

# OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY **MONARCH WRESTLING**

## Mat Town USA



### Highway to Mat Town USA

The Monarchs of Old Dominion roll right into another tough tournament in 2006-07 as they head to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania to face off at the Mat Town USA Open. Three teams already registered for the open are ranked nationally. Penn State (8<sup>th</sup>), Edinboro (13<sup>th</sup>), and West Virginia (24<sup>th</sup>) will all be in attendance in addition to tough wrestlers from Lock Haven and Buffalo. Mat Town is just another step in Martin's tough schedule for 2006.

### Nationally Ranked

Christian Staylor was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the pre-season polls for the 125-pound weight class. Chris Brown and Ryan Williams join Staylor in the national rankings at 20<sup>th</sup> by Amateur Wrestling News. ODU has an immensely growing program including the number eight-ranked (W.I.N. Magazine) recruiting class.

### Rockin' Rookies

Head Coach Steve Martin has called upon his inexperienced grapplers early and many are answering to that call. The Monarchs continue to test themselves early with one of the toughest schedules in collegiate wrestling. At the Cornell Body Bar two of the top ten teams in the country and three in the top 25 were in attendance along with several other perennial powerhouses. The Monarchs threw a roster full of freshman at the field and got significant results.

True freshmen Adam Koballa and Jesse Strawn both placed for the second time of the early season. Koballa had the best performance for ODU with a third place effort including a rematch against Army's William Simpson that found Koballa dominate with a 16-5 major decision. Strawn added another tournament placing to his young career when he finished sixth in the 184-pound weight class.

Red shirt freshman Chris Brown also placed for the second time this season in the 157-pound weight class taking third at the Body Bar. Brown is 8-3 so far this season.

### 2005-06 Review

A senior led the way and a freshman followed suit. Senior Adam Wright went 34-7 to complete an excellent career at ODU including the conference title and undefeated CAA senior year at 6-0. Wright had eight falls, six technical falls, and five major decisions.

Newcomer Ryan Williams in the 133-pound weight class came on very strong and went 29-15. He led the team in pins with ten and added three major decisions. Being named to the All-CAA Rookie squad, coming in second at the CAA Tournament and an NCAA appearance capped an impressive rookie year for Williams.

The Monarchs went 11-7-1 overall and took just one loss in the conference in 2005-06. Every one of the Monarch starters had at least one fall and eight Monarchs placed in various tournaments last year.

### **Probable Starters:**

<u>Weight</u>	<u>ODU</u>
<b>125</b>	<b>Kyle Hutter</b>
<b>133</b>	<b>Adam Koballa/B.J. Compton</b>
<b>141</b>	<b>Ryan Williams</b>
<b>149</b>	<b>Kaylen Baxter/Joey Metzler</b>
<b>157</b>	<b>Chris Brown</b>
<b>165</b>	<b>Nick Pullano</b>
<b>174</b>	<b>Derek Coffey/Bryan Koz</b>
<b>184</b>	<b>Jesse Strawn</b>
<b>197</b>	<b>David Mendoza</b>
<b>Hwt.</b>	<b>Matt Pellar</b>

## 2006-07 ODU Schedule/Results

<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>at Purdue</b>	<b>17-18 L</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>MSU Open</b>	<b>5 placed</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Cornell Body Bar</b>	<b>4 placed</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Mat Town</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>Penn State Open</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Dec. 8</b>	<b>vs. George Mason</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Dec. 16</b>	<b>Citadel, N.C. State</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Dec. 29</b>	<b>Southern Scuffle</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Dec. 30</b>	<b>Southern Scuffle</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Jan. 6</b>	<b>Virginia States</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Jan. 12</b>	<b>Virginia Duals</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>Virginia Duals</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>CAA Duals</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Jan. 20</b>	<b>CAA Duals</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>N. Iowa, N. Illinois</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>vs. Virginia Tech</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b>vs. American</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>at Missouri</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Mar. 2</b>	<b>CAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Mar. 3</b>	<b>CAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Mar. 15</b>	<b>NCAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Mar. 16</b>	<b>NCAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>NCAA Tournament</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>A</b>

### About the Coaches

Head Coach Steve Martin has led the Monarchs to a 23-12-1 mark as he enters his third year at the helm. In the CAA the Monarchs have dominated with a 12-3-1 mark. Martin comes from a powerhouse of high school wrestling in Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake. In 14 years as head coach, the Great Bridge Wildcats won 13 state championships.

Martin is assisted by Lee Pritts, Mike Dixon, and Jon Sioredas. Pritts left a solid position at Missouri to come to the building ODU program and has been with Martin since his inception. Pritts, an All-American wrestler, has coached six NCAA All-Americans and two finalists.

Dixon, also with Martin all three years, brings great recruiting skills and knowledge of the CAA coming from James Madison. He has experience coaching championship contenders while at the University of Indianapolis.

Sioredas is a first-year coach with a wealth of knowledge about the sport. Named an All-American and ranked as high as 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally, Sioredas is now using his skills to teach.

