

Buckeyes Bag a Tiger in the Empire State

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Warsaw HS senior Ian Paddock to sign with OSU in November

Kevin Schlosser; www.the-ozone.net

Head coach Tom Ryan went back to his home state to snare Ohio State's fourth verbal commitment from the class of 2009; Ian Paddock. A four-time state place winner and three-time state champion for Warsaw HS, he is one of the most accomplished prospects New York has produced. Currently the thirty-sixth ranked senior in the InterMat Top 100 Paddock will be expected to compete for a spot in the starting lineup within two years of arriving on campus.



Ian Paddock
2008 UB Open

"The Buckeyes came in late but I was interested in them right away," stated Ian Paddock. "I was really excited about the opportunity to wrestle in the Big Ten. It is a great school, they have great wrestling program, and it is a place that I am confident I will accomplish all of my goals."

Paddock's decision wasn't an easy choice, but it was one that he was very comfortable with.

"There were three schools that I got to know really well; Hofstra, Edinboro and Ohio State. They all have really great coaches, but after I took my official visit to Ohio State I knew that was the place where I wanted to be," explained Paddock.

"The hardest part was letting the other coaches down. You build a good relationship with each coach and it is hard to tell them you are not going there."

Hofstra was the instate school with the inside track to landing Paddock but eliminating Edinboro may have been a tougher choice. Long Island is a world away from Wyoming County where the cows outnumber the people. At Edinboro his older brother Paul is on the team and battling for a varsity spot. After spending four years together in the same lineup at Warsaw HS it would not have been a surprise to see Ian follow him there.

"Of course my brother wanted me to come with him so he was biased toward (Edinboro). Even though he was a little bit disappointed everyone supported my decision," asserted Paddock. "My parents and all of the coaches told me to make the right choice for you and I know that Ohio State is the right choice for me."

Paddock is hoping to compete for a spot in the varsity lineup when he arrives in Columbus. With the graduation of J. Jagers this year there will be an open spot at 141 pounds that needs to be filled next season. The Buckeyes do have options; Reece Humphrey could move up, Tony Jameson could come down, or Paddock could be wrestling off Collin Palmer for a chance to start. He also could be competing for a spot at 133 pounds if Humphrey moves up. Irregardless of what happens Paddock remains flexible and has stated that he will do whatever is best for the team.

"I am a 133 or a 141; I am not really sure how big I am going to get in college," offered Paddock. "Next year depending on whether or where they need me in the lineup will be a factor. I would like to come in and wrestle but if they need me to redshirt because Reece is going to stay at 133 that's OK; if they want me to go up to 141 that is fine with me too."



Ian Paddock (Warsaw HS - UA) - 2008 Buffalo Open

Ian Paddock the New York Wrestler:

Long before Paddock showed up on the OSU radar he was making a name for himself on the wrestling mat. A four-time state placer Ian is wrestling for his third straight title and fourth overall. If he accomplishes his goals this season he will become the fourth four-time state champion in the history of New York.

"It would mean a lot to win a fourth championship because there are only select few in New York that

it would mean a lot to win a tourna championship because there are only select few in New York that have done it. Troy Nickerson has five while J.P. O'Connor and Jesse Jantzen are the only other wrestlers to win it four times; that says a lot. To join them would be a great way to end the season," admitted a humbled Paddock.

While he still has to win his fourth title; if Paddock is anything like Jantzen, Nickerson, or O'Connor in college the Buckeyes have cause for optimism.

All three wrestled varsity as true freshmen and together they have combined for seven All-American seasons. Jantzen was a three-time All-American and 2004 national champion at Harvard. Nickerson and O'Connor are two-time All-Americans at Cornell and Harvard; both are juniors with an opportunity to continue adding to their resumes.

"I still have a lot goals left to accomplish in wrestling. This is a sport where you can't take anything for granted. There is always something you can work on; something you can learn, or something you can do different; you can always get better. Those other guys kept producing in college and that is what I have to do."

