

Free Time Becomes Scarce For Successful OSU Frosh Grappler

By Mike Wachsman

Free time is becoming a precious commodity for Ohio State redshirt freshman wrestler Kevin Randleman.

Last year, the 167-pounder came to Columbus from Sandusky (Ohio) High School after winning the state title. He was redshirted by Buckeye coach Russ Hellickson and took his year to get acclimated to college.

This year, he was thrust into a starting role when last year's 167-pounder Paul Reinbolt graduated. But the baptism under fire hasn't bothered Randleman as he stood at 30-5 through Jan. 27 and was ranked fifth in the nation by *Amateur Wrestling News*.

While he is enjoying success in his rookie season, he has noticed that there has been less time to do things he likes.

"When you come to school and sit out a year, you can pretty much take some time for yourself," Randleman said. "But now that I'm in the lineup, it has been harder. I have to concentrate on wrestling, practice and schoolwork, when last year it was just practice and schoolwork."

A fine all-around athlete, Randleman was an all-conference defensive back for a Sandusky football team that went 10-0 and was part of the 400-meter relay team that set a school record.

When he got to college, he was faced with a few options in terms of pursuing a sport.

"I could have probably come here and run track," Randleman said. "Playing football at Ohio State would almost be out of the question. My choice was made pretty easy when I got a scholarship for wrestling. I've tried to work as hard as I can and I feel it's paying off."

Hellickson, not one to shower idle praise on a young competitor, has said from day one that Randleman has the makings of a champion.

"He won a state title, which in Ohio is an accomplishment," he said. "He has the maturity, even though he's only a freshman, to be successful. He's aggressive on the mats."

"And possibly the best thing about him is that he wants to learn what else he can do to get better. Younger guys don't do that too often."

Randleman started the year on a down note, losing to Iowa's Mark Reiland in the opening dual meet of the season by a 5-2 score as the Buckeyes were pounded 34-5. It was his first real taste of collegiate action, and it was a bitter one.

"I probably was a little nervous that first time," Randleman said. "When you face Iowa, there's no room for that. This is a great team, but we're not quite in Iowa's class yet. We're taking steps in that direction, but we have a way to go."

"I learned a lot from that match, and looking back, the loss and the way I was pretty much beaten up may have done me good."

It's not often Randleman can be beaten up. He is one of the strongest Buckeyes in the weight room and has a body fat percentage of 3.3. Most professional athletes at the top of their game are at 4.0-5.0, so that says a lot for the shape he is in.

"I try to work on that a lot," Randleman said. "If you are in shape, you will be able to have the stamina to go those tough matches. Wrestling takes a lot of stamina and you have to be able to suck it up and continue, even when you think you can't."

Randleman's work ethic has impressed Hellickson, and the coach thinks it will all pay off in the end.

"Barring any major injuries, Kevin Randleman has the capability to be a national champion," he said. "He is lacking experience, but that comes in time. Once he gets that experience, that will be the last piece of the puzzle."

Randleman has always thought he could perform well on the college level, and this year is proving he can. However, climbing to number five in the country does have a couple of drawbacks.

"Practice is more intense," he said.

"Guys are going after you harder, wanting to get that takedown on you. They figure if they can take you down, they can rib you for the rest of the week. Fortunately that doesn't happen too much."

"You have to be more mentally focused on everything. I could have a few lapses in practice last year because I knew I wouldn't be wrestling. But this year I have to be totally focused, which isn't easy for an inexperienced person. Combine that with the road trips and the studying, and any time I have to myself is infrequent. But I guess that's something I'll have to get used to. If it means that we'll be winning meets and doing well in the nationals, I'll put up with it."



Kevin Randleman

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Undefeated Season, National Title On Randleman's Agenda

By Mike Wachman

After going 42-6 and finishing second at the nationals as a redshirt freshman, one wonders what Ohio State wrestler Kevin Randleman can do for an encore.

How does 24-0-1 and a number three national ranking a little past the midway point of the season sound?

The season is going like gangbusters for the 177-pound Sandusky, Ohio, native. But despite the unbeaten record, it hasn't been easy.

"I was feeling pressure at the beginning," Randleman said. "I was worried about letting my boys, my teammates, down. We've got the closest knit team I've ever been on in my life. All these guys are my brothers. I can't let them see me get beat."

"That's the reason I had so many close, slow matches in the beginning. I was wrestling defensively. I was wrestling not to lose, but now I'm wrestling to win."

Buckeye head coach Russ Hellickson said that pressure can leap up and get the best wrestlers, and Randleman is no exception.

"The consensus is he's really going to be something," Hellickson said. "Last year, not a lot of people expected things from him, so he surprised everyone. But when you're expected to do well, it can change your approach drastically."

"But Kevin's competitive and should have no problem this year. He's the best guy in the country at 177. He's explosive, quick and powerful, and as long as he's healthy, he's definite national championship material."

Winning was something Randleman became accustomed to last season as he took the Big Ten title at 167 pounds by beating top-ranked Charlie Jones of Purdue, also a Sandusky native, in the conference finals.

He finished ranked second in the nation to Iowa's Mark Reiland, who won the national title by beating Randleman via a pin in just under five minutes.

