

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IOWA CONFERENCE WRESTLING PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . The 2004 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Wrestling Championship is Thursday, February 19, at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Matches begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Small-Multi-Sport Center with the finals set for 6:00 p.m.

Wartburg enters the Championship as the 11-time defending Conference Champion, the defending National Champion, and the top ranked team in the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Poll. Last season Wartburg sent all 10 wrestlers to the finals in the Conference Championship, coming away with six individual titles en route to a 67 point victory over Loras (199.0-131.0). Luther finished third last season with 122.5 points, one point ahead of Upper Iowa, which will not compete in the Conference Championship this year since the school reclassified to NCAA Division II in September.

Nine of the 10 weight classes will feature at least one 2003 national qualifier (157-lbs. the lone exception) and seven weight classes will feature at least one returning All-American (125-lbs., 157-lbs. and heavyweight the exceptions).

IIAC WRESTLING – DOMINATING THE COACHES POLL: Six Iowa Conference teams and 16 wrestlers are ranked in the latest NWCA/Brute-Adidas Poll released on February 4. The next poll is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 18. In addition to Wartburg's top national ranking, Simpson (third), Luther (eighth) and Buena Vista (tenth) are all ranked in the top-10. Loras is ranked 12th and Coe is 16th.

Individually, Wartburg has nine wrestlers ranked in the top-eight of his respective weight class. Buena Vista, Luther and Simpson each have two wrestlers ranked in the top-eight and Central has one ranked wrestler.

Thirty-two IIAC wrestlers will qualify for the NCAA Championship field of 160. The 2004 NCAA National Wrestling Championship will be hosted by Loras College at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque on March 5-6.

A class-by-class preview follows with each schools probable line-up. Championship brackets will be posted on the Conference web site (www.iowaconference.com) by Thursday morning and the web site will be updated with results throughout the day on Thursday.

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125-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Joe Honts , Sr. (18-12)	Loras	Terry Morgan , So. (15-3)
Central	Andy Ohnemus , Fr. (18-11)	Luther	Nate Evans , So. (15-14)
Coe	Sean Pearl , Sr. (17-11)	Simpson	Dustin Brewer , So. (36-2)
Cornell	Nate Johnson , So. (4-15)	Wartburg	Justin McClintock , Jr. (27-7)
Dubuque	Pablo Calderon , Fr. (0-2)		

Four of the top-six finishers from last year's Conference Championship return to the weight class this year. Loras' **Terry Morgan** finished second, Buena Vista's **Joe Honts** finished third, Luther's **Nate Evans** finished fourth and Coe's **Sean Pearl** finished fifth. Morgan and Honts qualified for the NCAA Championship last year. Wartburg's **Justin McClintock** (fourth) and Simpson's **Dustin Brewer** (seventh) enter the Conference Championship ranked in the NWCA/Brute-Adidas Poll.

133-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Nick Rotella , Fr. (18-13)	Loras	Brandon Young , So. (14-13)
Central	Nick Valdez , Jr. (15-12)	Luther	Mike Lopez , So. (25-13) -OR- Nate Hansen , Fr. (23-11)
Coe	Brian Clement , Fr. (17-14)	Simpson	Quent Christensen , Jr. (25-7)
Cornell	OPEN	Wartburg	Ozzie Saxon , Sr. (23-2)
Dubuque	Brandon Jones , So. (29-17)		

Wartburg's **Ozzie Saxon** is ranked second in the NWCA/Brute-Adidas Poll. Last year, he finished second in the Conference and nationally. Luther's **Mike Lopez** finished fifth in the IIAC last year and qualified for the NCAA Championship. Simpson's **Quent Christensen** finished sixth in the Conference, while Central's **Nick Valdez** and Dubuque's **Brandon Jones** also competed in the Conference Championship.

141-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Taylor Wood , Sr. (18-9)	Loras	Mike Ressler , So. (17-19)
Central	Kevin Owens , Jr. (27-5)	Luther	Jeff Patzke , Jr. (9-4)
Coe	Jeff Wiele , Sr. (21-10)	Simpson	Kellen Delaney , Fr. (13-15) -OR- Cole Christensen , So. (11-8) -OR- Aaron Daniels , Fr. (7-7)
Cornell	Martin Ellinger Locke , Fr. (1-12)	Wartburg	Dustin Hirschberger , So. (29-5)
Dubuque	Sean Brown , So. (5-14)		

Buena Vista's **Taylor Wood** is ranked sixth and Central's **Kevin Owens** is ranked eighth nationally. Wartburg's **Dustin Hirschberger** won a wrestle-off against the top ranked wrestler, **Wil Kelly**, for the Knights' 141-lb. spot. Luther's **Jeff Patzke** earned All-American honors in 2003, finishing seventh in the nation after a second-place Conference finish. Simpson's **Cole Christensen** finished fifth in the Conference last year as did Coe's **Jeff Wiele** at 149-pounds. Dubuque's **Sean Brown** wrestled in the Conference Championship at 125-pounds last season.

149-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Mike Vagher , Sr. (12-13)	Loras	Edgar Haynes , Fr. (11-11) -OR- Josh Watts , So. (3-4)
Central	Ryan DeVriendt , Fr. (14-9)	Luther	Matt Pyle , Fr. (23-10)
Coe	Jared Creason , Fr. (23-8)	Simpson	Clint Manny , Jr. (37-1)
Cornell	OPEN	Wartburg	Bart Mehlert , Sr. (24-0)
Dubuque	Ben Swan , Fr. (10-13)		

Defending Conference Champion **Bart Mehlert** is ranked #1 in the nation at 149-pounds. Simpson's **Clint Manny**, who finished third in the Conference last year, is ranked second and Luther's **Matt Pyle** is ranked seventh. Mehlert (third-place national finish) and Manny (fourth-place national finish) earned All-American honors last year. Buena Vista's **Mike Vagher** competed in the Conference Championship at 133-pounds in 2003.

