



Iowa Conference Wrestling

February 13, 2006

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Standings

	IIAC				Overall			
	W	L	T	PCT	W	L	T	PCT
Wartburg	8	0	0	1.000	27	0	0	1.000
Luther	7	1	0	.875	14	3	1	.806
Loras	6	2	0	.750	14	2	0	.875
Coe	4	3	1	.563	5	8	1	.393
Cornell	3	4	1	.438	15	9	1	.620
Buena Vista	3	5	0	.375	13	11	0	.542
Dubuque	2	6	0	.250	13	11	0	.542
Simpson	2	6	0	.250	11	12	0	.478
Central	0	8	0	.000	2	15	0	.118

2006 IIAC Wrestling Championship

February 16

Hosted by Central College

This Week's Schedule

Feb. 16

Iowa Conference Championship, 10:00 AM at Central College

Championship preview begins on page 2 of this release

Iowa Conference Wrestlers of the Week

Week

Ending

Wrestler, School

Nov. 13 Cole Williams, Dubuque
 Nov. 20 Blake Gillis, Wartburg
 Dec. 4 Zach McKray, Wartburg
 Dec. 11 Dustin Hirschberger, Wartburg
 Dec. 25 Tyler Hubbard, Wartburg
 Jan. 1 John Ugaste, Cornell

Week

Ending

Wrestler, School

Jan. 8 Niles Mercer, Coe
 Jan. 15 Dustin Hirschberger, Wartburg
 Jan. 22 Jestin Hulegaard, Buena Vista
 Jan. 29 Matt Pyle, Luther
 Feb. 5 Cole Williams, Dubuque
 Feb. 12 Dave Paramski, Cornell

2006 IOWA CONFERENCE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . The 2006 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) wrestling Championship is Thursday, February 16, at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Matches begin at 10:00 a.m. in the H.S. Kuyper Fieldhouse with the finals set for 7:00 p.m. in the P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium following the Grand March at 6:30 p.m.

Mediacom Cable will broadcast the Championship finals on a tape delayed basis on its Connections channel across the state of Iowa. The Championship will be broadcast on Saturday, February 18, at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, February 19, at 11:30 a.m., and Monday, February 20, at 8:30 p.m. Mediacom Cable subscribers should check their local listings for the Mediacom Connections channel in their area.

National Polls: Eight of the Iowa Conference schools and 23 individuals are ranked in the latest National Wrestling Coaches Association/Brute-Adidas poll released on February 13. Ranked teams are: Wartburg (1st), Luther (3rd), Loras (6th), Buena Vista (15th), Cornell (19th), Coe (20th), Dubuque (25th) and Simpson (27th).

All 10 weight classes have at least one Iowa Conference wrestler ranked in the top-8, including seven weights with at least two wrestlers. Four wrestlers are ranked among the top-8 at 141- and 197-pounds. Wartburg has seven ranked wrestlers in its Championship line-up. Loras and Luther each have four ranked wrestlers, Buena Vista has three wrestlers ranked, Simpson has two wrestlers ranked, and Coe, Cornell and Dubuque each have one ranked wrestler.

2005 IIAC Championship Recap: Wartburg won its 13th straight Iowa Conference title last season behind six individual champions and two runners-up. The Knights defeated Luther by 36 points (194-158). Luther had three individual champions, a runner-up and two third-place finishers. Coe finished third with 124.5 points and Loras placed fourth with 122.5 points including one individual champion.

Seven individual champions return including Loras' **Terry Morgan** (125-pounds), Wartburg's **Tyler Hubbard** (133-pounds, now wrestling at 125-pounds), Wartburg's **Dustin Hinschberger** (141-pounds, Outstanding Wrestler), Luther's **Matt Pyle** (149-pounds), Wartburg's **Scott Kauffman** (184-pounds, now wrestling at 174-pounds), Wartburg's **Akeem Carter** (197-pounds, now wrestling at 184-pounds) and Wartburg's **Blake Gillis** (heavyweight). Hinschberger, Pyle and Carter are defending national champions.