"Last year, the whole year, they said I was getting lucky," Randleman said. "I don't give a crap about the rankings. They don't mean anything. They had me ranked second (at the end of) last year, but most of the year I was sixth, and I started the year unranked. So it doesn't matter where you're ranked."

"Reiland never beat me again when he had the chance. I wrestled him after that and killed him. There's only one guy in my weight class strong enough to beat me, and he's the number one guy, Rich Powers from Northern Iowa."

While last season would be labeled a success by all followers of wrestling, the loss to Reiland didn't sit well with Randleman, especially since the OSU wrestler had defeated him in the semis of the Big Ten meet.

"I hate losing," he said. "It doesn't matter what it is. It's never fun losing. If you get used to losing, then losing comes easier to you. I'd rather win than lose, but I'd rather have a tie than a loss any time."

Randleman is a rare combination of speed and power, possessing as much or possibly more strength than the average heavyweight.

That strength can be an intimidator on the mats.

"It's a psychological advantage," Randleman said. "Quickness is always

going to be my biggest asset, but the strength has always been there."

Another thing that helps Randleman in his quest to be the best is competitive fire. It helps that Olympic hopeful and OSU assistant coach Mark Coleman is his roommate and closest friend.

"As far as intensity goes, I'm right there with him," Randleman said. "But as far as being on his level, that's a level that some people say I'm at, but I don't think I'm there yet."

"When it comes down to big matches, he's nervous, but he goes out and does it. I've been in big matches and won them, too, but I've never had to go out there at that level."

The Buckeyes reached a new level last year, finishing fourth at the national tournament, the highest in school history.

This season, things have been a little rocky, especially in dual meets, but Randleman believes that with some shifting of personnel, OSU will start rolling.

"Now that everyone has dropped down to their right weight classes, we should get rolling," he said. "The team's going to be a lot better now. If we were to wrestle Penn State (a 24-17 loss) again, there's no doubt in my mind we'd beat them by at least six points."

Randleman kept opponents from scoring six points while he was on the football field in high school. He was an all-conference defensive back as a senior on a team that went 10-0. He was also a member of the 400-meter relay team that still holds the school record.

Enough schools thought highly of Randleman for football that he almost gave up pins for interceptions.

"I could've played football, but I changed my mind," he said. "Tennessee, Kentucky, Colorado State and all the Ohio schools with the exception of Ohio State were recruiting me."

"They didn't want me to wrestle, so that's why I didn't do it. The day of signing came, I was there, the coach was there. I looked at my mom and she said, 'If you think you've accomplished everything you can in wrestling, then do it.' I told her I hadn't and she said, 'Then, don't sign it.' I didn't and I came to Ohio State."

He not only came to Ohio State, he conquered.

His second-place finish at nationals was a far cry from where he thought he would be when the season began.

"I never thought realistically about being national champ," he said. "I thought about it, but I thought being a champion was a hard thing to conceive. Right now, I know it's going to happen. Maybe not three times or two times, but one, I know."

"I've got (teammates) Rex Holman, Mike Schyck, Jim Scavuzzo, Ken Ramsey, Ray Mendoza and my coaches working with me. These are all Olympic-caliber wrestlers. We wrestle each other every day and it's like national finals every day in practice. I just don't see myself not winning a national championship before I graduate. I'm working toward winning my first this



Kevin Randleman

year and then worrying about the future later."

To shape his future plans, Randleman looks back to the past.

"As far as all-around wrestling, I'm a much better wrestler than Kevin Randleman last year," he said. "I'm not going to be happy with anything less than number one. I took second last year, and how much better can you get? I have to go undefeated or lose less than six to have a better year. I don't plan on losing any."

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Wrestling Team Finishes Fifth At NCAA Tournament

Randleman Wins National Championship

By Mike Wachman

Even though the finish was one place lower than last year, the happiness of Ohio State wrestling coach Russ Hellickson was much higher than at last year's nationals, where the Buckeyes finished fourth.

OSU took fifth place and had an individual national champion at the NAAs in Oklahoma City March 19-21, scoring 64.25 points, the second-most of any Big Ten team. Sophomore Kevin Randleman, the third seed, won the 177-pound title by pinning fifth-seeded Corey Olson of Nebraska in 3:39.

Iowa won its 13th national title by scoring 149 points, nine shy of the record it set in 1986. Oklahoma State was second with 100.5 points, Penn

State was third at 89.25 and Iowa State took fourth with 72.25.

OSU scored nine more points than it did last season, and that is a major reason Hellickson was brimming with enthusiasm following the tourney.

"This team had a frustrating start," he said, "but maybe that's why it's more gratifying at the end. I'm just a little upset that we didn't get a trophy (awarded to top-four teams) this year. This is a better team than last year's and we scored nine more points. But I guess everyone was better this year."

Randleman certainly was an example of that.

He finished as national runner-up to Iowa's Mark Reiland at 167 pounds last year but had gone undefeated this season after moving up one weight class.

Randleman finished 39-0-3 for the season and is now the king of the 177-pound hill.

"When I won it, the first thing I wanted to do was run over and hug my coaches," Randleman said. "I had to go back to the center to get my arm raised. I did that, threw my headgear down, jumped off the stage and hugged (assistant Mark) Coleman and Russ. It's hard to describe what it feels like, really."

