2020-21 Virginia Tech Wrestling Match Notes

# **Game Info**

March 18-20 | NCAA Championships **Enterprise Center** St. Louis, Mo.

# **How to Watch**







# **INFORMATION**

# No. 3 Virginia Tech

# **Hokies**



# **NOTES**

# **TOP 5 SEEDS**

- The Hokies have four wrestlers seeded in the Top 5 for the 2021 NCAA Championships, the second most in school history: Sam Latona (2 seed), Korbin Myers (3 seed), Mekhi Lewis (4 seed) and Hunter Bolen (5 seed).
- The most Top 5 seeds in one NCAA Championships in school history is five which was achieved at the 2017 NCAAs.

# **ALL-AMERICANS**

- Tech has had at least one All-American in each of the last nine NCAA Champion-
- The most All-Americans the Hokies have had in one year is six at the 2016 NCAA Championships.
- VT has had 40 All-Americans in program history.

# **TEAM FINISH**

- The Hokies' highest placement at the NCAA Championships is fourth which was achieved at the 2016 NCAAs. The team had six All-Americans and two third-place finishes that year.
- The team has placed in the Top 11 in eight straight NCAA Championships, placing in the Top 10 in six during that span.
- The Hokies scored a program-high 82.0 points at the 2016 NCAAs.

# **RETURN OF THE KING**

- The reigning, defending 165-pound national champion Mekhi Lewis returns to the NCAAs two years after his incredible run at the 2019 NCAA Championships.
- Seeded eighth, Lewis knocked off the No. 1, 4 and 2 seeds in succession to win the program's first national championship.
- This year, Lewis is seeded fourth after being the consensus No. 1 165-pounder for the majority of the year, before getting injured in the last dual of the season.

· Lewis also became Tech's first Most Outstanding Wrestler at the championships.

# **NATIONAL FINALISTS**

- The Hokies have had three national finalists in program history, including national champ Mekhi Lewis.
- Devin Carter became Tech's first national finalist in 2014 at 141 pounds.
- Current Tech volunteer assistant coach Jared Haught made the finals at 197 pounds in 2018.

# **ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- The Hokies finished second at the 2021 ACC Championships after winning the ACC Dual Meet Championship.
- Sam Latona and Korbin Myers won their first ACC Championships while Bryce Andonian, Hunter Bolen and Hunter Catka all finished second.

# **UNDEFEATED SEASON**

- With its 27-12 win over Pitt, Virginia Tech wrestling clinched its seventh undefeated regular season in program history, the first since 1956-57.
- At 9-0, 2020-21 is the longest undefeated season in school history, surpassing 1954-55 at 8-0.
- Tony Robie is the fourth head coach in program history to have an undefeated season, joining Frank Teske, George Herring and S.B. Sutton.

# **FAMILIAR FIRST MATCHUPS**

- Brvce Andonian and Dakota Howard will both face off against opponents they've already faced this season in the First Round Thursday.
- · Andonian, seeded sixth at 149 pounds, will see ACC foe Josh Finesilver after pinning the Duke wrestler in 1:02 in the dual meet.
- · Howard, as the 174-pound 27 seed, will see Kent State's Andrew McNally, who beat Howard earlier this year in a 13-8 decision.

# **RECORD VS. QUALIFIERS**

- Five of the eight Hokie qualifiers have winning records vs. fellow qualifiers.
- Hunter Bolen has a team-high five wins, Sam Latona has four, Mekhi Lewis and Korbin Myers each have three wins while Bryce Andonian has two.

# **Schedule**

JANUA	RY		
2 10 10 10 22 29	CAMPBELL vs. Ohio vs. Kent State at West Virginia VIRGINIA* at Duke*	BLACKSBURG, VA. Morgantown, Va. Morgantown, Va. Morgantown, Va. BLACKSBURG, VA. Durham, N.C.	W, 28-6 W, 39-6 W, 32-9 W, 24-10 W, 19-15 W, 42-3
30	at North Carolina*	Chapel Hill, N.C.	W, 23-9
FEBRU	ARY		
5	NC STATE*	BLACKSBURG, VA.	W, 17-16 crit.
12	PITT*	BLACKSBURG, VA.	W, 27-12
28	ACC Championships	Raleigh, N.C.	Second Place
20	ACC Championships	Kaleigii, N.C.	Second Place
MARCH	4		
18	NCAA Championships (Day 1)	St. Louis, Mo.	All Day
19	NCAA Championships (Day 2)	St. Louis, Mo.	All Day
20	NCAA Championships (Day 3)	St. Louis, Mo.	All Day
	Treat championships (buy 5)	3.1 23 4.3, WO.	7 III Duy
CAPS = H	OME   AT $=$ ROAD   $*$ $=$ ACC CONFERENCE MAT	гсн	

# VIRGINIA TECH CONTACT

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# Social









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# COMPETITORS

WT	Name	W-L	MD	TF	F
125	2 Sam Latona	10-0	3	1	0
133	3 Korbin Myers	8-0	3	0	0
149	6 Bryce Andonian	8-2	3	0	2
157	28 Connor Brady	8-5	2	0	0
165	4 Mekhi Lewis	8-2	2	2	1
174	27 Dakota Howard	5-5	0	1	0
184	5 Hunter Bolen	9-1	2	1	0
285	18 Hunter Catka	9-2	2	3	0

MD = MAJOR DECISION | TF = TECHNICAL FALL | F = FALL

# **QUALIFIERS**

- · With the inclusion of Mekhi Lewis' at-large bid, Virginia Tech has eight qualifiers for the 2021 NCAA Championships.
- Seven Hokies automatically qualified in the 2021 ACC Championships, including ACC Champions Sam Latona and Korbin Myers.
- •Tech had the same amount of qualifiers for the 2016 NCAA Championships, where the team placed a program-high fourth.



