

## The Penn College Wrestling Club Team

Wrestling as a team sport previously existed at our institution for a number of years (1968-1983) and during that time fielded a very competitive program at the junior college level under the direction of Coach Max Wasson.

At present, wrestling is not one of the 14 varsity programs offered at Penn College. It is our desire to reorganize the program as an official Club team with the long term desire to reestablish the program at the varsity level.

Wrestling was offered (spring 2009) as an intramural program with over 40 students who expressed initial interest. The wrestlers who actually participated in program varied from 10-20 individuals and enjoyed practices of conditioning, drill and live wrestling.

One of our biggest challenges in formally organizing wrestling as an official club team is the need for equipment and we have been fortunate to be offered a mat on loan from Resilite for the 2009-10 season. The athletic department has also purchased a portable tripod style scoring/timing clock in anticipation of events to eventually be held on our campus.

We are moving forward with the organization of the club team to be recognized as a member of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association ([www.ncwa.net](http://www.ncwa.net)). As a member of the NCWA our wrestlers will be able to compete in the Northeast Conference which includes club teams from a number of schools (for complete information check out the NCWA web site).

Wrestlers will be eligible to compete in the NCWA National Tournament if they win their conference or finish in range of the allotted spots awarded to each weight class. The team will also compete at the NCWA National Duels Tournament.

At present we are working on a schedule for 2009-10 and have committed to multi-team events at PSU Dubois and also at Williamson. Participation in a number of tournaments (such as Ma Town USA, the Penn State Open, the East Stroudsburg Open, the Wilkes Open) will be investigated to give as many opportunities for competition as feasible during this first season of the club team existence.

Another option for competitions in our regional area will be events vs. Lycoming, Lock Haven University Bloomsburg University, and Bucknell University vs. their '2<sup>nd</sup> team' level wrestlers(formally junior varsity level type teams).

This will be a way to get some superb competition for our student athletes and also provide competition opportunities for athletes in these NCAA programs. A suggestion is set up these matches as preliminary matches prior to a regular varsity meet that is scheduled.

It is our intent to make contacts over the next month or so to work toward completion of our full schedule of events.

We feel confident that promoting the sport of wrestling will add to the many positive aspects of Penn College and will assist us in recruiting quality students to our campus.