In the tournament, Randleman tallied pins against Keith Turner of Clemson and 14th-ranked Travis Gittins of Oklahoma State, defeated Iowa's Bart Cholesvig 3-2, marking his fourth victory over Cholesvig this season, and went to overtime before beating Northwestern's Roger Williams 4-2.

Against Reiland in the championship match, Randleman said he thought he was going to win even before the match began.

"When I went out there, I knew I could win it," he said. "I mean, I didn't know, but I never second-guessed myself. I'm not surprised I pinned him, really. If I get someone to his back, I can't see them getting out of it."

"Now I have a chance to be a three-time champion, and that will certainly drive me in the next couple years. But this one will certainly be the sweetest."

Hellickson felt all along that Randleman had what it took to be the national champion.

"He was the only undefeated wrestler out there and I felt his seeding was a bit low," the OSU head coach said. "He could have been second. In the Cholesvig match, he was probably a little conservative, but he did the job."

"When you reach the point of wrestling for the national championship, you don't want to do anything to jeopardize that. He kept his matches closer than I would have liked, but close doesn't matter as long as you win."

Randleman was not the only story for the Buckeyes, though.

There were three other All-Americans as senior 150-pounder Ken Ramsey and junior 190-pounder Rex Holman each placed third in their weight classes, and junior 158-pounder Mike Schyck placed fifth.

Ramsey, ranked number one in the country going into the nationals, beat Nels Nelson of Boise State 6-4 in the quarterfinals before losing 2-1 to Penn State's Troy Sunderland, ranked fourth in the country.

He went on to beat Gary Steffensmeier of Northern Iowa 3-2 in the consolation finals for third place.

"Kenny was probably a little disappointed because his goal was to be national champion," Hellickson said. "But he did a real nice job coming back from the loss. Some guys have a tendency to focus so much on winning it all that when they lose, it totally shoots their whole tournament. So in that regard, Kenny did a good job."

Holman, who went into the tourney as the number one seed, beat Navy's Tom Storey 12-4 in the quarters before being upset by fourth-ranked Mark Kerr of Syracuse 10-6. He came back to pound Matt Case of Northwestern 14-2 in the consolation final.

"Rex also did a good job, considering he was expected, by virtue of his seeding, to win the whole thing," Hellickson said. "It was a measure of what Rex could do. He stayed tough and took third place and helped us out a great deal."

Schyck finally came into his own by placing fifth in one of the toughest weight classes in the country. He lost in the quarterfinals 8-3 to Oklahoma State's Pat Smith but rebounded to beat 19th-ranked Kirk Wallman of Iowa State 3-2 to get into the consolation semifinals.

In the consolation semis, Schyck was beaten 7-4 by second-ranked Tom Ryan of Iowa but came back strong to take fifth place by topping 10th-rated Tim Wittman of Penn State 8-2.

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being All-American last year, so for him to get it is extra sweet," Hellickson said. "He beat some good people soundly to finish where he did. He's never been ranked higher than ninth or 10th all season, so to do the job he did at the nationals says a lot about Mike."

The Buckeyes' other representative at the NAAs, heavyweight Ray Mendoza, had a tough tournament, falling to number one-ranked Kurt Angle of Clarion 8-3 and then losing to Fresno State's Lorenzo Neal 11-2.

"Ray was in the match with Angle," Hellickson said. "He was with him to the end, but he just didn't have enough time. He didn't wrestle real well against Neal. I feel bad for Ray because I thought he was another guy who deserved to be an All-American. He's got the talent to do it."

As far as the team's fifth-place finish, it bodes well for the future since every national meet contender returns for the Buckeyes next season with the exception of Ramsey. In addition, 126-pounder Adam DiSabato will return to the lineup after taking a redshirt season.

"This finish certainly gives us confidence for next year," Hellickson said. "Kevin was the talk of the tournament, and that's another positive. I am proud of what we did, but next year should be the year we are actually thought of as national title contenders. We're excited about hosting the Big Tens and we could have multiple Big Ten champions as well as Kevin possibly winning back-to-back titles."

"Iowa loses six people, but they always have to factor into it. Oklahoma State, Penn State, Iowa State, Arizona State and Minnesota will all have great teams next year. But it may be the year that people really start talking seriously about Ohio State challenging for the whole thing, and that's always been my goal."

As a whole, the Big Ten dominated the tournament, tallying 21 of a possible 80 All-Americans and winning six of the 10 weight classes. Nine of Iowa's 10 wrestlers gained All-American status.

"That again says a great deal for just how tough our conference is," Hellickson said. "Things don't get easier when

we add Penn State next year. The Big Ten is definitely here to stay in the wrestling arena."

"And Ohio State wrestling is here to stay. We're on the verge of doing something big, and while there are no guarantees about anything, we have the chemistry and the mind set that we can do it."

Here is a rundown of the championship matches at the NCAA wrestling tournament:

• 118 pounds — Jeff Prescott of Penn State won his second straight title, beating Iowa's Chad Zaputit 2-0.

• 126 — Iowa's Terry Brands won for the second time in three years, beating fourth-ranked Shawn Charles of Arizona State 8-5.

• 134 — Tom Brands of Iowa, named the meet's outstanding wrestler, won his third straight national crown by avenging his only defeat of the season against Oklahoma State's Alan Fried 6-2.