**General Notes** NCAA Championships

# **Final NWCA Coaches Poll**

February 23 | Opponents in italics

rebraary 25   Opponents in italies							
	Team	W-L	Conf.	Prev.			
1	lowa (14)	(5-0)	Big Ten	1			
2	Penn State	(5-0)	Big Ten	2			
3	Virginia Tech	(9-0)	ACC	3			
4	Michigan	(5-1)	Big Ten	4			
5	Missouri	(10-0)	MAC	5			
6	Oklahoma State	(10-0)	Big 12	6			
7	NC State	(6-1)	ACC	7			
8	Nebraska	(7-1)	Big Ten	8			
T-9	Minnesota	(7-2)	Big Ten	9			
T-9	Arizona State	(6-0)	Pac-12	10			
11	Illinois	(5-3)	Big Ten	11			
12	Ohio State	(5-4)	Big Ten	12			
13	Iowa State	(9-3)	Big 12	13			
14	North Carolina	(5-2)	ACC	14			
15	Northern Iowa	(4-4)	Big 12	15			
16	Pittsburgh	(3-4)	ACC	16			
17	Navy	(5-1)	EIWA	18			
18		(3-5)	Big Ten	17			
19		(5-5)	Big 12	19			
20	Virginia	(3-3)	ACC	20			
21	Central Michigan	(5-2)	MAC	21			
22	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	(8-1)	SoCon	22			
23	Michigan State	(2-5)	Big Ten	23			
24	Rider	(4-1)	MAC	24			
25	Wyoming	(3-3)	Big 12	NR			

Others Receiving Votes: Rutgers 18, Northwestern 16, Appalachian State 11, West Virginia 7, Hofstra 6, Binghamton 3, Lehigh 3, Northern Colorado 2, Wisconsin 1, Stanford 1, North Dakota State 1



# 2020-21 ACC Standings

Team	Overall	ACC	Pct.
Virginia Tech*	9-0	5-0	1.000
NC State	6-1	4-1	.857
North Carolina	5-2	3-2	.714
Virginia	3-3	2-3	.500
Pitt	3-4	1-4	.429
Duke	0-5	0-5	.000

\*- ACC Dual Meet Champions

# **Championship Schedule** Day 1

Round of 32

Round of 16 Day 2

Quarterfinals Semifinals

Day 3

Medal Rounds

Finals

# **RECORD VS. 2020-21 OPPONENTS**

Campbell	16-2
West Virginia	12-11-2
Kent State	1-4
Ohio	3-8
Virginia	49-28-1
Duke	32-12-1
North Carolina	40-31-2
NC State	28-35-1
Pitt	6-12

# **G**ENERAL **I**NFORMATION

921121012 1111 91111011	
University Name	Virginia Tech
Location	Blacksburg, Va.
Founded	1872
Enrollment	34,000
President	Dr. Timothy Sands
Director of Athletics	Whit Babcock
Nickname	Hokies
Mascot	Hokie Bird
Colors	Chicago Maroon and Burnt Orange
Affilliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Atlantic Coast
Home Stadium	Cassell Coliseum
Capacity	8,925
INFORMATION	
2019-20 Record	
2019-20 Conference Record / Tournament Finish	2-3 / 5th
2020 ACC Individual Champions	1
2020 NCAA Qualifiers	9
Returning Starters	6
Staff	
Head Coach (Alma Mater)	
Virginia Tech Record / Years	43-11 / Fourth season
Overall Record / Years	43-23 / Five years
Associate Head Coach	Jared Frayer (Oklahoma)
Assistant Coach	Cody Brewer (Oklahoma)
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Jared Haught (Virginia Tech)
Director of Operations	Tucker Davidson (Radford)
Athletic Trainer	Sean Collins (Montana)
Strength & Conditioning	Brian Neal (Bridgewater College)

