Troy Sunderland placed fourth at 142, Bob Truby placed fifth at 126, Jason Suter placed fifth at 158, Tim Wittman placed seventh at 150 and Matt White placed eighth at 177.

Penn State's finish was its best since 1967, when it placed third with eight All-Americans.

Sunderland clinched All-America status by defeating Laurence Jackson of Cal-Bakersfield in the quarterfinals, 5-3, in sudden-death overtime. A dubious stalling call against Sunderland tied the score at 3-3 in regulation.

"It was pretty cheap — he was just standing around," Sunderland said.

About 45 seconds into the three-minute overtime period, Jackson lifted Sunderland into the air and needed only to break him down for the takedown. Sunderland, however, squirmed his way out of Jackson's grasp and won the match on a takedown 30 seconds later.

"When he lifted me up in the air, I was panicking," Sunderland said. "That's why I practice with Witt (man)

in practice — he's real strong and he lifts me like that, and I try to move him and scoot underneath."

Sunderland lost only to Iowa's Troy Steiner in the semifinals, 4-3, and to Oklahoma State's Chuck Barbee in the third-place match, 5-3. His fourth-place finish was the highest ever by a 142-pound Penn State wrestler.

"I know he's not satisfied with that and that's what I like about him," Coach Rich Lorenzo said.

Truby had hoped to challenge for the title at 126, but his lack of offense hurt him in the semifinal against Nebraska's Jason Kelber. Kelber scored two take-downs — the first two Truby allowed — in his 6-2 victory.

"He just held me at bay," Truby said. "(Kelber) thought if he could score a takedown, he'd win," Lorenzo said. "He didn't think he could hold Bob and he didn't think Bob could hold him."

In the consolation semifinal, Truby lost his chance to challenge for third place when he was called for stalling 1:04 into sudden death overtime, giving Ohio State's Adam DiSabato a 2-1 victory in the consolation semifinal. Lorenzo, upset at Truby's performance, stepped in the spitbox as he hurried from mat-side.

"He let the referee decide the bout, and that's stupid," Lorenzo said. "He was standing around, letting his oppo-

nent take half shots and get credit for it."

Truby was also upset with his performance.

"We went out of bounds and I was going to change my style and shoot and the referee said stalling and that was it," he said.

Truby then opened up on his feet to defeat Babak Mohammadi of Oregon State for fifth place, 17-3.

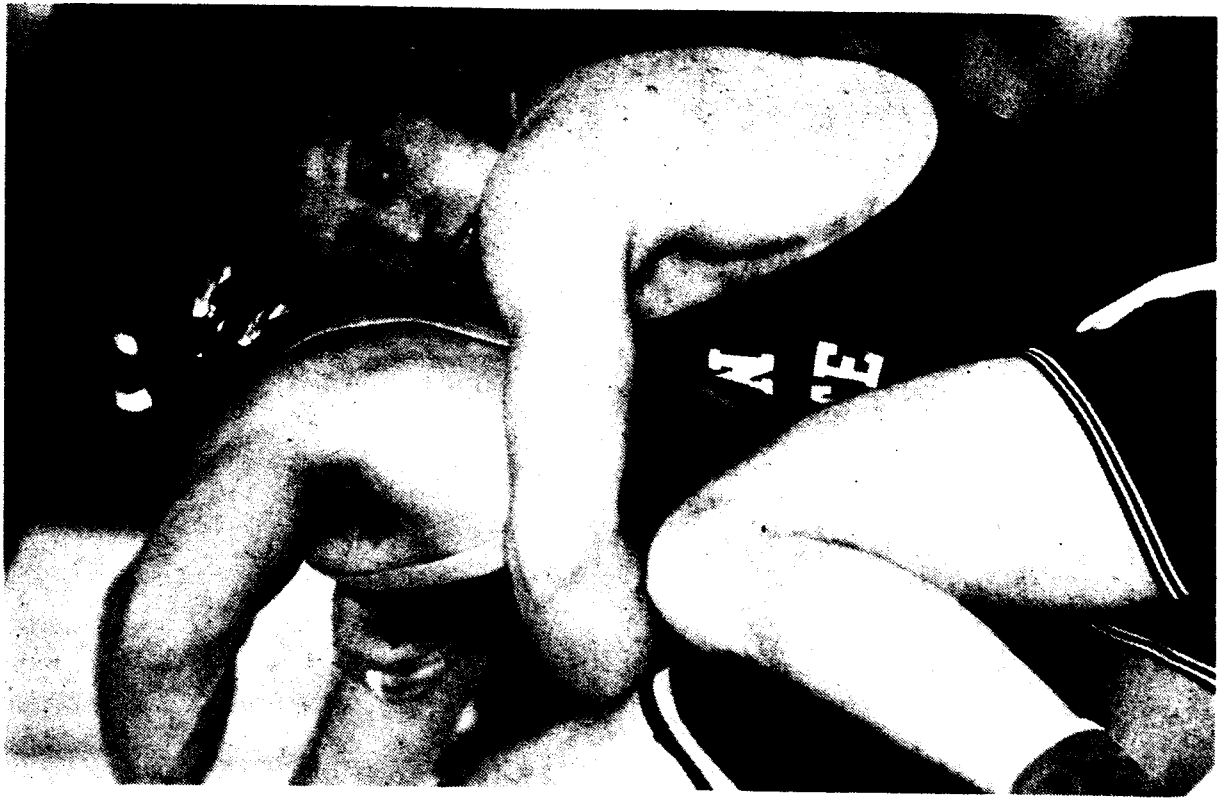
Wittman, a surprise All-American last year, had trouble this year because he relies primarily on a few big moves which teams have scouted and learned to defend against.