• 142 — Hawkeye Troy Steiner tasted the gold for the first time, dominating second-ranked Chris Owens of Oklahoma State by an 8-2 count.

• 150 — Wisconsin's Matt Demaray parlayed his Big Ten title into a second straight national crown, beating Sunderland 5-2.

• 158 — Oklahoma State's Pat Smith won his third straight crown by beating fourth-ranked Ray Miller of Arizona State 3-1. Smith will have a chance to become the NAAs first four-time national champion next year.

• 167 — Purdue's Charlie Jones, a close friend of Randleman, won the title on his last go-round, decisioning Oklahoma State's Todd Chesbro 6-5. Last year, Randleman defeated Jones for the Big Ten title at 167.

• 177 — Randleman defeated Olson by pinfall and was the only national champion to win his crown by pin.

• 190 — Kerr overwhelmed Oklahoma State's top-ranked Randy Couture 12-4.

• Heavyweight — Angle won for the second time in three years, defeating Sylvester Terkay of N.C. State 3-2.

Wrestling Notes

While the collegiate wrestling season is over, things are just beginning to heat up internationally.

The top field since the 1988 Olympics will be coming to St. John Arena for the U.S. Wrestling Grand Prix April 3-4. The freestyle tournament is the final tuneup for the world's best wrestlers before this summer's Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

The U.S. will have three teams in action at the meet and will be joined by contingents from Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Great Britain, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Rumania, South Korea and Turkey. The former team from the USSR, now known as the Unified team, will also be in competition.

"It will be the most competitive and largest field of international competi-

tors this country has ever had," said Wess Audsley, president of Aliz Marketing International and coordinator of the event. "The Bulgarians haven't been here for 20 years, and this may be the last opportunity to see the Unified team in its present state."

The top United States unit is the U.S. national team that finished second in the world championships last year.

Tickets for the event are \$9 per session for floor seating or \$25 for all sessions, and \$7 per session for the rest of the arena and \$20 for all sessions.

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OSU's Randleman Reconsiders Decision To Quit Wrestling Team

By Mike Wachsman

For a while, it appeared that one of the Ohio State wrestling team's most vital components for a possible national title next season would be missing from the team.

Ohio State's 177-pound national champion, Kevin Randleman, was arrested by Columbus police in the early morning hours of May 22 after reportedly assaulting a female outside a campus bar.

Following the arrest, Randleman indicated he would leave Ohio State, but he is apparently reconsidering that decision.

According to police reports, Randleman allegedly grabbed a young woman by the wrist and attempted to pull her out of a doorway of a campus-area establishment. When he was unable to do so, he began twisting the victim's wrist and yelling at her.

Randleman alleges the woman was yelling racist remarks at him.

The OSU wrestler was arraigned May 28 on misdemeanor charges of assault and resisting arrest. If convicted, he could face a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine on the assault charge. He could also be fined \$750 and given 90 days on the resisting arrest charge.

Randleman has pleaded not guilty to the charges and waived his appearance in Franklin County Municipal Court, requesting a jury trial. No date has yet been set.

Following the incident, Randleman said he was moving back to his hometown of Sandusky, Ohio, and possibly transferring to another university.

After discussions with OSU head coach Russ Hellickson, and taking time to let things cool down, Randleman appeared to be taking steps to stay at Ohio State.

He was in school to finish out the spring quarter and apparently will remain on the team.

"I don't really know enough about the details of things to go into it," Hellickson told BSB. "There is a lot of prejudice and racial tension in the world and I don't like that and Kevin doesn't like that."

"I feel for him, but it's hard for me to empathize with him because I'm not black. I don't know what it's like to be called names. In a perfect world we wouldn't have any of this, but we know the world isn't a perfect place."

Hellickson said he has discussed the

matter with Randleman and that the wrestler "knows my feelings. Kevin needs to work this out in his own way. I've told him what I think and I'm letting him handle it now. The most important thing for him to do was to finish up at least the quarter, which I'm glad he decided to do. He has a chance to get a good, solid education and I don't want him to throw that away."

"Kevin can be very emotional sometimes. He may not have handled things the best way, but he comes from a rough background. I'm hopeful everything will work itself out and it can be put in the past. That would seem to be best for everyone."

When contacted at his campus apartment, Randleman would not speak to BSB and hung up the phone when questioned about his future.

Randleman won the national title at

Banquet Caps Another Big Year For Wrestlers

By Mike Wachsman

There were plenty of things for the Ohio State wrestling team to celebrate this season, and that's exactly what it did at the annual postseason banquet held May 15 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio.

The Buckeyes finished fifth nationally and had four All-Americans, including national champion Kevin Randleman at 177 pounds, as well as Ken Ramsey at 150, Mike Schyck at 158 and Rex Holman at 190.

The Buckeyes compiled a dual meet record of 20-4 and finished third at the Big Ten championships.

Numerous team awards were handed out, but the big winners of the evening were Randleman and Ramsey.

Randleman, a sophomore from Sandusky, took home the awards for most falls (13) and most team points (139.5), as well as the outstanding wrestler award, voted on by the team. He and Ramsey were voted as co-captains by their teammates as well.

Ramsey took home hardware for most takedowns (218) and most dedicated and was honored in the annual senior ceremony, in which he was the only participant.