ROSTER	••••••	••••••	DII	an Near (Bridgewater College)
Name	Yr.	Wt. (lbs.)	Hometown	High School / Previous School
Bryce Andonian	So.	149	Kirtland, Ohio	St. Edward
Hunter Bolen	r-Jr.	184	Floyd, Va.	Christiansburg
John Borst	r-Jr.	285	Stephens City, Va.	Sherando
Connor Brady	r-Fr.	157	Powell, Ohio	Liberty
Hunter Catka	Fr.	285	Brookhaven, Penn.	Sun Valley
Kolton Clark	r-Fr.	174	Scottsboro, Ala.	Scottsboro
Caden Darber	r-Jr.	149	Williamsburg, Va.	New Kent
Sam Fisher	Fr.	174	Warrenton, Va.	Fauquier
Jordan Florence	r-So.	165	Bealeton, Va.	Liberty
Collin Gerardi	r-So.	133	Powhatan, Va.	Powhatan
Mario Gonzalez-Escobar	Fr.	174	Chantilly, Va.	Chantilly
Brandon Green	Fr.	174	Swedesboro, N.J.	Paulsboro
Jake Hart	r-So.	157	Fort Mill, S.C.	Fort Mill
Sam Hillegas	Fr.	141	Pittsburgh, Penn.	North Hills
Simeone Holmes	Fr.	174	Midlothian, Va.	Cosby
Dakota Howard	r-So.	197	Cleveland, Ohio	St. Edward
Colby Kassir	Fr.	184	Virginia Beach, Va.	Cape Henry Collegiate
Sam Latona	r-Fr.	125	Alabaster, Ala.	Thompson
Mekhi Lewis	r-So.	165	Bound Brook, N.J.	Bound Brook
Korbin Myers	Gr.	133	Carlisle, Pa.	Boiling Springs / Edinboro
Joey Prata	r-Sr.	125	Richmond, Va,	St. Christopher's School
Stanley Smeltzer	r-Jr.	197	Smithfield, Va.	Smithfield
Andy Smith	Fr.	197	Christiansburg, Va.	Christiansburg
Alex Swoope	Fr.	157	Virginia Beach, Va.	Floyd E. Kellam
Nick Thompson	Fr.	125	Fort Worth, Texas	All Saints Episcopal
Jarrett Tronge	So.	285	Powhatan, Va.	Powhatan
Clayton Ulrey	Fr.	165	Grantville, Penn.	Lower Dauphin
Nathan Warden	Fr.	174	Coal City, W. Va.	Christiansburg
Brandon Wittenberg	r-Fr.	125	Haymarket, Va.	Battlefield



2



# Tony ROBIE (ROH-bee)

- Fourth season as Virginia Tech head coach
- 2019 & 2017 ACC Coach of the Year
- Led the Hokies to two ACC Tournament titles and an ACC Dual Meet title
- Been on staff at Virginia Tech since
   2006
- Previously served as head coach at Binghamton

# The Robie File

# **PERSONAL**

HOMETOWN: Erie, Pennsylvania FAMILY: Wife, Jennifer; Sons, Nate, Luke Jake COACHING RECORD AT VIRGINIA TECH: 43-11 (4th year) CAREER HEAD COACHING RECORD: 43-23 (.646)

# **EDUCATION**

Edinboro - Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice JOINED TECH STAFF: April 17, 2006 PROMOTED TO TECH HEAD COACH: March 21, 2017 YEARS OF COLLEGIATE HEAD COACHING: 5 YEARS OF COLLEGIATE COACHING: 22

# COACHING HISTORY

2017- Virginia Tech (Head Coach)
2006-17 Virginia Tech (Assistant Coach)
2005-06 Binghamton (Head Coach)
2000-04 Michigan (Assistant Coach)
1999-00 Edinboro (Assistant Coach)
1998-99 West Virginia (Assistant Coach)

# WRESTLING HISTORY

Two-time All-American at Edinboro and a 1997 NCAA finalist at 158 pounds. Went 126-23 in his collegiate career. Three-time Eastern Wrestling League champion and Pennsylvania Athletic Conference champion. Earned a bronze medal at the 1998 U.S. Open Freestyle Championships. Inducted into the Edinboro Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

# **POSTSEASON**

# **NCAA Championships**

2017 - 6th Place / Five All-Americans

2018 - 8th Place / Three All-Americans

2019 - 11th Place / Three All-Americans

2020 - No Championships / Two All-Americans

# **ACC Championships**

2017 - 1st Place / Six ACC Champions

2018 - 1st Place / Four ACC Champions

2019 - 2nd Place / Three ACC Champions

2020 - 5th Place / One ACC Champion

2021 - 2nd Place / Two ACC Champions

When Virginia Tech head wrestling coach Tony Robie came to Blacksburg in 2006, he was an associate head coach who inherited a barren program that had the potential to be great. Progressively he helped build the Hokies into one of the top programs in the ACC and a mainstay in the top 10 nationally. Three full seasons into his tenure as head coach, Robie is still leading the Hokies into new territory.

In 2019-20, the program rose up the ranks to the No. 3 spot in the National Wrestling Coaches of America Coaches Poll, the highest rank under Robie and tied for the highest in its history. He helped the progression of redshirt sophomore Hunter Bolen, who went on to win his first ACC title in 2020 and was the No. 2 seed for the 2020 NCAA Championships at 184 pounds. True freshman Bryce Andonian and fifth-year senior David McFadden were also ACC runners-up in 2020 under Robie's tutelage.

