

Iowa Conference Wrestling

February 12, 2007

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		S	Standing	JS			
		IIAC			Over	all	
	W	L	PCT	W	L	Т	PCT
Wartburg	8	0	1.000	21	1	0	.955
Luther	7	1	.875	15	3	0	.833
Coe	6	2	.750	18	5	0	.783
Cornell	4	4	.500	14	8	0	.636
Buena Vista	4	4	.500	10	10	0	.500
Loras	3	5	.375	11	8	0	.579
Dubuque	2	6	.250	8	9	0	.471
Simpson	2	6	.250	5	11	1	.324
Central	0	8	.000	0	18	0	.000

2007 IIAC Wrestling Championship
February 15
Hosted by University of Dubuque

This Week's Schedule

Feb. 15

Iowa Conference Championship, 10:00 AM at the University of Dubuque

Championship preview begins on page 2 of this release

Iowa Conference Wrestlers of the Week

Week		Week	
Ending	Wrestler, School	Ending	Wrestler, School
Nov. 12	Matt Pyle, Luther	Jan. 7	Nick Nothern, Cornell
Nov. 19	Brian Borchers, Wartburg	Jan. 14	Matt Pyle, Luther
Dec. 3	Wade Hammen, Buena Vista	Jan. 21	Jason Knipp, Wartburg
Dec. 10	Jay Figgins, Loras	Jan. 28	Kyle Forness, Buena Vista
Dec. 17	Chris Heilman, Cornell	Feb. 4	Aaron Wernimont, Wartburg
Dec. 31	Blake Gillis, Wartburg	Feb. 11	Kyle Forness, Buena Vista

2007 IOWA CONFERENCE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA... The 2007 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) wrestling Championship is Thursday, February 15, at the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa. Matches begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Stoltz and McCormick Gymnasiums with the finals set for 7:00 p.m. in the McCormick Gymnasium following the Grand March at 6:30 p.m.

Iowa Public Television (IPTV) will televise the Championship finals live across the state beginning at 7:00 p.m. **Tim Johnson** will provide the play-by-play and former national champion wrestlers **Jim and Joe Gibbons** will provide analysis. For local IPTV stations, visit IPTV's web site at www.iptv.org.

National Polls: Seven Iowa Conference schools and 18 individuals are ranked in the latest National Wrestling Coaches Association/Brute-Adidas poll released on January 23. A new poll is scheduled to be released this week. Ranked teams are Wartburg (2nd), Luther (5th), Coe (6th), Loras (16th), Cornell (17th), Dubuque (22nd) and Buena Vista (24th). Since the last poll was released, #2 Wartburg defeated #1 Augsburg, avenging the Knights only loss of the season.

Nine of the 10 weight classes have at least one Iowa Conference wrestler ranked in the top-8, including six classes with at least two wrestlers. Three IIAC wrestlers are among the top-8 at 125-, 133- and 157-pounds. Wartburg has seven wrestlers ranked. Luther has four ranked wrestlers, Cornell has three and Coe has two. Buena Vista and Loras each have one.

2006 IIAC Championship Recap: Wartburg won its 14th straight Iowa Conference title last season, setting the IIAC record for points (208.0) and margin of victory (77.0). The Knights matched their own Conference record with eight individual Champions and had nine finalists (one shy of the record set in 2003). Luther finished second for the sixth time in seven years with 131.0 points behind one champion and four runners-up. Loras was the only other school with an individual champion and finished third with 115 points.

Three former Conference Champions return to their teams' line-up this year. Wartburg heavyweight **Blake Gillis** will look to become just the fifth four-time Conference Champion since 1965. Wartburg's **T.J. Miller** is the defending Champion at 197-pounds and Luther's **Matt Pyle** was the 2005 Champion at 149-pounds.

Fifteen of the Conference's 32 national qualifiers, and eight of 20 All-Americans from 2006 return to their teams' line-ups in 2007. Pyle and Gillis will look to qualify for nationals for the fourth time in their career, having earned All-American honors each year. Pyle leads a group of five returning Norse national qualifiers and Gillis leads a group of three returning Knight qualifiers. Buena Vista also has three returning national qualifiers, Coe has two returning qualifiers, and Cornell and Loras each have one qualifier in their line-up.

Thirty-two IIAC wrestlers will qualify for the NCAA Championship field of 160, the top-three in each weight class and two wildcards. The 2007 NCAA National Wrestling Championship will be hosted by Loras College at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque on March 2-3.

