Wartburg wins Division III wrestling title

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Knights crown two champions — Tom Smith of Dubuque and Jamal Fox of Waterloo.

FROM STAFF AND NEWS SERVICE REPORTS

Kathy Miller said Sunday she will never forget the collect call she accepted Saturday night from Cortland, N.Y.

Miller
Top coach

Her husband, Wartburg wrestling coach Jim Miller, was trying to tell her that the Knights were the new NCAA Division III national champions.

"He was sobbing is what he was doing," Miller said. "We both cried for probably the first 5 minutes of the call. It was the best call I ever had in my entire life."

Wartburg had 95½ points, six more than Augsburg of Minnesota.

The Knights had two individual champions — Tom Smith of Dubuque Wahlert at 126 pounds and Jamal Fox of Waterloo West at 142 — and four other all-Americans.

Another finalist, Mike Alesch of Graettinger at 167, was second.

Miller, who led the Knights to a sixth-place finish last year and to runner-up showings in 1993 and 19994, was named the Division III coach of the year.

"It hasn't hit me yet," Miller said Saturday night. "Hard work pays off. Dreams do come true."

The Knights took a two-point lead over Augsburg, which had two finalists, into the championship round when Blake Williams of Decorah pinned Jeff Santos of Plymouth State in 1 minute 23 seconds in the fifth-place match at 190 pounds.

Chad Gerbracht of Wartburg was fourth at 177 pounds and Dusty Rhodes was sixth at 134.

"Those kids at 177 and 190 were unheralded," Miller said. "We wouldn't have had chance if it wasn't for them."

The championship made Wartburg the fourth Iowa college or university to win a national wrestling team title Saturday, joining Iowa, Iowa State and Cornell.

Brockport's Ron Vosburg, the 134-pound champion, was named the meet's outstanding wrestler.

Top-seeded Smith beat Joel O'Brien of St. Thomas, 13-9, to claim his first national title. Smith was runner-up in 1995.

Smith dominated his weight, beating his opponents in the tournament by a combined score of 61-16. Smith's only losses this season were to nationally ranked Jeff McGinness of Iowa and Dwight Hinson of Iowa State. Smith finished the season with a 46-2 record.

Fox, the second seed, defeated fourth-seeded Josh Roe of Cortland, 5-3, to claim his first national championship and become a three-time all-American. Fox was a runner-up in 1995. He finished the season 45-6.

Alesch was defeated by top-seeded Brandon Penzkover of

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Wartburg rules Division III wrestling

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Wisconsin-LaCrosse on a takedown in sudden-death overtime.

Alesch advanced to the final by winning close matches in the quarterfinals and the semifinals. He decisioned Jeff Casteel of Augsburg, 2-1, in the quarterfinals and beat Bill Kahle of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 5-4, in the semifinals.

Loras had three all-Americans, Buena Vista two and Upper Iowa, Cornell and Central one each.

One of Augsburg's champions, Dan Lewandowski at 190 pounds, denied the championship hopes of Ryan Reasland of Cornell, a former state champion wrestler at Webster City. Lewandowski received one point after a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation because he had over 1 minute of riding time.

The 118-pound champion, Wisconsin-La Crosse's Jeff O'Gara, finished the season as Division III's only undefeated wrestler.

Iowa Conference rival James Brophy of Loras beat Gerbracht for third place at 177. Brophy, a two-time all-American, was seeded first, but was upset by Buena Vista's Clint Dunlop in the semifinals, 4-2, in overtime. Brophy beat Gerbracht, 7-5, last week in the Iowa Conference tournament.

Dunlop lost to St. John's Andy Lien, 9-1, for fifth place at 177.

Defending champion and top-seeded Scott Stefl of Loras finished seventh at 134 pounds. Stefl was upset in the quarterfinals by Jere Hamel of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 11-7. Stefl was defeated by Rhodes in the Iowa Conference tournament in overtime.

At 150 pounds, Ricky Casarez of Loras defeated Chris Raiber of Upper Iowa, 7-5, for seventh place.

Central's Brent Lawrenson placed eighth at 158. Lawrenson lost to Mike Kinsey of Lycoming, 15-9. Lawrenson had upset third-seeded Dave Wellmeier of Ohio Northern, 8-6, in a consolation match.

Defending champion and top-seeded Jay Huff of Buena Vista beat John Pena of Augsburg, 4-3, for fifth place.

NCAA DIVISION III WRESTLING RESULTS

FINAL TEAM SCORING

1. Wartburg 95½; 2. Augsburg (Minn.) 89½; 3. Trenton State (N.J.) 72; 4. Wisconsin-LaCrosse 59½; 5. Wisconsin-Stevens Point 49; 6. Cortland (N.Y.) 46½; 7. tie, Springfield (Mass.), Brockport (Pa.) 41½; 9. St. Thomas (Minn.) 37; 10. tie, Loras, Delaware 26½; 12. tie, Lycoming (Pa.), St. John's (Minn.) 25; 14. Case Western 24; 15. tie, Western New England, Wheaton (Ill.) 23½; 17. Binghampton 20½; 18. Cornell 20; 19. York (Pa.) 18; 20. Oswego 17; 21. Montclair 16½; 22. Ithaca 16; 23. Manchester 16; 24. R.I.T. 15½; 25. Buena Vista 14½; 26. tie, Mount Union, Elizabethtown 13½; 28. tie, Plymouth, Wisconsin-Stout 13; 30. Wisconsin-Oshkosh 12½; 31. John Carroll 11; 32. Ohio North 8½; 33. Williams 8; 34. Wisconsin-Whitewater 7½; 35. Gettysburg 7; 36. tie, Wisconsin-River Falls, Olivet 6½; 39. Heidelberg 6; 40. Chicago 4½; 41. tie, Coe, Luther, Simpson, Wilmington 4; 45. tie, Central, Upper Iowa, Augustana (Ill.) 3½.