In 2018-19, Robie helped guide Mekhi Lewis to the program's first national championship and Most Outstanding Wrestler honors at the 2019 NCAA Championships in Pittsburgh. Lewis' title run at 165 pounds wrapped up a season that saw the Hokies finish in the top 11 at the NCAA Championships for the eighth consecutive season and a top two placing at the ACC Championships for the seventh straight year. Tech had three All-Americans and three ACC champions in Lewis, Zack Zavatsky and David McFadden. Robie's performance earned him 2019 ACC Coach of the Year accolades, his second time receiving the honor.

In his first season leading the program, Robie continued Virginia Tech wrestling's run of success as the Hokies won its second consecutive ACC Championship and placed eighth at the NCAA Championships in Cleveland.

Robie became the first coach in the history of ACC wrestling to guide his team to conference championships in his first two seasons. With Robie on staff, Virginia Tech has won four ACC titles over the last seven years and seven conference trophies overall when including dual meet championships.

In Robie's first full campaign, Virginia Tech placed at least three wrestlers on the podium at nationals for the sixth consecutive season. Jared Haught led the group of three All-Americans in 2018 by becoming the Hokies' second-ever national finalist, joining Devin Carter in 2014. Four Hokies – Haught, David McFadden, Brent Moore and Dennis Gustafson – won ACC titles, with Moore taking home Most Valuable Wrestler honors. Robie also coached McFadden to a regular season record of 30-0, the first undefeated season at Virginia Tech since 2001-02.

In duals, Robie led the Hokies to a 14-3 overall record, a 4-1 mark in ACC matches and a final ranking of No. 10 in the final NWCA Coaches Poll. Robie's 14 dual meet victories ranks second in the ACC record book for most wins by a first-year head coach behind Wade Schalles' 15 wins with Clemson in 1978. His. 824 winning percentage ranks third all-time in ACC history for a rookie head coach. In Virginia Tech history, Robie's winning percentage ranks first among rookie head coaches while his 14 wins ranks second behind Tom Brands' 16 dual meet wins in 2004-05. Robie, who started five freshmen in duals for a majority of the season, was also named a finalist for the Theraworx NWCA National Coach of the Year award.

On March 21, 2017, Robie was promoted to head wrestling coach at Virginia Tech after serving as interim head coach since February of that year. During that span, Robie led the Hokies to the team title at the ACC Championships and a sixth-place finish at the 2017 NCAA Championships in St. Louis – Tech's fifth-straight

top-10 finish at nationals.

Robie was an integral part of the Virginia Tech wrestling staff for 11 seasons as associate head coach under former head coach Kevin Dresser. Between that 2006-07 and 2016-17, the Hokies won three ACC Dual Meet Championships, three ACC tournament championships and finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships five times. One of those top 10 team finishes included a then-ACC record and program best fourth place finish in 2016. He also helped recruit and coach 17 ACC champions and 14 All-Americans.

Robie came to Blacksburg after serving as the head coach at Binghamton University, a program that had been discontinued after the 2003-04 school year because of budget constraints. Before taking over at Binghamton, he was an assistant coach for four seasons at the University of Michigan.

In seven years as a Division I assistant coach, Robie helped coach 23 All-Americans, nine Academic All-Americans and one national champion. As the Wolverines' top assistant coach, Robie recruited three top-10 classes, including the No. 2 ranked class in 2004. His one-on-one work with Michigan student-athlete Ryan Bertin culminated with Bertin's 2003 NCAA championship - the school's first national champion in 18 years. In all, Michigan's team earned national top-10 status all four years that Robie was a coach there. His dedication and influence off the mat resulted in the wrestling team winning the 2003 community service award at the school.

Robie joined the Michigan staff after coaching stops at West Virginia (1998-99) and Edinboro (1999-00).

A world-class wrestler in his own right, Robie was a two-time All-American at Edinboro and a 1997 NCAA finalist at 158 pounds who turned in a career record of 126-23. A two-time captain for Olympic gold medalist Bruce Baumgartner, Robie was a three-time Eastern Wrestling League Champion and a three-time Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) champion. As a senior, Robie led the Fighting Scots to a sixth-place national finish - the highest in school history. He ranks fourth on the school's all-time wins list and went on to earn a bronze medal at the 1998 U.S. Open Freestyle Championships. In 2008, he was inducted into the Edinboro Sports Hall of Fame.

A native of Erie, Pa., Robie was a Dean's List student at Edinboro and received the school's Academic Achievement Award before graduating with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1997. Robie and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Christiansburg with their three children – Nate, Luke and Jake.