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, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	OPEN	Loras	Mark Beatty, Fr. (21-12)
Central	Tyrone Callender, Fr. (4-25)	Luther	Nate Hansen, Sr. (18-5)
Coe	Brian Clement, Sr., (27-9)	Simpson	Tony Hager, Sr. (7-17)
Cornell	Chris Heilman, Jr. (29-3)	Wartburg	Robert Struthers, Jr. (26-8)
Dubuque	Brandon Page, So. (3-13)		

Luther's **Nate Hansen** has been ranked first in nation all year. Cornell's **Chris Heilman** is currently ranked fourth but spent three weeks as high as second. Wartburg's **Robert Struthers** has been ranked seventh in each of the last two polls. Hansen finished second in the Conference last year and placed third at 133-pounds in 2004. Heilman has finished fourth in the Conference at 125-pounds each of the last two years. Both Hansen and Heilman earned All-American honors last year. Coe's **Brian Clement** finished sixth at 133-pounds in both 2004 and 2005. Simpson's **Tony Hager** wrestled at the IIAC meet in 2005.

133-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Jestin Hulegaard, Jr. (16-7)	Loras	Jordan Loy, So. (17-20)
Central	Nick Johnson, Fr. (6-22)	Luther	Zac Bartlett, So. (14-9)
Coe	Gannon Hjerleid, Jr. (30-11)	Simpson	Matt Koch, So. (9-13)
Cornell	Nick Nothern, Fr. (32-11)	Wartburg	Jake Helvey, Jr. (23-5)
Dubuque	Jason Francis, Fr. (8-12)		

The third-, fourth-, and fifth-ranked wrestlers in the nation hail from the IIAC in Wartburg's **Jake Helvey**, Cornell's **Nick Nothern** and Buena Vista's **Jestin Hulegaard**, respectively. Hulegaard has finished second (2005) and third (2006) in the weight class the last two years and is a two-time All-American. Coe's **Gannon Hjerleid** and Simpson's **Matt Koch** both competed last year.

141-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Luke Satern, Fr. (25-15)	Loras	Boomer Mears, Jr. (8-18)
Central	Andy Ohnemus, Sr. (9-11)	Luther	Travis Grawin, Jr. (15-11)
Coe	Jared Creason, Sr. (33-4)	Simpson	OPEN
Cornell	David Boussios, So. (19-10)	Wartburg	Zach McKray, So. (7-7)
Dubuque	Dan Ruter, Sr. (21-9)		

Coe's **Jared Creason**, currently ranked eighth in the weight class, has been as high as fourth this year. He is a two-time national qualifier at 149-pounds and has two third-place and a fourth-place Conference finish the last three years. Wartburg's **Zach McKray** is currently unranked but has been as high as second this year. He was an All-American at 133-pounds last year and finished second in the Conference. Luther's **Travis Grawin** finished fourth in the Conference at 141-pounds last year and Dubuque's **Dan Ruter** finished fifth at 133. Cornell's **David Boussios** (149-pounds in 2006) and Central's **Andy Ohnemus** (125-pounds in 2004) have previous Conference Championship experience.

149-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Calvin Barber, Fr. (15-12)	Loras	Erik Hanson, Fr. (16-12)
	Dana Vote, Jr. (8-6)		
Central	Nick Wordes, Fr. (1-19)	Luther	Matt Pyle, Sr. (28-5)
Coe	Niles Mercer, Jr. (25-8)	Simpson	Curtis Barber, Fr. (16-13)
Cornell	Alex Riniker, Fr. (11-17)	Wartburg	Adam Weber, Fr. (26-11)
Dubuque	Anderson Scainci, Fr. (6-10)		

Three-time All-American **Matt Pyle** is currently ranked third nationally. He has top-three finishes in the IIAC the past three years including an individual title in 2005, a runner-up finish in 2006 and a third-place finish in 2004. Pyle is a three-time All-American, including a national title in 2005. Coe's **Niles Mercer** finished fifth at 141-pounds last year and qualified for nationals. Buena Vista's **Dana Vote** competed in the IIAC Championship at 157-pounds last year.

157-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Kyle Forness, So. (21-8)	Loras	Billy Smith, Sr. (7-13)
Central	Jeremiah Teeple, Fr. (0-4)	Luther	Danny Fornoff, So. (9-15)
	Ryan DeVriendt, Sr. (7-6)		
Coe	Tyler Burkle, Fr. (23-6)	Simpson	Kellen Delaney, Sr. (23-7)
Cornell	Pat McAuley, Jr. (35-10)	Wartburg	Aaron Wernimont, So. (32-4)
Dubuque	Chuck Pieritz, Fr. (10-5)		

Wartburg's **Aaron Wernimont**, Cornell's **Pat McAuley** and Coe's **Tyler Burkle** are ranked fourth, fifth and seventh, respectively, in the current national rankings. McAuley finished third in the IIAC at 157-pounds last year and wrestled at 149-pounds in 2005. Buena Vista's **Kyle Forness** finished fifth at 149-pounds last year while Central's **Ryan DeVriendt** has competed in the Conference Championship at 149 each of the last three years, finishing as high as fifth in 2005. Simpson's **Kellen Delaney** is also a three-time Conference competitor, finishing fifth at 157-pounds in 2005.