OSU head coach Russ Hellickson got a bit emotional when talking about Ramsey, saying, "He had a lot of expectations thrust upon him when he came here, and some people would say he didn't meet them. But in my eyes, he not only met them, he exceeded them."

"He's a great wrestler and, more importantly, a great person. That's the most important thing in life, and he has done that."

Holman was a double winner, taking the honor for most back points (42) as well as winning a scholar-athlete mention. Sophomore Jim Scavuzzo also won a scholar-athlete award, and for the second year in a row, Mike Schyck was named most improved wrestler. He was an All-American this season after falling one match short of that honor last year.

There were also a number of academic awards handed out to wrestlers who were able to maintain an accumulative grade-point average of 3.00 or above. Those wrestlers included Holman, junior Hank Lewis, sophomores Todd Chertow, Scavuzzo, and Jim Schober and freshman Seth Gresser.

Mat Notes

The Buckeyes will be awaiting some more talent with the addition of two newcomers next year.

The top recruit of the group is Ohio state champion Nick Nutter of Medina (Ohio) Buckeye, a 189-pounder ranked number one in the nation in his class by *Amateur Wrestling News*. Nutter will probably redshirt and sit out next year before taking over for senior-to-be Rex Holman at 190.

Joining Nutter in the Scarlet and Gray will be teammate James Farley, who wrestled at 171 pounds at Medina Buckeye but will likely be a 177-pounder at OSU.

Ohio State may also someday get the services of Luke Fickell, the top heavyweight prepster in the country. Fickell has indicated he wants to concentrate on football for at least the first few years. However, he would be a fine addition to Hellickson's lineup if he ever does decide to come out for the team.



Kevin Randleman

177 pounds last season, posting a 42-0-3 record for the season. He finished as national runner-up at 167 pounds as a freshman, and he has won the Big Ten title at both weights in his two seasons.

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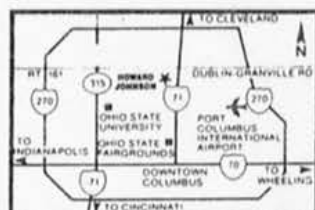
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Randleman Keeps Focused Squarely On Winning Another National Title

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

A lot of athletes support their teams by yelling encouragement from the sidelines, but more often than not, it's because they seldom get to experience the limelight.

That's not the case with Ohio State junior Kevin Randleman, one of the best wrestlers on the OSU squad and the team's resident cheerleader.

He can always be seen yelling instructions or encouragement to teammates and yucking it up on the bench after a meet is finished.

But he's certainly no reserve.

In fact, he's the defending national champion at 177 pounds, currently ranked third in the nation and holder of a 13-1 record through Feb. 6.

That mark is all the more impressive considering he didn't get into the lineup until winter quarter, as he had to make up some schoolwork to obtain the necessary credits to become eligible.

"I don't think I'm rusty," Randleman said after the team's Michigan State meet. "It's hard to measure myself in matches like this. This guy really wasn't that good."

Indeed, his opponent, MSU freshman Jason Howell, was 4-13 prior to the match, and Randleman had his way with the green Spartan, defeating him in a technical fall less than four minutes into the contest.

But matches like that are needed for the junior from Sandusky, Ohio, because he still needs to get his timing down after missing the early part of the year.

"Timing is critical," OSU wrestling coach Russ Hellickson said. "He needs to score a lot of points, and he's done a good job of that. When he missed the first part of the year, he's had enough experience and enough success to not lose too much in performance."

"He's winning the close matches and there's just not much difference be-

tween this year and last year. There has been no indication that he can't do it again."

That has to be a downer for upcoming opponents because Randleman went 42-0-3 last year on the way to the national title. In the championship match against Nebraska's Corey Olson, Randleman tallied a pin, the only national winner to do so.

That followed his rookie year in which he finished second in the nation at 167 pounds after winning the Big Ten crown, losing to good friend and fellow Sandusky, Ohio, native Charlie Jones of Purdue in the title tilt.

At that time, he said that if he couldn't win the title, there was no one he wanted to win it more than Jones.

But now that he is the defending national champion, he wants to successfully defend that crown. And if he does, he believes the Buckeyes will have a chance at winning their first national title as a team.

"When we're on, we're hard to beat," Randleman said. "We have everyone cranked up now and we're looking forward to the Big Tens. We're on a roll and we don't intend on stopping any time soon."

Despite the fact Randleman over-matches almost every opponent he faces with his unique combination of speed and strength, his matches are captivating because he can turn any seeming predicament into a pin in a heartbeat.

He registered 13 pins last season, including three in five matches at the nationals. He already had three pins this season in just 14 matches.

"I feel I can pin anybody," Randleman said. "Just like anybody can pin me. I've shown I can pin people at almost any time."

Randleman may have a tougher row to hoe this year since he is defending national champion. His hunger for a repeat crown won't be lessened, but people will now be shooting for him since he's the king of the mountain.

"There is a different psyche involved

with being runner-up and champion," Hellickson explained. "You go from being the hunter to the hunted. There's no question the pressure is different."

"You can't sneak up on anyone when you're champion. Everyone knows you. It's a psychological thing more than anything else. You can have more talent than anybody, but if your mind isn't into it, you flat out won't win."