**Player Pages** NCAA Championships



# BRYCE **ANDONIAN** (an-DOH-nian)

Sophomore

St. Edward Kirtland, Ohio

Major:

**Human Development** 

6 seed

# **TWO-TIME NCAA QUALIFIER** TWO-TIME ACC RUNNER-UP

## ON THE MAT

- Finished second at the ACC Championships for the second straight year.
- Defeated NC State's Ed Scott for the second time this season with an 11-6 decision in the ACC semifinals.
- · Five of his eight wins this season are bonus-point victories (three major decisions, two falls).
- Defeated Pitt's Mick Burnett via 10-1 major decision to close out the regular season at 7-1, 4-1 ACC (2/12).
- Got an important 9-5 decision win over NC State's Ed Scott (2/5).
- · Added his second ranked win of the season over No. 19 Josh Finesilver of Duke, winning by fall in just 1:02 (1/29).
- Defeated Virginia's Denton Spencer in an 8-0 major decision to open the ACC season with a win (1/22).
- Went 2-0 at the quad meet at West Virginia, including a pin in 1:36 (1/10).
- Defeated ninth-ranked Josh Heil of Campbell in the first dual of the season to add a top-10 victory to his resume (1/2).
- · Qualified for the 2020 NCAA Championships after securing an automatic bid at the 2020 ACC Championships.
- Took second place in the 149-pound weight class at the 2020 ACC Championships.
- Went 8-3 in duals in his first season of collegiate wrestling after having his redshirt pulled midseason, including a team-best 4-1 in ACC competition.
- · Led the team in falls with six on the season and pinned an opponent in just 58 seconds.
- Won by fall vs. West Virginia (1/11/20) to secure his first career bonus point victory.
- Made his dual debut vs. Chattanooga (12/21/19) and won a 5-3 decision over his opponent Tanner Smith.
- Went 9-2 in open tournament competition.
- Was the 20th-ranked recruit out of high school in the class of 2019 according to FloWrestling.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2019-20	18-6	8-3	4-1	6	1	6	0:58	37
2020-21	8-2	7-1	4-1	3	0	2	1:02	30
Career	26-8	15-4	8-2	9	1	8	0:58	67

VS. '20-'21 OPF	PONENTS	IN THE RANKINGS			
Dual / ACC Dual / A	CC Championships	WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK
OPP.	RESULT	1	20	20	17
Josh Heil (Campbe	ll) W, 12-9 dec.	2	13	16	10
Alex Mosconi (Ohio		3	12	16	10
•	est Virginia)W, 11-3 MD	4	12	16	10
Denton Spencer (Vi		5	12	16	9
Josh Finesilver (Dul Austin O'Connor (Nor	ke) WBF, 1:02 th Carolina) L, 11-4 dec.	6	11	16	9
Ed Scott (NC State)	W, 9-5 dec.	7	10	13	10
Mick Burnett (Pitt)	W, 10-1 MD				
Ed Scott (NC State)	W, 11-6 dec.	ACC	7	12	8
Austin O'Connor (No.	rth Carolina)L, 10-8 dec.	NCA	<b>A</b> 5	9	5
		1			



# **HUNTER BOLEN** (BOH-len)

**Redshirt Junior** 

Christiansburg Floyd, Va.

Major: Comm. Science and Social Inquiry

5 seed

2020 ACC CHAMPION THREE-TIME NCAA QUALIFIER 2020 VASID WRESTLER OF THE YEAR 2018 ACC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR 2018 VASID FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

## ON THE MAT

- · Finished second at the ACC Championships after a decision over Gregg Harvey and an overtime loss to Trent Hidlay.
- Only Hokie to go a perfect 5-0 in ACC play.
- Beat Pitt's Gregg Harvey by 12-4 major decision to finish out the regular season at an undefeated 8-0 (2/12).
- Defeated No. 4 Trent Hidlay of NC State by 2-1 decision (2/5). He is now 3-0 vs. Hidlay in his career and hasn't surrendered a takedown.
- Got his first ranked win of the season with an 8-3 decision over UNC's No. 15 Clay Lautt (1/30).
- Opened the ACC season with a 10-4 decision over Virginia's Michael Battista (1/22).
- Got his first bonus-point win of the season with a 17-2 tech fall and followed it up with a 18-6 major decision at the West Virginia quad meet (1/10).
- Won his first ACC Championship over NC State's Trent Hidlay (3/8/20) in a 2-1 decision at the 2020 ACC Championships in Pittsburgh, Penn.
- Oualified and was the No. 2 seed at 184 pounds for the 2020 NCAA Championships before they were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Finished the 2019-20 campaign with a 24-2 record and the No. 1 ranking from Intermat.
- Placed third at the Cliff Keen Invitational after a 5-1 showing, including 4-1 against ranked opponents.
- Won the title at the Navy Classic after going 5-0.
- Claimed an 8-1 decision over Ohio State's Zach Steiner (10/3/19) to help the Hokies pull the upset on the Buckeyes.
- Redshirted during the 2018-19 season.
- Won ACC Freshman of the Year during the 2017-18 season after going 21-12 and an undefeated 4-0 in conference competition. CAREER STATS

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2017-18	21-12	7-5	4-0	1	2	3	1:27	27
2019-20	24-2	12-1	3-1	4	2	2	1:58	45
2020-21	9-1	8-0	5-0	2	1	0	-	31
Career	54-15	27-6	12-1	7	5	5	1:27	103

<b>VS. '20-'21 OPPONEN</b>	ITS	IN T	HE RANKIN	GS
Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Cham	pionships	WK	INTERMAT	FI
OPP.	RESULT	1	2	:
Caleb Hopkins (Campbell)	W, 4-3 dec.	2	2	:
Tyler Bates (Kent St.) W, 1		3	2	
Anthony Carman (West Virgin		4	2	
Michael Battista (Virginia)		5	2	
Unknown (Duke) W Clay Lautt (North Carolina)		6	2	
Trent Hidlay (NC State)	W, 2-1 dec.	7	2	
Gregg Harvey (Pitt)	W, 12-4 MD			
Gregg Harvey (Pitt)	W, 3-1 dec.	ACC	1	
Trent Hidlay (NC State)	L, 3-1 (SV-1)	NCA	<b>A</b> 3	
		l .		