A fixture in the varsity lineup for Warsaw High School since he was in seventh grade; Paddock was the 96 pound state champ in 2005, placed third at 103 as a freshman, and was a state champ at 119 and 130 the last two years. He expects to compete at 130 or 135 as a senior.

Folk, Free, or Greco:

Ian Paddock has been a year round wrestler since the day he stepped on a high school mat. Wrestling freestyle and Greco-Roman he has been just as successful outside of New York. In two styles that are not restricted by state borders, Paddock has built a national reputation as a seven-time Fargo All-American.

"It is tough to say what style I like the best because I just want to be out on the mat competing. Some days I like one more than the others, sometimes it depends on how the tournament is going or what season I am in," offered Paddock. "I like competing and I like winning."

Paddock has not won a national title in freestyle or Greco-Roman, but he has yet to wrestle in Fargo and not place. As a seven-time cadet and junior All-American; only a severe hamstring injury last summer prevented him from making it eight in a row. Paddock was undefeated in the Greco-Roman tournament when he was injured and forced to default from the competition. While he had advanced far enough to place in Greco he was unable to compete in freestyle with the injury. Seven for seven is an accomplishment and it has paid dividends all the around.



Ian Paddock
2008 UB Open

"My freestyle and Greco-Roman careers have really helped me as a folk style wrestler. Both have a good role in balance, developing mat awareness, and teaching you to be aggressive on your feet. Ultimately they give you summer wrestling so you are wrestling all year round; that is a necessity if you want to get to the next level."

Paddock and the Buckeyes:

"I don't think there is anything wrong with setting your goals high if you are willing to put in the work to achieve them. I want to be a national champion and a four-time All-American; I think that Ohio State is the place that I can accomplish that," stated Paddock.

There were multiple factors that lead to Paddock choosing the Buckeyes.

"Wrestling is a lifestyle there. The coaching staff is one of the best in the country. The atmosphere within the program is very competitive. I know that no matter what I am going to have great workout partners and I am going to be challenged every day."

Having teammates and practice partners like Nikko Triggas, Reece Humphrey, Collin Palmer, Logan Stieber, J. Jagers, and Sean Bunch will force Paddock to continue to improve.

"I didn't want to come into a college room being able to beat the kids in the room already. I wanted to get beat up on the first couple months and work my way up. That's the way I get better, I don't like losing."

For a wrestler with Olympic level aspirations, Lou Rosselli and the Buckeye Wrestling Club played a large role in helping Paddock select a college.

"One of the things that drew me to Ohio State was the presence of the wrestling club. They can house you after your college career, you get to train with some of the best in country, you are going to get great coaching, and you can continue to workout with the team on your own. They are creating an environment where you can be as successful as the work you put in."

Paddock gave the Buckeyes a glimpse of the future in Buffalo. On the same weekend that many of the top

high school wrestlers in the country went to the Super 32, he chose to take a step up in competition and entered the 2008 Buffalo Open. With the Ohio State wrestling program competing at the same tournament Paddock made a great first impression on his future teammates and coaches. Posting a 4-1 record against college competition Paddock lost a 5-4 decision in the championship semifinals. He bounced back to place third by winning a 10-3 against current OSU freshman Garrett Henry in the consolation finals.

*"I did some things alright and I have some things that I have to work on. I was not pleased with my conditioning; I just started practicing three weeks ago and have only been going two or three days a week. That will improve."***assessed Paddock.** *"I don't think you can say that I am satisfied but it felt good to get back out on the mat."*

Paddock is expected to sign his National Letter of Intent to attend school at Ohio State and wrestle for the Buckeyes during the November signing period. He will be busy man until he arrives on campus next fall.

"I want to win state again, go to senior nationals and get a number one ranking. I am also going to try for the FILA Junior World team; if I don't make it I will probably keep the same schedule and go back to Fargo unless the coaches want me to do something different."



Ian Paddock (Warsaw HS - UA) vs. Garrett Henry (Ohio State - UA)
133 pound Consolation Finals - 2008 Buffalo Open