Winning has not been a problem for Randleman, whose 97 career wins through Feb. 6 ranked ninth on the OSU list, and he is one of just three grapplers to exceed 90 percent for his career percentage.

But the past two seasons, one wrestler, Michigan's Lanny Green, has been a thorn in Randleman's side.

Green is responsible for Randleman's loss this year and was two of his three deadlocks last season.

"Green is a defensive wrestler," Hellickson said. "He's powerful and a solid wrestler. He doesn't give up a lot of points and if you wrestle his match, which is conservative, you'll more than likely lose."

The two will square off again Feb. 12 in Columbus as the fifth-ranked Wol-



Kevin Randleman

verines face OSU in a rematch of a contest at the Cliff Keen National Duals in late January. Michigan won that contest 22-14.

Randleman knows what he has to do to beat his nemesis.

"I need to be more aggressive against him," he said. "I need to take more shots against him to beat him. He's good, but I've proven I can beat anyone. I just have to focus on wrestling my match more when I go against him. Then I'll beat him."

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*Buckeyes Finish Fifth Again At NCAA Wrestling Tournament***Randleman, Holman Win National Crowns**

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State certainly proved it has enough talent to be among the top powers in wrestling, but not quite enough to reach the pinnacle — at least not yet.

The Buckeyes finished fifth at the NCAA championships, held March 18-20 in Ames, Iowa, scoring 64 points. That was one-half point less than last year's team, which also finished fifth, but the squad also boasted a school-best two national champions.

Junior Kevin Randleman, ranked number one heading into the championships, won his second straight 177-pound title by beating Nebraska's Corey Olson 5-2. Meanwhile, senior Rex Holman, top-ranked all year at 190, captured his national crown by beating Iowa's Joel Sharratt 7-5.

Holman finished third at the nationals last year, so the national title was a perfect caper to his collegiate career.

"It was terrific," he said. "It was really a dream come true for me. In the back of my mind I knew it would be either (Sharratt) or the guy from Oklahoma (Andy Foster). But I knew Sharratt was the tougher kid."

Randleman, runner-up at 167 pounds as a freshman, went unbeaten in the championships despite suffering a dislocated jaw.

The jaw, initially dislocated on both sides during a practice match with Holman, popped out during a second-round match with Central Connecticut's Mark Frushone. How did Randleman get the jaw back in place? He threw his head against the mat, popping it back.

"Kevin's fought off a lot of adversity," OSU coach Russ Hellickson said. "Some of that was self-induced, but a lot of it wasn't. He had injuries but overcame them. He probably has the highest pain tolerance of any kid I've ever seen."

"He caught Olson last year and turned him to his back. Kevin almost got him again this time. Kevin told me



Ohio State junior wrestler Kevin Randleman, shown here during a quarterfinal win over Kyle Rackley of Cornell, won his second straight national championship in the 177-pound weight division. Randleman scored a 5-3 decision over Corey Olson of Nebraska to take the win. OSU teammate Rex Holman also won a national crown at 190 pounds and the Buckeyes finished fifth as a team.

he thought his last two matches were the best he's wrestled all year and I have a tendency to agree with him."

Holman finished the year 29-0, the first Buckeye to complete a season without a blemish.

"I'm very proud of Rex," Hellickson said. "He went through the season unbeaten and untied, and that says something about the kind of competitor he is. Rex is one of those people who can handle pressure."

Randleman finished the season 24-1 despite not getting into the lineup until Jan. 15.

Prior to defeating Olson, Randleman

handled Clarion's Dan Payne 14-9 and Frushone 10-5. In the quarterfinals the Sandusky native squeaked by Cornell's Kyle Rackley 4-3 and topped Iowa's Ray Brinzer in the semis 9-6.

Randleman now has a shot at becoming only the fifth wrestler in NCAA history to make the finals four years in a row.

Oklahoma State's Dick Hutton (1947-50), Wisconsin's Lee Kemp (1975-78), Iowa's Ed Banach (1980-83) and fellow Hawkeye Duane Goldman (1983-86) were the other four. Hellickson coached Kemp at Wisconsin and says Randleman is every bit as talented.

Michigan State's Pat Milkovich

(1972, 1974-76) made four finals, but not in consecutive years. Oklahoma State's Pat Smith has a chance to win his fourth national title next season after redshirting this year while the Cowboys were on probation.

Holman's path to the title was a little easier as he rolled over his first three opponents.

He beat Pittsburgh's Jeff Kloiver 14-2, Penn State's Kerry McCoy 13-3 and Michigan State's Emilio Collins 11-0 before nipping Wisconsin's Keith Davison in the semis by a narrow 5-3 margin.

"It's good for the program," Hellickson said of the national champions. "It's what you need to have to take that next

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step. Those two have worked very hard and we're indebted to them."

The Buckeyes also had two other wrestlers make All-American, which goes to the top eight finishers in each weight class.

Senior Adam DiSabato finished third at 126 pounds and senior Mike Schyck placed seventh at 158.

DiSabato, fourth two years ago, avenged his controversial Big Ten runner-up finish to Penn State's Sanshiro Abe by beating the Nittany Lion 6-5 in overtime in the third-place match.