Eighteen of the Conference's 33 national qualifiers from 2005 return to their teams' line-ups in 2006. Wartburg returns six national qualifiers, Loras returns four national qualifiers, and Coe, Luther and Simpson each have two returning national qualifiers. Buena Vista and Dubuque each have one national qualifier in their line-up.

Thirty-two IIAC wrestlers will qualify for the NCAA Championship field of 160. The 2006 NCAA National Wrestling Championship will be hosted by The College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J. on March 3-4.

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

~~ www.iowaconference.com ~~

125-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Ryan Pratt , Fr. (11-20)	Loras	Terry Morgan , Sr. (24-3)
Central	Tyler Cordts , Fr. (0-2)	Luther	Nate Hansen , Jr. (18-10)
Coe	Derek Fuglsang , Jr. (19-17)	Simpson	Josh Bishop , Fr. (1-0) -OR- Brandon Haugh , Fr. (3-7)
Cornell	Chris Heilman , So. (28-5)	Wartburg	Tyler Hubbard , Sr. (13-0)
Dubuque	Chris Matos , Fr. (11-18)		

Wartburg's **Tyler Hubbard** (1st), Loras' **Terry Morgan** (3rd) and Luther's **Nate Hansen** (6th) are all currently ranked in the NWCA poll. Hubbard and Morgan both won individual Conference titles last year, Hubbard at 133 and Morgan at 125. Both are returning All-Americans, finishing third in their respective weight classes at nationals last year. Morgan has also finished second (2003) and third (2004) in previous Conference meets. Hansen placed third in the Conference at 133-pounds in 2004. Cornell's **Chris Heilman** has been ranked as high as seventh this year and placed fourth in the Conference as a freshman.

133-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Jestin Hulegaard , So. (20-5)	Loras	Brandon Young , Sr. (15-12)
Central	--open--	Luther	Mike Lopez , Sr. (25-19)
Coe	Gannon Hjerleid , So. (18-15)	Simpson	Brooke Irlmeier , Fr. (10-18) -OR- Matt Koch , Fr. (1-11)
Cornell	Aaron Bingham , Fr. (22-8)	Wartburg	Zach McKray , Fr. (30-3)
Dubuque	Dan Ruter , So. (26-9)		

Luther's **Mike Lopez** and Buena Vista's **Jestin Hulegaard** are the top-two ranked wrestlers in the weight class. They finished third and second, respectively in the Conference and fourth and fifth, respectively in the nation last year. Lopez also has a fifth-place Conference finish in 2003 to his credit. Loras' **Brandon Young** is a two-time Conference participant. Wartburg's **Zach McKray** has been ranked as high as sixth this year.

141-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Mitch Jones , Fr. (14-24)	Loras	Mike Ressler , Sr. (17-11)
Central	--open--	Luther	Travis Grawin , So. (17-15)
Coe	Niles Mercer , So. (23-13)	Simpson	Dustin Brewer , Sr. (18-1)
Cornell	Dave Paramski , Fr. (29-8)	Wartburg	Dustin Hirschberger , Sr. (34-5)
Dubuque	Brandon Jones , Jr. (12-12)		

Wartburg's **Dustin Hirschberger** (1st), Simpson's **Dustin Brewer** (2nd), Cornell's **Drew Paramski** (6th) and Coe's **Niles Mercer** (8th) are all currently ranked in the NWCA poll. Luther's **Travis Grawin** has been ranked twice this year. Hirschberger, the 2005 IIAC Outstanding Wrestler, is the two-time defending national champion and Brewer, the 2004 IIAC Outstanding Wrestler, is a two-time All-American (3rd at 125-lbs. in 2004, 4th in 2005). Loras' **Mike Ressler** has finished sixth at 141-pounds in each of the last two Conference Championships. Dubuque's **Brandon Jones** finished fifth in the Conference at 133-pounds last year.