"Everyone knows he has a great straight-on double and that he sort of lulls you into it," Lorenzo said. "He has all the tools to be a high-finishing All-American or national champion, but he's got to add more to his repertoire."

Wittman faced Wisconsin's Matt Demaray, the eventual champion, in the quarterfinals and was unable to get his offense going. After beating Cleveland State's Mike Carpenter to clinch All-American, he lost his chance to challenge for third to Ohio State's Ken Ramsey.

Against Oklahoma State's Todd Chesbro in the seventh-place bout, Wittman recovered from a 3-1 deficit with an escape and takedown in the final period for a 4-3 victory.

"It all comes down to pride then,"



Collegian Photo/Dan Gleiter

Troy Sunderland controls his opponent during the Eastern Wrestling League finals. Sunderland qualified for All-America honors this weekend during NAAs, where the Lions placed third. Sunderland placed fourth at 142 pounds for the honor.

Wittman said. "What can I say — I wanted to win it."

White overcame yet another injury to earn All-America status. In his first match back, after missing a month because of a knee injury, White injured his back and it bothered him for the rest of the season. He hadn't wrestled live for five days before nationals.

Against Cal-Bakersfield's Mark Chaff in the third round of consolations, trainer Dan Monthley massaged White's back during timeouts and White limped back to the mat. Regulation ended in a 1-1 tie and neither wrestler scored in a sudden death overtime.

The match then went to a 30-second additional sudden death period. A coin

flip determines which wrestler chooses top or bottom — if the bottom man escapes, he wins.

White won the toss, chose bottom, and escaped with nine seconds remaining to become an All-American.

"I told myself I could stand any kind of pain for 30 seconds," White said. "And it was worth it."

## Prescott

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stalled in hopes of forcing Prescott to make a mistake. But Prescott posted a 5-0 victory that wasn't as close as the score suggested.

"I was glad to see Jeff didn't push the frustration button," Coach Rich Lorenzo said.

Prescott had technical falled Zaputil, 18-2 at 4:31, at the national dual meet championships, but wasn't sure he'd be able to do so again. He scored the first takedown 43 seconds into the match Saturday night and took Zaputil — and the Iowa fans — right out of the match.

"He's not out there to win 3-2," Fritz said. "He's out there to totally shut off and break them."

Fritz, who won a national title for Penn State at 126 pounds in 1975, spent most of the season telling Prescott to

focus on one match at a time. He also drilled with Prescott.

Every time Prescott wrestled, Fritz got nearly as nervous as he did before competing himself.

"Fritz would be sweating and all fired up and yelling, 'One more stepping stone, Prescott, one more step. You're going to get better, Buzzsaw,'" Prescott said.

Prescott stepped so far, so high and so fast that the coaches knew he'd be able to dominate his weight class as he did — physically and mentally.

"Jeff has so many moves — if he hits you with his best move and that doesn't work, he'll come back with something almost as good," Fritz said.

"He's a pit bull," Lorenzo said. "He's one of the fiercest competitors we've ever had at Penn State."

## OT squeeze reanimates Suter's desire to win

By LORI SHONTZ  
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IOWA CITY, Iowa — All Jason Suter could think was "squeeze."

Seven minutes of regulation and three minutes of sudden death overtime had failed to produce a winner. Suter and Army's Nick Mauldin needed an additional 30-second period of sudden death to determine which graduating senior would exit the NCAA Tournament with nothing.

Mauldin won the coin flip and chose bottom. For 30 seconds Suter held Mauldin as tight as he could, and he advanced to the next round — barely.

"After that match I knew I could do it — even if I had to go to sudden death the rest of the way, I could do it," Suter said.

After needing a wild card to qualify for nationals and then losing in the first round to unseeded Mike Marzetta of Minnesota, Suter thought he might have lost his desire to wrestle. But the sudden death victory

brought back his confidence, and Suter made All-American for the second straight year with a fifth-place finish at 158 pounds.

"I don't think he ever sincerely believed in his heart that he could win the national tournament," Coach Rich Lorenzo said. "And that's not negative. But he did believe he could be an All-American, and he never lost sight of that."

Each of Suter's victories was decided in the final seconds.

Suter won his second consolation match by scoring a takedown with 29 seconds remaining in the three-minute sudden death period.

He won his third consolation match — and clinched All-American — with a takedown and two back points in the last 30 seconds.

Against Greg Warren of Missouri in the fourth round of consolations, Suter overcame a 5-1 deficit with a reversal and three-point near fall at the beginning of the third period to take a 6-5 lead. He eventually won the match on riding time.

"Jason's such a sincere kid," assistant coach John Fritz said. "He wanted to win so hard that it was hurting him."

Suter lost to Arizona State's Ray Miller, 9-2, in the consolation semifinals, but came back about an hour later to score an early takedown on fourth-seeded Scott Hovan of Pitt and hang on for a 5-3 victory.

Suter's fifth-place finish bettered his eighth-place finish at 167 pounds last year.

"Jason's had as many peaks and maybe more valleys than anyone on the team," Lorenzo said. "But he never gave up, he never threw it in, and I admire him for that."

Suter said it wasn't easy to keep himself from giving up, especially after losing to wrestlers he thought he was better than in the Eastern Wrestling League Tournament. Losing again to freshman Brian Unkert of Bloomsburg particularly disturbed him.

"I mean, I've been wrestling since I was 5 and I just couldn't figure out what I was doing to be wrestling that poorly," Suter said.

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