"I wanted to win, but doing what I did and beating who I beat, that made it a little better," DiSabato said. "I didn't achieve my goal of being a national champion, but considering the circumstances I thought I wrestled well enough to win it."

Prior to beating Abe, DiSabato defeated Morgan State's Charlie Morgan 25-11, Brigham Young's Scott Eastwood 8-5 and Michigan's Jason Cluff 6-3.

He lost to top-ranked Shawn Charles of Arizona State 5-3 before coming back to beat Cornell's David Hirsch in the consolation semis.

In the Charles match, the ASU grappler seemed to use a smart but questionable tactic to throw DiSabato off his game.

"His headgear kept coming off whenever I'd be ready to come after him," he said. "If it happens once or twice, it's an accident, but this happened like six times in my match and also the match before mine. I don't have proof, but it sounds like it was planned."

Taking third was not the desired result, but Hellickson was pleased DiSabato was able to exorcise a few demons by beating Abe.

"Other than having him win the nationals, that's the scenario you'd paint for Adam," Hellickson said. "Nothing was more fitting. He placed higher at the NCAAAs every year he was here. I would have hated to have him finish lower than third because he really deserved to be a national champion at some point. But he did a phenomenal job at nationals."

Schyck won the seventh-place match over Iowa State's Earl Harrison 13-5 to make All-American, a nice comeback from a pin by Michigan's Sean Bormet one match earlier.

Schyck also defeated Cleveland State's Marty Collins 8-7, Cal State-Fullerton's Christian Holiday and North Carolina's Marc Taylor 14-3.

The turning point for Schyck may have come in the quarterfinals when he lost 4-3 to eventual national champ Marcus Mollica of Arizona State.

The two were tied at 3-3 and went through the first overtime without scoring. The second sudden-death overtime found Mollica choosing the down position, meaning he had to escape within 30 seconds, which he did.

"Mike was an official's flip of the disc from being national champion," Hellickson said. "Mollica got out, won the match and went on to win the whole thing. There's no reason to think if the situation wasn't reversed, Mike wouldn't have done the same thing."

Ohio State had four other wrestlers qualify for the nationals. Shawn Conyers dropped out in the first round of the 118-pound consolation, Danyasha Yetts was eliminated in the third round of the consolation at 134 pounds and Ray Mendoza lost in the opening round of the heavyweight division. Jim Scavuzzo qualified to compete at 167

pounds, but a knee injury suffered at the Big Ten meet prevented him from wrestling.

The four All-Americans duplicates the number of the last two seasons, and although Hellickson was hoping for as many as six, he'll gladly take the quartet.

"Four All-Americans is great," he said. "We basically finished the same place as last year and scored just a half point less than last year. While it might appear like we didn't make too much progress over last year, in my mind we did."

But that doesn't mean he wouldn't like more.

Hellickson has a burning desire to take Ohio State to the top of the wrestling world and with the talent he has returning next season, that desire is justified.

And he knows what kind of work it will take.

"To be a top program, more guys

have to step up," Hellickson said. "Wrestling in the Big Ten is very tough. We're competitive in the league, which has never been tougher, but that might take something out of us. We have to do a little better at nationals if we want to win the thing."

And winning the thing, not finishing fifth, is what Ohio State should strive to achieve.

"We expect more from ourselves," Hellickson said. "When that doesn't happen, you get a little frustrated. But you have to keep dreaming. If you ever lose your dream, then you may as well get out."

In the team scores, Iowa won its third straight national championship and 14th overall, dominating the field with 123.75 points, followed by Penn State (87.5), Nebraska (79.5) and Arizona State (72.5).

Other individual national champions, with national rankings in parentheses, are as follows:

• 118 pounds — Sam Henson (3) of Clemson upset Chad Zaputit (1) of Iowa 3-2.

• 126 — Nebraska's Tony Purler (2) defeated ASU's Charles (1) 7-5.

• 134 — North Carolina's T.J. Jaworsky (2) beat Penn State's Cary Kolat (4) 6-4.

• 142 — Iowa's Lincoln McIlravy (6) upset Gerry Abas (1) of Fresno State 16-15, scoring the final takedown with four seconds remaining.

• 150 — Iowa's Terry Steiner (2) defeated Penn State's Troy Sunderland (1) 8-7 and was chosen as outstanding wrestler.

• 158 — ASU's Mollica (6) beat Penn State's Josh Robbins (4) 6-4.

• 167 — Arizona State's Ray Miller (1) decisively Shaon Fry (7) of Missouri 6-2.

• Heavyweight — North Carolina State's Sylvester "The Bear" Terkay (1) pinned Michigan State's Don Whipp in 1:13.



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victory. By not'e also won the weekly AT&T Long Distance "kickoff return" award in NCAA Division I-A. By not'e receives an engraved plaque and AT&T donates \$400 to the NCAA's Degree Completion Scholarship Fund in his name.

The scout-teams of the week were a pair of true freshmen — linebacker James Ross and tailback Keith Wilkerson. Ross is redshirting this year, but Wilkerson saw action against Pitt, returning one punt for five yards and rushing once for 24 yards and his first collegiate touchdown.

Injury Report

Once again, Ohio State got out of a game without any serious injuries.

Against Pittsburgh, offensive tackle Alan Kline went out of the game early with a bruised knee. Team physician Dr. John Lombardo said Kline's injury was minor and he could have returned to the game if necessary.