IN THE KANKINGS						
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK			
1	2	2	2			
2	2	2	2			
3	2	2	2			
4	2	2	2			
5	2	2	2			
6	2	2	2			
7	2	2	2			
ACC	1	1	1			
NCA	<b>A</b> 3	2	4			

NCAA Championships Player Pages



# **CONNOR BRADY**

Redshirt Freshman

Liberty Powell, Ohio

Major: Business

28 seed

# **HUNTER CATKA** (CAT-ka)

Freshman

Sun Valley Brookhaven, Penn.

Major: Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise

18 seed

# **2021 NCAA QUALIFIER 2021 ACC THIRD PLACE**

## ON THE MAT

- Placed third at the ACC Championships after a 3-1 showing, with his only loss coming to Justin McCoy who placed second.
- Finished out the regular season with his first bonus-point win, a 12-1 major decision over Pitt's Tyler Badgett (2/12).
- Got his first two ACC dual wins with back-to-back decisions against Duke (1/29) and North Carolina (1/30).
- Made his ACC dual debut vs. Virginia (1/22).
- Won his first match for Virginia Tech in a 14-1 major decision against Kent St and followed it up with an 8-2 decision win vs. West Virginia (1/10).
- Redshirted during the 2019-20 season and went 9-2 wrestling unattached.
- · Placed fifth at the 2019 Wolfpack Wrestling Club Open after going 5-1 with two major decisions and a win-by-fall.
- Went 4-1 to finish fifth at the 2019 Southeast Open to finish fifth.
- No. 9 overall recruit in the country from the class of 2019 according to FloWrestling.
- Won the titles at Super 32 and Ironman.
- · Three-time state placer.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2020-21	8-5	5-3	3-2	2	0	0	-	17

## VS. '20-'21 OPPONENTS Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Championships

Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Champ	ποιισιιιρο
OPP.	RESULT
Ben Barton (Campbell)	L, 7-4 dec.
Troy Nation (Campbell)	L, 11-6 dec.
lan Senz (Kent St.)	W, 14-1 MD
Alex Hornfeck (West Virgini	a)W, 8-2 dec.
Justin McCoy (Virginia)	L, 3-2 dec.
Brandon LaRue (Duke)	W, 9-3 dec.
Josh McClure (North Carolin	a)W, 6-1 dec.
Hayden Hidlay (NC State)	L, 9-4 dec.
Tyler Badgett (Pitt)	W, 12-1 MD
Unknown	W, forfeit
Justin McCoy (Virginia)	L, 8-6 dec.
Brandon LaRue (Duke)	W, 9-3 dec.
Josh McClure (North Carolina)	W, 4-3 dec.

INT	HE RANKIN	GS	
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK
1	-	-	23
2	-	-	26
3	-	-	26
4	-	-	27
5	-	-	28
6	-	-	29
7	-	-	33
ACC	-	-	33
NCA	A -	-	30

# **2021 NCAA QUALIFIER** 2021 ACC RUNNER-UP

# ON THE MAT

- Outperformed his three seed at the ACC Championships, finishing second after upsetting Virginia's Quinn Miller in the semifinals.
- Has not allowed more than four points in a match to any opponent
- Beat Pitt's Austin Cooley 12-4 for his second ACC win of the season and fourth bonus-point win (2/12).
- · Won his first career ACC dual match by securing bonus points in an 18-1 technical fall in 5:45 over Duke's Jonah Niesenbaum (1/29).
- Made his ACC dual debut vs. Virginia (1/22).
- Won his first dual match of his career with a 10-4 decision vs. Ohio and followed it with his first dual bonus-point win in a 17-3 major decision against West Virginia (1/10).
- Beat Luke Davis of Campbell in the extra matches via technical fall for his first victory and bonus-point victory of his career (1/2).
- Top heavyweight recruit in the country from the class of 2020 accordign to FloWrestling.
- Two-time Pennsylvania state champion.
- · Won the title at the 2019 Beast of the East.
- · 2019 Cadet World Team member.
- 2019 Super 32 champion.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	lechs	Falls	Time	Points
2020-21	9-2	4-1	2-1	2	3	0	-	15
VS '20	_'21 ∩P	PONEN	TS	l IN	THE RA	NKING		