165-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Kody Koster, So. (10-5)	Loras	Dave Early, Sr. (22-12)
	Tyler Winkleman, So. (8-12)		·
Central	Griffin Holden, Fr. (1-12)	Luther	Nate Van Dyke, Jr. (20-6)
Coe	Bryon Grothus, So. (27-13)	Simpson	Tom Koch, Sr. (11-15)
Cornell	Drew Vickers, So. (17-13)	Wartburg	Jason Knipp, Sr. (10-2)
Dubuque	Darrin Kaisand, Jr. (9-5)		

The only weight class currently without an IIAC wrestler ranked in the top-8. Luther's **Nate Van Dyke** has been ranked as high as seventh this year. He finished second in the Conference at 157-pounds last year, qualifying for the National Championships. Loras' **Dave Early** has finished fourth each of the last two years, at 165-pounds in 2006 and at 157-pounds in 2005. Dubuque's **Darrin Kaisand** finished fourth last year at 174-pounds and sixth in 2005 at 157-pounds. Coe's **Bryon Grothus**, Cornell's **Drew Vickers** and Simpson's **Tom Koch** (at 184-pounds), each participated in last year's Conference Championship.

174-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Josh Murray, Jr. (23-14)	Loras	Brandon Bauer, So. (18-18)
	Julian Mancha, Fr. (12-11)		
Central	Kevin Yeoman, Fr. (0-11)	Luther	Paul Meirick, Sr. (10-6)
Coe	Marcus Schneider, Jr. (23-10)	Simpson	Trent Byler, Jr. (4-14)
	Tyler Jentz, Jr. (17-9)		
Cornell	Kyle Kehrli, So. (17-17)	Wartburg	Jason Zastrow, Sr. (23-4)
Dubuque	Robert Larson, Sr. (16-9)		

Wartburg's **Jason Zastrow** is ranked fourth in the current national poll. Six possible wrestlers in the weight class have previous Conference experience. Buena Vista's **Josh Murray** and Cornell's **Kyle Kehrli** competed at 174-pounds last year. Coe's **Tyler Jentz** finished third at 157-pounds in 2005, the same year teammate **Marcus Schneider** competed at 184-pounds and Simpson's **Trent Byler** competed at 197-pounds.

184-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Austin Hayes, So. (15-16) Julian Mancha, Fr. (12-11)	Loras	Jay Figgins, Jr. (29-3)
Central	Jess Welu, Fr. (6-14)	Luther	Mark Mueller, Fr. (2-1)
Coe	Greg Lalla, So. (25-13)	Simpson	Garrett Kiley, Fr. (9-11)
Cornell	Andrew Smith, So. (15-21)	Wartburg	Romeo Djoumessi, So. (28-1)
Dubuque	Cesar Dominguez, So. (2-4)		

Wartburg's **Romeo Djoumessi** and Loras' **Jay Figgins** are ranked second and fourth, respectively in the nation. Figgins finished fifth at the 2006 Conference Championship at 197-pounds and qualified for nationals. Coe's **Greg Lalla** finished fourth at 184-pounds last year.

197-Pounds

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Ben Strandberg, Sr. (24-10)	Loras	Ryan Allen, So. (17-22)
Central	Max Davis, Fr. (8-23)	Luther	Alec Bonander, So. (26-4)
Coe	Rob Kramer, Fr. (28-12)	Simpson	Sam Collora, Fr. (3-22)
Cornell	Josh Pastor, Jr. (9-22)	Wartburg	T.J. Miller, Jr. (22-0)
Dubuque	Matt Wonderlin, Jr. (5-4)		

Wartburg's **T.J. Miller** and Luther's **Alec Bonander** are ranked second and third, respectively in the nation. Buena Vista's **Ben Strandberg** is currently unranked but has been as high as fourth this year. The trio finished were three of the top four finishers in the Conference last year, Miller the champion, Strandberg third and Bonander fourth. All three individuals were national qualifiers last year with Miller winning the national title. Dubuque's **Matt Wonderlin** wrestled at 184-pounds the last two years, finishing third in 2006. Cornell's **Josh Pastor** competed in the 2005 IIAC Championship.