149-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Kyle Forness , Fr. (25-8)	Loras	Drew Sloan , Sr. (8-13)
Central	Ryan DeVriendt , Jr. (14-16)	Luther	Matt Pyle , Jr. (21-5)
Coe	Jared Creason , Jr. (27-7)	Simpson	Cole Christensen , Sr. (14-10)
Cornell	David Boussios , Fr. (19-13)	Wartburg	Jacob Naig , So. (27-6)
Dubuque	Ben Swan , Jr. (16-15)		

Luther's **Matt Pyle** (1st), Wartburg's **Jacob Naig** (2nd) and Buena Vista's **Kyle Forness** (4th) are ranked in the current NWCA poll. Pyle, the defending Conference and national champion, also finished third in the Conference and nation in 2004. Naig finished fourth in the IIAC last year and sixth in the nation. Central's **Ryan DeVriendt** is a two-time Conference participant, finishing fifth last year. Coe's **Jared Creason** finished third in the IIAC last year and fourth the year before, and was a national qualifier in 2005. Dubuque's **Ben Swan** finished fifth in the Conference in 2004 and wrestled in the meet at 141-pounds last year. Simpson's **Cole Christensen** finished fifth at 141-pounds in 2003.

157-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Dana Vote , So. (16-12)	Loras	Brad Bishop , Sr. (27-6)
Central	Robert Baxter , So. (5-19)	Luther	Nate Van Dyke , So. (13-9)
Coe	Paul Reid , So. (4-17)	Simpson	Kellen Delaney , Jr. (24-11)
Cornell	Pat McAuley , So. (35-9)	Wartburg	Justin Hanson , Fr. (11-6)
Dubuque	Kyle Morrow , So. (19-11)		

Loras' **Brad Bishop** is ranked seventh in the current national rankings. He is a two-time national qualifier at 165-pounds (earning All-American honors in 2004) and finished fourth in the Conference last year after a third-place finish in 2004. Simpson's **Kellen Delaney** placed fifth last year. Cornell's **Pat McAuley** finished sixth at 149-pounds at last year's Conference meet.

165-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Aaron Cook , Fr. (20-18)	Loras	Dave Early , Jr. (17-14)
Central	Ross Patton , Sr. (10-10)	Luther	Greg Meirick , Fr. (11-8)
Coe	Bryon Grothus , Fr. (17-21)	Simpson	Bryan Llewellyn , Sr. (19-9)
Cornell	Drew Vickers , Fr. (17-18)	Wartburg	Dustin Bliven , Sr. (15-6)
Dubuque	Cole Williams , Sr. (42-6)		

Dubuque's **Cole Williams** is ranked sixth in the current NWCA poll. Wartburg's **Dustin Bliven** has been ranked as high as seventh this year. Williams is the defending Conference runner-up and is a returning national qualifier. He also finished sixth in the IIAC in 2003. Central's **Ross Patton** wrestled at 165 in last year's Conference Championship and at 157-pounds in 2004 where he finished fourth. Loras' **Dave Early** finished fourth at 157-pounds last year.

174-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Josh Murray , So. (11-18)	Loras	Ryan Hagerty , Sr. (23-5)
Central	Adam Foreman , Fr. (4-15)	Luther	Lon Welsh , Sr. (14-13)
Coe	Peter Steffen , Jr. (8-18)	Simpson	Cody Downing , Sr. (20-15)
Cornell	Kyle Kehrli , Fr. (15-25)	Wartburg	Scott Kauffman , Sr. (19-1)
Dubuque	Darrin Kaisand , So. (23-11)		

Wartburg's **Scott Kauffman** is the second-ranked wrestler in the nation. Last year he was the Conference Champion at 184-pounds and earned All-American honors with a fifth-place national finish. Loras' **Ryan Hagerty** finished third in the Conference and qualified for nationals last year. He has been ranked as high as fourth this year. Luther's **Lon Welsh** finished second in the Conference and qualified for nationals in 2004, and finished fourth last year. Dubuque's **Darrin Kaisand** finished sixth in the Conference at 157-pounds last year. Simpson's **Cody Downing** wrestled at 184-pounds in each of the last two Conference Championships and has been ranked as high as seventh this year.

