Clackamas Wrestling Earns National Duals 3-peat

Fort Wayne, Indiana- The Clackamas Community College wrestling team won the NWCA National Dual Meet Championship this weekend to earn the 3rd straight National Dual Championship and 4th out of the past 6 years! The Cougars made the long journey to Indiana starting with a flight from Portland to Chicago then drove the 3 ½ hours to For Wayne before hitting the mats on Friday to take on #25 Triton whom they defeated in the opening round 47 to -1. “We started strong on Friday morning and really looked to put points on the board in that first dual,” said coach Josh Rhoden. The Cougars followed that up with a wild 16-15 win over #5 Iowa Western that took a major decision from Brendan Harkey and Brandon Johnson to allow the team to advance to Saturday morning’s semifinal vs. the #1 team in the country NE Oklahoma A&M.

The semifinal pitted two very familiar coaches in Joe Renfro (NE Oklahoma, Formerly of Labette) and Josh Rhoden. The two have competed against each other each year that Clackamas has attended the duals and on Saturday the Cougar team prevailed 26-10 with John Leal getting a huge individual win over #6 ranked Dawaylon Barnes at 157 lbs. Clackamas took 7 of the 10 contests and moved to Saturday night’s final for the 3rd straight time and this year against #2 Ellsworth Community College out of Iowa. The final was a pairing of two very evenly matched teams with swings in both direction for and against the Cougars. When the dust had settled the two teams were tied at 18 apiece. Based on NCAA rule the National Champion would be decided on criteria which Clackamas won by earning the most total match points 39-34 (tie broken by criteria 3.15.4).

“My initial reaction on being announced Champs was simply happiness for our guys,” said Cougars Head Coach Josh Rhoden on the accomplishment. “I am so proud of this group of men! Also too, a little relief as the road to that point was so exhausting.”

“I think it is so important to recognize all of the coaches, athletes, supporters, staff members and our trainer Kevin Arizo who have elevated our program to the point that we have three straight National Championships and have won four of the last six,” concluded coach Rhoden.”

Next Up: Clackamas moves to 12-2 on the year and will be up next against Southwestern Oregon CC in Coos Bay this Saturday night. We are back home January 23rd against West Region rival North Idaho
CLACKAMAS 19, ELLSWORTH 18*
125 - DeVaughn Sapien (Clackamas) over Tepra Wright (Ellsworth CC) Dec 8-3
133 - Michael Knoblauch (Clackamas) over Blake Walker (Ellsworth CC) Dec 6-1
141 - Bobby Alexander (Ellsworth CC) over Zechariah Bresser (Clackamas) Dec 6-3
149 - Christopher Garcia (Clackamas) over Marcus Thompson (Ellsworth CC) Fall 5:50
157 - Matthew Rodriguez-Kirkland (Ellsworth CC) over John Leal (Clackamas) Dec 7-2
165 - Sadarriss Patterson (Ellsworth CC) over Brendan Harkey (Clackamas) Dec 10-5
174 - Jordan Gundrum (Ellsworth CC) over Tommy Brewster (Clackamas) Fall 5:33
184 - Haszell West (Clackamas) over De`Andre Jones (Ellsworth CC) Dec 7-2
197 - John Morin (Clackamas) over Terry Martin (Ellsworth CC) Dec 6-0
285 - Dalonte Holland (Ellsworth CC) over Brandon Johnson (Clackamas) Dec 5-2
* - tie broken by criteria 3.15.4.

GO COUGARS!

Josh Rhoden
Head Wrestling Coach | HPE Instructor
Clackamas Community College