Heavyweight

School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)	School	Wrestler, Yr. (2006-07 Record)
Buena Vista	Wade Hammen, Sr. (15-7)	Loras	Trevor Kaufman, So. (22-10)
Central	Mark Trullinger, Sr. (4-8)	Luther	John Miller, So., (14-3)
Coe	Jared Carder, Fr. (28-16)	Simpson	Chris Downing, Jr. (16-13)
Cornell	Jason Edlund, Fr. (10-22)	Wartburg	Blake Gillis, Sr. (33-1)
Dubuque	Eric Daughetee, So. (14-16)		

Three-time defending Conference and National Champion, **Blake Gillis** of Wartburg has been ranked first nationally the entire year. Luther's **John Miller** is currently ranked fifth but has been as high as second and Buena Vista's **Wade Hammen** was also ranked during the year. Miller finished second in the IIAC last year, Hammen finished fifth last year and seventh (at 197-pounds) in 2005. Central's **Mark Trullinger** has wrestled in the Conference Championship the past three years.

Brute-Adidas National Wrestling Coaches Assoc. Team Rankings Poll Date: January 23, 2007

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>	Record
1.	Augsburg College (MN)	(7-0)
2.	Wartburg College (IA)	(14-1)
3.	University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse	(12-1)
4.	Delaware Valley College (PA)	(13-2)
5.	Luther College (IA)	(10-3)
6.	Coe College (IA)	(14-4)
7.	Elmhurst College (IL)	(9-1)
8.	College of New Jersey	(9-1)
9.	Cortland State University of New York	(10-2)
10.	York College (PA)	(8-8)
11.	State University of New York at Brockport	(3-2)
12.	Johnson and Wales University (RI)	(12-3)
13.	Wilkes University (PA)	(9-4)
14.	Ithaca College (NY)	(7-2)
15.	University of Wisconsin - Whitewater	(12-4)
16.	Loras College (IA)	(9-5)
17.	Cornell College (IA)	(12-4)
18.	Olivet College (MI)	(9-6-1)
19.	Roger Williams University (RI)	(15-4)
20.	John Carroll University (OH)	(8-3-1)
21.	University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point	(9-7)
22.	University of Dubuque (IA)	(8-5)
23.	Heidelberg College (OH)	(5-4)
24.	Buena Vista University (IA)	(5-7)
25.	State Unniversity of New York at Oneonta	(9-5)
26.	Case Western Reserve University (OH)	(6-6)
27.	Concordia College - Moorhead (MN)	(6-3)
28.	University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire	(10-4)
29.	University of Wisconsin - Platteville	(6-4)
30.	Ursinus College (PA)	(9-0)

NEXT RANKING: Week of February 11, 2007

Ranking Committee: Mike Howard (Oswego), Rich Husenfus (Norwich), Jim Miller (Wartburg), Kerry Volkmann (John Carroll), Dave Icenhower (College of New Jersey), Chris Walter (UW-Platteville)

IIAC in the Team Rankings

Brute-Adidas NWCA					
	Pre	N. 21	D. 11	J. 9	J. 23
Buena Vista	11th	11th	20th	20th	24th
Coe	12th	12th	10th	9th	6th
Cornell	16th	19th	16th	17th	17th
Dubuque	NR	NR	18th	18th	22nd
Loras	24th	21st	17th	16th	16th
Luther	4th	4th	3rd	4th	5th
Wartburg	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd

IIAC in the Individual Rankings Complete current individual poll on the following page

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Brute-Adidas NWCA 125-pounds	Pre	N. 21	D. 11	J. 9	J. 23
Nate Hansen, Luther Chrise Heilman, Cornell Rob Struthers, Wartburg	1st 3rd NR	1st 2nd NR	1st 2nd NR	1st 2nd 7th	1st 4th 7th
133-pounds Jacob Helvey, Wartburg Nick Nothern, Cornell Jestin Hulegaard, BV	NR NR 2nd	8th NR 2nd	6th NR 4th	3rd 4th 5th	3rd 4th 5th
141-pounds Jared Creason, Coe Zach McKray, Wartburg	149# 4th	4th 2nd	6th NR	6th NR	8th NR
149-pounds Matt Pyle, Luther Jacob Naig, Wartburg Jared Creason, Coe	4th 1st 7th	5th 2nd 141#	3rd NR 141#	3rd NR 141#	3rd NR 141#
157-pounds Aaron Wernimont, Wart. Pat McCauley, Cornell Tyler Burkle, Coe	NR NR NR	7th NR NR	6th NR NR	4th 8th NR	4th 5th 7th
165-pounds Nate VanDyke, Luther	NR	8th	7th	8th	NR
174-pounds Jason Zastrow, Wartburg	NR	5th	4th	4th	4th
184-pounds Romeo Djoumessi, Wart. Jay Figgins, Loras	3rd 8th	4th 8th	2nd NR	2nd NR	2nd 4th
197-pounds TJ Miller, Wartburg Alec Bonander, Luther Ben Strandberg, BV	2nd 5th 4th	2nd 5th 4th	2nd 3rd 7th	1st 2nd NR	2nd 3rd NR
Heavyweight Blake Gillis, Wartburg John Miller, Luther Wade Hammen, BV	1st 2nd NR	1st 2nd NR	1st 2nd 6th	1st 4th NR	1st 5th NR