Free safety Walter Taylor suffered a mild concussion in the third quarter. He sat out the rest of the game but should be ready to go again in plenty of time for the Northwestern contest.

Likewise, the two starters who missed all of the Pitt game should be ready to play against the Wildcats.

Offensive tackle Corey Stringer rested his sprained right ankle and will take advantage of the team's off week to rest it even more. And cornerback Marlon Kerner was held out with a sprained ankle and slightly bruised thigh. Both should be back in the starting lineup Oct. 2.

On The Plastic Stuff

When Ohio State switched back to natural grass for the 1990 season, it touched off a progression of schools that have since turned away from artificial surfaces.

Still, the Buckeyes play a few games on the plastic stuff each year. After winning on the artificial turf at Pitt Stadium, OSU ran its record to 7-2-1 on AstroTurf during the last three seasons.

Of the final four away contests on the 1993 schedule, two of them are on artificial surfaces. The Buckeyes travel to Illinois on Oct. 9 and Wisconsin on Nov. 6.

Despite their success the past three years, the Buckeyes haven't won on the Memorial Stadium plastic since 1987 and haven't taken a victory on the Camp Randall Stadium rug since 1990.

"He's been working out every day and I'm pleased about that," the head coach said. "We're going to need him

this year, so we figured we'd go ahead and get his feet wet."

Willard Loses Eligibility

OSU redshirt freshman tailback Lou Willard has been declared academically ineligible for the 1993 season and has dropped out of school.

Willard began experiencing academic difficulties over the summer and was attending classes during summer quarter. However, according to one source BSB contacted, Willard was no longer attending classes.

A prep All-American in 1990, Willard tore up a knee during his senior year at Grove City (Ohio) High School and missed almost the entire season. He had reconstructive surgery and then was a productive player during spring practice earlier this year, propelling himself into the fight for playing time at tailback.

More Tickets Available

It's not often that fans can purchase tickets to Ohio State football games, especially when the Buckeyes are in the top 10, but tickets were still available for the next two home games when BSB went to press Sept. 21.

Approximately 2,000 tickets were available for the Big Ten opener against Northwestern. The game is scheduled for Oct. 2 in Ohio Stadium. Kickoff is tentatively set at 1:30 p.m., and there will be no television coverage of the game.

Also, tickets remain for the Oct. 16 homecoming game against Michigan State. That game, which will also feature members of the 1968 national championship team being honored at halftime, is set to begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be televised on a regional basis by ABC.

To check on the availability of those tickets, call the OSU Athletic Ticket Office. Ohio residents may call toll free at 1-800-GO-BUCKS, while others can dial (614) 292-2624.

Smith Returns To Team

Senior offensive lineman Rod Smith finally returned to the team and saw his first action of the season against Pittsburgh.

Smith missed the first game of the season because of an NCAA suspension stemming from charging long distance telephone calls to university numbers.

He was barred from competing or practicing since then by Cooper because of a student loan that Smith had reportedly not paid back. The loan was finally repaid and Smith returned to the practice field three days before the Pitt game.

"Everything is under control and I'm ready to play," Smith told reporters.

A battler of weight and academic problems in the past, the 6-3, 305-pounder had reported to fall camp in the best shape of his OSU career and appeared to have been continuing his workouts while away from the team. That prompted Cooper to go ahead and play him against the Panthers.

Wrestling Team Suffers Major Blow When Randleman Loses Eligibility

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

The Ohio State wrestling team knew it would be without the services of graduated All-Americans Adam DiSabato, Rex Holman and Mike Schyck, but it expected two-time national champion Kevin Randleman back.

However, such will not be the case. Randleman has lost his academic eligibility and won't be part of the team for 1993-94.

"Kevin has flunked out," OSU wrestling coach Russ Hellickson told BSB. "I believe he will be attending Columbus State (community college) for a year and then try to finish his degree here. Getting his degree is the most important thing in his mind right now."

Randleman was national runner-up as a redshirt freshman at 167 pounds, then moved up to 177 and dominated, winning back-to-back titles and losing just twice in that span.

"He made a tremendous contribution to the program," Hellickson said. "I'm very appreciative of his efforts. He wants to wrestle internationally and has had some informal talks with people about possibly playing football at Ohio State as a senior. Whatever he wants to do, if he puts his mind to it he can do it."

Hellickson also spoke about former assistant coach Mark Coleman, arrested Aug. 4 for allegedly growing over 350 marijuana plants with intent to distribute. He and former Buckeye wrestler Tom Roehlig were charged with aggravated trafficking in drugs. The



Kevin Randleman

marijuana had a street value of about \$35,000 according to Columbus police commander Richard Morgan.

"Mark is a good person who made some mistakes and had poor associations," Hellickson said. "I'm not going to give up on the man and I don't think others should either. I'm not privy enough to all the information to talk about everything and I'm certainly not going to pass judgment on Mark. That's for the judicial system to do."

Coleman is currently free on bail pending an arraignment. He won the national title at Ohio State in 1988 and made the Olympics in 1992, finishing seventh at 220 pounds.

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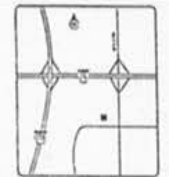
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