157-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Brent Dunlop , Fr. (4-7)	Loras	Charlie Bishop , Sr. (29-4)
Central	Ross Patton , So. (17-15)	Luther	Ryan LeBeau , Jr. (24-6)
Coe	Matt McCarthy , Jr. (16-9)	Simpson	Chase Weller , So. (24-13)
Cornell	Chris Jacobi , Sr. (6-19)	Wartburg	Cory Connell , Jr. (25-5)
Dubuque	Bobby Larson , Fr. (12-15)		

Wartburg's **Cory Connell** is ranked third in the nation. Luther's **Ryan LeBeau** finished fifth in the IIAC at 174-pounds last season. Loras' **Charlie Bishop** and Simpson's **Chase Weller** competed in the Conference Championship at 157-pounds last season.

165-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Pat Wilsbacher , Sr. (24-6)	Loras	Brad Bishop , So. (24-11)
Central	Bryan Llewellyn , So. (5-5) -OR- Caleb Cochran , Fr. (7-14)	Luther	Garrett South , Jr. (24-8)
Coe	Adam McNeil , Jr. (15-14)	Simpson	Nate Broghammer , Jr. (20-19) -OR- Tom Koch , Fr. (12-8)
Cornell	Justin Sinclair , Jr. (9-18)	Wartburg	Andrew Knaack , Jr. (20-8)
Dubuque	Chad Cook , Fr. (4-21)		

Buena Vista's **Pat Wilsbacher**, the defending Conference Champion, is ranked fourth in the nation while Luther's **Garrett South** is ranked fifth. South was an All-American last season at 157-pounds, finishing fourth nationally and third in the Conference. Cornell's **Justin Sinclair** completed in the Conference Championship last season.

174-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Matt Doebel , Jr. (8-13)	Loras	Ryan Hagerty , So. (19-20)
Central	Andy Gum , Sr. (9-2)	Luther	Ryan Meirick , So. (17-11)
Coe	Adam Reid , Jr. (25-7)	Simpson	Wade Samo , Jr. (25-16)
Cornell	Adam Sandoval , So. (4-19)	Wartburg	Mark Sturm , Jr. (6-2) -OR- Nathan Specht , So. (21-12)
Dubuque	Mike McCue , Fr. (5-18)		

Wartburg's **Mark Sturm**, a returning All-American and Conference runner-up, is ranked fourth in the NWCA/Brute-Adidas Poll. Buena Vista's **Matt Doebel** finished sixth in the Conference last season. Central's **Andy Gum** and Coe's **Adam Reid** both competed in the Conference Championship at 165-pounds last year.

184-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Brad Asche , Jr. (21-10)	Loras	Mitch Hager , Jr. (29-12)
Central	Josh Houston , So. (6-9) -OR- Ty Wheeler , So. (4-11)	Luther	Danny Adams , Jr. (24-6)
Coe	Kenny Ware , Sr. (13-3)	Simpson	Cody Downing , So. (20-19)
Cornell	John Ugaste , So. (19-12)	Wartburg	Ryan Sturm , Jr. (24-3)
Dubuque	Erik Honda , So. (2-18)		

Wartburg's **Ryan Sturm**, an All-American and Conference runner-up at 165-pounds last year, is ranked third in the nation at 184-pounds this year. Simpson's **Cody Downing** and Dubuque's **Erik Honda** both competed in the Conference Championship last season, Honda at 157-pounds.

197-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Michael Irvin , Jr. (10-8)	Loras	Tim Andrews , Fr. (10-12)
Central	Ryan Harms , Fr. (6-19) -OR- Mark Mills , So. (0-2)	Luther	Wyatt Reyerson , Jr. (17-7)
Coe	Michael McCabe , Jr. (22-5)	Simpson	Bart George , Sr. (34-5)
Cornell	Rory O'Farrell , Jr. (4-10)	Wartburg	Akeem Carter , So. (19-2)
Dubuque	Nic Timbs , Fr. (11-6)		

Wartburg's **Akeem Carter** enters the Conference Championship ranked second in the nation. Simpson's **Bart George** earned All-American honors last year, finishing seventh nationally after a third-place Conference finish. Coe's **Michael McCabe** finished sixth in the Conference last year. Cornell's **Rory O'Farrell** and Luther's **Wyatt Reyerson** competed in the Conference Championship at 197-pounds last year, while Buena Vista's **Michael Irvin** wrestled as a heavyweight.

Heavyweight

School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)		School	Wrestler, Year (2003-04 Record)
Buena Vista	Adam Buthe , Jr. (24-7)		Loras	Kevin Engelken , Fr. (14-9)
Central	Mark Trullinger , Fr. (1-8)		Luther	Nate Kuisle , Fr. (9-9)
Coe	Nick McTee , Sr. (27-4)		Simpson	Brett Christensen , So. (26-7)
Cornell	Eric Boos , Sr. (17-16)		Wartburg	Blake Gillis , Fr. (24-4)
Dubuque	Pete Elmhurst , Sr. (18-9)			

Wartburg's **Blake Gillis** is ranked second in the nation. Simpson's **Brett Christensen** finished fourth in the Conference last season and qualified for the NCAA Championship. Buena Vista's **Adam Buthe** finished fourth in the Conference at 197-pounds last season. Cornell's **Eric Boos** also competed in the Conference Championship last year.