Brute-Adidas National Wrestling Coaches Assoc. Individual Rankings Poll Date: January 23, 2007

 125 lbs. Nate Hansen Brandon McDonough Seth Flodeen Chris Heilman Rob Vaccaro Mike McInally Rob Struthers Jake Oyster 	Sr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Fr. Jr.	Luther College Johnson & Wales Univ. Augsburg College Cornell College SUNY Brockport R. I. T. Wartburg College Elmhurst College	133 lbs.1. Jafari VanierJr. Augsburg College2. David MorganSo. King's College3. Jacob HelveyJr. Wartburg College4. Nick Nothernfr. Cornell College5. Justin HulegaardSr. Buena Vista University6. Adam JohnsonJr. North Central College7. Ray SarinelliSo. College of New Jersey8. Billy HallSo. Muhlenberg College
 141 lbs. Quincy Osborn Rick Laforge Paul LeBlanc Andrew Lacroix Mike Conklin Mike Bonora Minga Butsukh Jared Creason 	Jr. Sr. So. Sr. Jr. Fr.	Augsburg College Delaware Valley College Cortland State Roger Williams University Norwich University Rhode Island College Saint John's University Coe College	149 lbs.1. Jacob LarsenSr. UW LaCrosse2. Jason RoushSr. College of Mt. St. Joseph3. Matt PyleSr. Luther College4. Jared EvansSr. Augsburg College5. Joe PflugJr. Heidleberg College6. Don OotonSr. SUNY Brockport7. Gene KobilanskySr. New York University8. Jeff KastelSr. Elmhurst College
 Jeremy Anderson Ross Needham Elliott Spence Aaron Wernimont Pat McAuley Dan DeLalla Tyler Burkle Kyle Katz 	Jr. Sr. Jr. So. Jr. Sr. Fr. Jr.	Augsburg College UW LaCrosse College of Mt. St. Joseph Wartburg College Cornell College Wesleyan University Coe College Elmhurst College	165 lbs.1. Marcus LeVesseurSr. Augsburg College2. Scott DornSr. UW LaCrosse3. Steve MartellJr. Johnson & Wales Univ.4. Mike GuentherSr. College of New Jersey5. Phil KruzelSr. University of Chicago6. Zach BogardusJr. Cortland State7. Jerry BowneSr. York College8. Shaheim BradshawJr. SUNY Brockport
 Josh Chelf John Dolan Robbie Gotreau Jason Zastrow Kyle Vanderhyde Andrew Winfield Greg Osgoodby Chris Brachen 	Jr. Sr. Jr. So. So. So. Jr.	UW LaCrosse Williams College Augsburg College Wartburg College Olivet College McDaniel College College of New Jersey John Carroll University	184 lbs.1. Jason LulloffSr. UW LaCrosse2. Romeo DjoumessiSo. Wartburg College3. Stephon SairSr. Cortland State4. Jay FigginsJr. Loras College5. Craig BolligJr. UW Stevens Point6. Brett GiehlJr. SUNY Brockport7. Nick CalandrinoSr. Ithaca College8. Elliott SmithJr. Springfield College
 197 lbs. Jim Swanson TJ Miller Alec Bonander Ryan Fogliano Matt Loesch Brandon Kelly Phil Archer Thomas Sanders 	Sr. Jr. So. So. Sr. Sr. Jr. Sr.	UW LaCrosse Wartburg College Luther College Heidelberg College Muhlenberg College Wilkes University Cortland State Case Western Reserve	285 lbs. 1. Blake Gillis 2. Arkadiy Levitin 3. Kyle Bilquist 4. Bryan Kmetz 5. John Miller 6. Ward Brady 7. Andrew Neumann 8. Trevor Hiffa Sr. Wartburg College Sr. Baldwin Wallace College Sr. Luther College Fight St. St. St. St. St. St. St. St. St. St