IOWANS' RESULTS

118 Pounds

Consolation round—Eric Gould (Springfield) beat Preston Essex (Wartburg), 4-2; Neal Rodak (Chicago) beat Drew Mundsinger (Cornell), 10-4.

126

Semifinal round—Tom Smith (Wartburg) beat Keith Johnson (Wisconsin-River Falls), 13-3.

Consolation round—Tim Tyler (R.I.T.) beat Matt Young (Simpson), 6-3; Brian Stamper (Wisconsin-Stevens Point) beat Scott Showalter (Monmouth), 11-5.

Championship—Smith beat Joel O'Brien (St. Thomas), 13-9.

134

Semifinal round—Ron Vosburg (Brockport) beat Dusty Rhodes (Wartburg), 5-3 (OT).

Consolation round—Scott Lund (Wisconsin-La Crosse) beat Cory Davis (Buena Vista), 5-2; Scott Stefl (Loras) beat Ken Keller (Wilmington), 6-4; Justin Barbush (Elizabethtown) beat Stefl, 9-4; Barbush beat Rhodes, 4-1.

Seventh place—Stefl won by forfeit over Lund.

Fifth place—Jere Hamel (Wisconsin-Stevens Point) beat Rhodes, 4-3.

142

Semifinal round—Jamal Fox (Wartburg) beat Matt Morel (Wisconsin-LaCrosse), 8-4; Jeremy Kings (Wisconsin-Stout) beat Mike Tressel (Cornell), 2-1.

Championship—Fox beat Josh Roe (Cortland), 5-3.

150

Consolation—Chris Raiber (Upper Iowa) beat Dan Tschudi (St. John's), 7-2; Rod Myers (York) beat Raiber, 6-4; Ricky Casarez (Loras) beat Mike DeBellis (Oswego), 9-7 (OT); Bret Stamper (Wisconsin-Stevens Point) beat Casarez, 4-2.

Seventh place—Casarez beat Raiber, 7-5.

158

Consolation—Brent Lawrenson (Central) beat Dave Wellmeier (Ohio Northern), 8-6; Matt Ryan (St. John's) pinned Greg Halsor (Wartburg), 1:09; Jason Miller (Heidelberg) beat Lawrensen, 5-4.

Seventh place—Mike Kinsey (Lycoming) beat Lawrensen, 15-9.

167

Semifinal round—Mike Alesch (Wartburg) beat Bill Kahle (Wisconsin-Oshkosh), 12-5.

Consolation round—Keith Smith (Oswego) beat Scott Ehlinger (Loras), 7-6.

Championship—Brandon Penzkover (Wisconsin-LaCrosse) beat Alesch, 3-1 (OT).

177

Semifinal round—Mike Cruickshank (Trenton State) beat Clint Dunlop (Buena Vista), 9-7 (OT).

Consolation round—Adam Truit (Cornell) beat Nathan Reiff (Concordia), 7-3; James Brophy (Loras) beat Truitt, 11-1; Chad Gerbracht (Wartburg) pinned Ethan Brownback (Delaware Valley), :48; Brophy beat Joe Rens (Wisconsin-Stevens Point), 4-2; Gerbracht beat Hugh Smith (Wesleyan), 5-3; Brophy beat Andy Lien (St. John's), 5-1; Gerbracht pinned Dunlop, 4:50.

Third place—Brophy beat Gerbracht, 8-1.

Fifth place—Lein beat Dunlop, 9-1.

190

Quarterfinal round—Dan Lewandowski (Augsburg) pinned Garth McGraw (Simpson), 1:51.

Semifinal round—Ryan Reasland (Cornell) beat Jeff Santos (Plymouth State), 9-2; Lewandowski beat Blake Williams (Wartburg), 5-4.

Consolation round—John Aebly (Brockport) beat McGraw, 6-2; Charlie Clarke (R.I.T.) beat Williams, 4-2.

Fifth place—Williams pinned Jeff Santos (Plymouth State), 1:23.

Championship—Lewandowski beat Reasland, 2-1 (riding time).

Heavyweight

Consolation round—Jay Huff (Buena Vista) beat Dave Lucia (Plymouth State), 4-3; John Pena (Augsburg) pinned Mark Bell (Luther), 3:59; Huff beat Jason Weigand (Mount Union), 5-3; Nick Primozic (Manchester) beat Huff, 7-1.

Fifth place—Huff beat Pena, 4-3.