184-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Brian Stueve , Fr. (25-16)	Loras	Mitch Hager , Sr. (24-4)
Central	Matt Scott , Fr. (0-15) -OR- Josh Houston , Sr. (2-8)	Luther	A J Gregg , So. (20-11)
Coe	Greg Lalla , Fr. (26-14)	Simpson	Matt Jorgenson , Fr. (3-15)
Cornell	Adam Sandoval , Sr. (17-21)	Wartburg	Akeem Carter , Sr. (23-3)
Dubuque	Matt Wonderlin , So. (19-9)		

Wartburg's **Akeem Carter**, ranked third in the current NWCA poll, is a two-time Conference and national champion at 197-pounds. Loras' **Mitch Hager**, ranked eighth, returns to 184-pounds where he was a national qualifier in 2004 after finishing fourth in the Conference. Last year he placed second and qualified for nationals at 197-pounds. Dubuque's **Matt Wonderlin** finished sixth in the Conference last year. Cornell's **Adam Sandoval** wrestled at 174-pounds in the last two Conference Championships. Central's **Josh Houston** participated in the 2004 Conference meet.

197-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Ben Strandberg , Jr. (17-8)	Loras	Jay Figgins , So. (23-8)
Central	Josh Porter , Sr. (26-11)	Luther	Alec Bonander , Fr. (15-4)
Coe	Mike McCabe , Sr. (13-3)	Simpson	Berke Tuinstra , So. (8-8)
Cornell	John Ugaste , Sr. (32-10)	Wartburg	T.J. Miller , Jr. (26-2)
Dubuque	Nickolai Timbs , So. (13-10) -OR- Cesar Dominguez , So. (6-10)		

Four wrestlers are currently ranked in the NWCA top-8 – Wartburg's **T.J. Miller** (1st), Luther's **Alex Bonander** (3rd), Loras' **Jay Figgins** (6th) and Buena Vista's **Ben Strandberg** (7th). Cornell's **John Ugaste** has been ranked as high as sixth this year and Coe's **Mike McCabe** has been ranked as high as seventh. McCabe finished third in the Conference last year and sixth the previous two years. He earned All-American honors last year with a seventh-place national finish. Dubuque's **Nickolai Timbs** finished fifth in the Conference each of the last two years. Ugaste finished fifth at 184-pounds in 2004.

Heavyweight

School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)	School	Wrestler, Year (2005-06 Record)
Buena Vista	Wade Hammen , Jr. (17-16)	Loras	Adam Welbes , Sr. (13-14)
Central	Mark Trullinger , Jr. (4-9)	Luther	John Miller , Fr. (22-11)
Coe	Ted Drees , Sr. (16-12)	Simpson	Brett Christensen , Sr. (31-4)
Cornell	Chris Gustafson , So. (4-12)	Wartburg	Blake Gillis , Jr. (27-3)
Dubuque	James Mundy , Jr. (17-18)		

Wartburg's **Blake Gillis** is the top ranked wrestler in the weight class and Simpson's **Brett Christensen** is ranked seventh. Gillis is the two-time defending Conference Champion and a two-time national runner-up. Christensen has improved his Conference finish each of the last three years, finishing fourth in 2003, third in 2004 and second in 2005. He has qualified for nationals the last two years, earning All-American honors last year with a sixth-place finish. Dubuque's **James Mundy** (4th) and Cornell's **Chris Gustafson** (6th) both placed in last year's Conference meet. Central's **Mark Trullinger** has competed in the last two Conference meets. Buena Vista's **Wade Hammen** and Coe's **Ted Drees** each competed last year, Hammen at 197-pounds and Drees at heavyweight.