### By Weight Class

**125:** Christian Staylor returns to the tune of pre-season rank number 18. After taking a year off to focus on academics, Staylor will try to reinstate his dominance at the 125-pound group. He won the CAA two years ago in this class. True freshman Kyle Hutter will see time as well at 125. He was a 2005 and 2006 Junior National Champion and Fila Cadet All-American.

**133:** Adam Koballa has started the season on fire with a third and fourth place finish at the two tournaments this season. B.J. Compton is sure to factor into this weight class throughout the season as well.

**141:** Ryan Williams is already ranked in his new weight class. Amateur Wrestling News ranked Williams 20<sup>th</sup> this week. As a rookie, Williams led the team in pins and was CAA runner-up in the 133-pound weight class. Williams has already placed twice this season.

**149:** Kaylen Baxter and Joey Metzler will fight for the spot at 149. Baxter red-shirted last season and Metzler is a high school state champ and should make an immediate impact.

**157:** Chris Brown is currently ranked 20<sup>th</sup> looks to make a run at the national spotlight this season as a red-shirt freshman. Brown wrestled for Martin at Great Bridge High School and continues learning under the coach at ODU. Brown has already placed twice this season.

**165:** Nick Pullano has become a mainstay in the ODU lineup and will be Martin's go-to at 165. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mat Town USA last season. Pullano also wrestled under Martin in high school.

**174:** Red-shirt freshman Bryan Koz and true freshman Derek Coffey will battle for this spot. Both were state finalists in high school and Coach Martin expects this to be a very highly competitive weight class.

**184:** Jesse Strawn, a high school All-American, will immediately join the starting lineup for Martin. Strawn was a two-time state champion and was selected to the CAA's pre-season All-Rookie team. Strawn has already placed twice this season.

**197:** David Mendoza earned a trip to the NCAA tournament last season and will look to build on that success this season. He slides up a weight class and fills the void Adam Wright left.

**Hwt:** Matt Pellar, a red shirt freshman, finishes out Martin's lineup. A two-time all-state competitor.

## So Far This Season:

### **ODU at Purdue Dual 11/10/06**

#### **17-18 Loss**

#### **Final Results**

Hwt. - Kasten (Purdue) def. Mendoza (ODU)	6-4
125 - Staylor (ODU) def. Tucker (Purdue)	4-1
133 - Doggett (Purdue) def. Koballa (ODU)	13-6
141 - Williams (ODU) def. Cook (Purdue)	11-6
149 - Patascil (Purdue) def. Baxter (ODU)	7-6
157 - Brown (ODU) def. Howe (Purdue)	7-5 (OT)
165 - Pullano (ODU) def. Martin (Purdue)	20-5
174 - Corpe (Purdue) def. Koz (ODU)	6-5
184 - Coffey (ODU) def. Goebel (Purdue)	5-4
197 - Moore (Purdue) def. Strawn (ODU)	fall-2:44

The Monarchs held a lead only a pin could beat going into the final match of the day when senior and hometown wrestler Nathan Moore of Purdue subdued Jesse Strawn. It was a back and forth dual featuring several fantastic bouts. Red shirt freshman Chris Brown won 7-5 in overtime, sophomore Ryan Williams dispatched his opponent 11-6 and junior Nick Pullano earned a technical fall winning 20-5.

### **ODU at MSU Open 11/12/06**

#### **5 Wrestlers Placed**

#### **Final Results**

2 <sup>nd</sup> – Chris Brown (157)
3 <sup>rd</sup> – Ryan Williams (141)
6 <sup>th</sup> – David Mendoza (197)
8 <sup>th</sup> – Adam Koballa (133)
8 <sup>th</sup> – Jesse Strawn (184)

ODU had a strong showing at the MSU Open against over 360 wrestlers from 21 different schools. Chris Brown finished a great weekend going 4-1 at the Open defeating three seeded opponents. Also continuing early season success was Ryan Williams with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place effort. Williams went 5-1 with his only loss coming in a 6-5 squeaker against No. 2 nationally ranked and number one seed at the MSU Open Andy Simmons. David Mendoza, Adam Koballa and Jesse Strawn all placed for the Monarchs on the first weekend of competition in 2006.

### **ODU at Cornell Body Bar 11/18/06**

#### **4 Wrestlers Placed**

#### **Final Results**

3 <sup>rd</sup> – Adam Koballa (133)
4 <sup>th</sup> – Ryan Williams (141)
4 <sup>th</sup> – Chris Brown (157)
6 <sup>th</sup> – Jesse Strawn (184)

ODU faced a tough group at the Cornell Body Bar as head coach Steve Martin fielded a roster of nearly all freshmen. Junior Nick Pullano and sophomore Ryan Williams were the only two grapplers with more than two days of official collegiate experience at the Bar. Rookies Adam Koballa, Jesse Strawn and red shirt freshman Chris Brown stepped up to the challenge. Koballa ran the table in the wrestlebacks to steal 3<sup>rd</sup> from the man who knocked him out of the championship bracket, William Simpson (Army). The four placewinners for the Monarchs also placed at the MSU Open and have garnered national attention for Coach Martin this season.



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