# VS. '20-'21 OPPONENTS

Duai / ACC Duai / ACC C	nampionsnips
OPP.	RESULT
Luke Davis (Campbell)	W, 17-2 TF (5:39)
Jordan Earnest (Ohio)	W, 10-4 dec.
Michael Wolfgram (West \	/irginia)W, 17-3 MD
Quinn Miller (Virginia)	L, 4-0 dec.
Jonah Niesenbaum (Du	ke)W, 18-1 TF (5:45)
Brandon Whitman (North C	Carolina) W, 4-3 dec.
Austin Cooley (Pitt)	W, 4-0 dec.
Jake Slinger (Pitt)	W, 12-4 MD
Jonah Niesenbaum (Duke	e) W, 17-0 TF (4:20)
Quinn Miller (Virginia)	W, 5-4 dec.
Deonte Wilson (NC State)	L. 2-1 (TB-1)

IIA I	LE KAINVIIA	G5	
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3	-	-	18
4	-	-	19
5	-	-	19
6	-	-	-
7	-	-	-
ACC	-	-	-
NCA	<b>A</b> 11	22	18

**Player Pages** NCAA Championships



# DAKOTA **HOWARD**

**Redshirt Sophomore** 

St. Edward Cleveland, Ohio

Major: Public Health

27 seed

# **2021 NCAA QUALIFIER 2021 ACC THIRD PLACE**

## ON THE MAT

- Outperformed his four seed at the ACC Championships to clinch an automatic bid for the NCAA Championships with a third-place finish.
- Was down 7-2 at the start of the third period of the ACC third-place match before escaping and rattling off three straight takedowns to force sudden victory. Howard clinched the bid with a takedown in the first 10 seconds of OT.
- Earned his second ACC win of the season in convincing fashion, beating Pitt's Jared McGill by 21-6 technical fall in 5:05 (2/12).
- Named ACC Wrestler of the Week (2/2) after upsetting No. 9 Devin Kane of North Carolina.
- Knocked off No. 9 Devin Kane of North Carolina for the biggest win of his career in an 8-7 decision, helping the Hokies take down the Tar Heels (1/30).
- Made his season debut at the West Virginia quad meet (1/10).
- Made his dual debut at the Moss Arts Center match at 184 pounds versus Duke (2/8/20), winning by 23-6 technical fall in 4:36, for his first career ACC win.
- Placed second at the 2020 Appalachian Open after going 3-1 at the
- Finished sixth at the 2019 ARMS Software/GMU Patriots Open after a 3-2 showing.
- · Went 2-2 at the 2019 Navy Classic.
- Placed fourth at the 2019 Wolfpack Wrestling Club Open going 2-2 at the tournament.
- Finished fifth at the 2019 Southeast Open after a 3-1 showing.
- Redshirted during the 2018-19 season and went 9-2 competing unattached in three open tournaments.
- Was the No. 10 recruit of out high school in the class of 2018 at 195 pounds according to FloWrestling.
- 2017 Ohio freestyle state champion.
- 2018 Ohio state runner-up.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2019-20	14-8	1-0	1-0	5	5	0	-	5
2020-21	5-5	2-4	2-2	0	1	0	-	8
Career	19-13	3-4	3-2	5	6	0	-	13

# VS. '20-'21 OPPONENTS

Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Championships								
OPP.	RESULT							
Andrew McNally (Kent St.	) L, 13-8 dec.							
Scott Joll (West Virginia)	L, 13-8 dec.							
Vic Marcelli (Virginia)	L, 6-4 dec.							
Devin Kane (North Carolin	a) W, 8-7 dec.							
Daniel Bullard (NC State)	L, 10-2 MD							
Jared McGill (Pitt) W,	21-6 TF (5:05)							
Jared McGill (Pitt)	W, 8-6 (SV-1)							
Daniel Bullard (NC State)	L, 6-0 dec.							
Conor Becker (Duke)	W, 11-5 dec.							
Vic Marcelli (Virginia)	W, 11-9 (SV-1)							

INT	HE RANKIN	GS	
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3	-	-	-
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
6	-	-	32
7	-	-	32
ACC	-	-	21
NCA	Α -	-	20



# SAM LATONA (luh-TONE-a)

Redshirt Freshman

Thompson Alabaster, Ala.

Major: Business

2 seed

# **2021 ACC CHAMPION NCAA QUALIFIER**

# ON THE MAT

- · Highest seeded freshman in school history.
- Won his first ACC Championship with an overtime win over Jakob
- Defeated Pitt's Colton Camacho to finish off an undefeated regular season in his first year as a starter via 12-3 major decision (2/12).
- · Named College Wrestler of the Week by The Open Mat (2/8) and ACC Wrestler of the Week (2/9) after his thrilling win over No. 4 Jakob Camacho.
- Pulled off the biggest win of his career in a 7-4 decision over No. 4 Jakob Camacho to win the dual for the Hokies vs. the Wolfpack (2/5). Scored a takedown and two-point near-fall with seconds remaining to steal the match and dual.
- Had another ACC bonus-point win with a 18-7 major decision over UNC's Will Guida (1/30).
- Made his ACC dual debut vs. Virginia (1/22), and secured his first career technical fall, winning 18-3 over Sam Book.
- Named ACC Wrestler of the Week on Jan. 12 after his showing at the West Virginia quad meet.
- Was the only Hokie to go 3-0 at the West Virginia quad meet, including a 3-2 decision win over No. 12 Killian Cardinale (1/10).
- Won his dual debut in a 6-3 decision over Campbell's Zurich Storm
- Redshirted during the 2019-20 campaign.
- · Went 20-2 competing unattached in five tournaments.
- Placed third at the 2020 Southern Scuffle after a 6-1 showing with his only loss coming All-American Nick Piccinnini of Oklahoma State.
- Won titles at the 2020 Appalachian Open, 2019 ARMS Software/GMU Patriots Open and 2019 Southeast Open.
- Placed third at the 2019 Wolfpack Wrestling Club Open, going 4-1 with two major decisions and a technical fall.
- Three-year letterwinner at Thompson High School.
- Two-time Fargo national champion.
- · 2018 Super 32 finalist.
- 2017 Alabama state champion.
- Ranked No. 51 on FloWrestling's Class of 2019 Big Board.
- Two-time NHSCA national champion.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2020-21	10-0	8-0	4-0	3	1	0	-	29

VS. '20-'21 OPPONEN	ITS	INT	<b>HE RANKIN</b>	GS	
Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Cham	pionships	WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK
OPP.	RESULT	1	18	10	14
Zurich Storm (Campbell)	W, 5-3 dec.	2	18	9	13
Unknown (Ohio)	W, Forfeit	3	12	9	9
Jake Ferri (Kent St.)	W, 10-2 MD	4	10	12	11
Killian Cardinale (West Virgi		5	10	11	11
	18-3 TF (7:00)	6	8	10	9
Will Guida (North Carolina)	,	7	5	2	5
Jakob Camacho (NC State) Colton Camacho (Pitt)	W, 7-4 dec. W, 12-3 MD	′	3	2	,
Patrick McCormick (Virginia)	W, 12-7 dec.	ACC	5	2	3
Jakob Camacho (NC State)	W. 2-1 (TB-1)	NCA	-	2	3
sance camacho (Ne State)	, 2 . (10 1)	1467	m +	2	3

NCAA Championships Player Pages



# MEKHI **LEWIS** (ma-KAI)

**Redshirt Sophomore** 

Bound Brook Bound Brook, N.J.

Major: Human Development 165

4 seed

2019 NATIONAL CHAMPION (165)
2019 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS' MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER
2019 ACC CHAMPION
2019 ACC WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
2018 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION (74 KG)
2018 JUNIOR WORLD TEAM MEMBER (74 KG)

## ON THE MAT

- Seeded fourth as the reigning 165-pound national champion.
- Earned his third ranked win of the season in the third straight week with a 5-0 shutout victory over No. 15 Thomas Bullard (2/5).
- Took down No. 8 Kennedy Monday 4-3 for his first top-10 win of the season, second ranked win (1/30).
- Registered the fastest pin of his career, winning in just 34 seconds vs. Duke (1/29).
- Won his ACC season debut with an 8-2 decision over Virginia's No. 15 Jake Keating (1/22), improving to 6-0 in conference matches.
- Had two bonus-point victories at the West Virginia quad meet, major decision and technical fall (1/10).
- Opened the 2020-21 season with a major decision win in the dual vs. Campbell and a technical fall victory in the extra matches (1/2).
- Took an Olympic redshirt last season to qualify and train for the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials.
- Captured Virginia Tech wrestling's first individual national championship at the 2019 NCAA Championships as the No. 8 seed.
- Defeated top-seeded Alex Marinelli of Iowa in the quarterfinals (3-1), the No. 4 seed Evan Wick of Wisconsin in the semis (5-2) and the No. 2 seed, two-time defending national champion Vincenzo Joseph of Penn State, in the final (7-1).
- Was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler by the NWCA, joining Cael Sanderson (Iowa State, 1999) as the only freshmen to win the award.

# CAREER STATS

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2018-19	28-2	13-1	5-0	8	3	2	3:55	53
2020-21	8-2	7-1	4-1	2	2	1	0:34	29
Career	36-4	20-2	9-1	10	5	3	0:34	82

VS. 20-21 OPPONENTS				
Dual / ACC Dual / ACC C	hampionships			
OPP.	RESULT			
<b>Austin Kraisser (Cample</b>	oell) W, 13-4 MD			
Jack Ervien (Campbell)	W, 17-2 TF (5:43)			
Colt Yinger (Ohio)	W, 12-2 MD			
James Limongi (Kent St	.) W, 17-2 TF (6:47)			
Jake Keating (Virginia)	W, 8-2 dec.			
Eric Carter (Duke)	WBF, 0:34			
Kennedy Monday (North Carolina)W, 4-3 dec.				
Thomas Bullard (NC Sta	te) W, 5-0 dec.			
Jake Wentzel (Pitt)	L, Injury Default			
Jake Keating (Virginia)	L, Injury Default			

VC 120 121 ODDONENTS

IN THE RANKINGS					
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK		
1	1	1	1		
2	1	1	1		
3	1	1	1		
4	1	1	1		
5	1	1	1		
6	1	1	1		
7	1	1	1		
100	4	1	_		
ACC NCA	4	1	5 5		
NCA	A /	1	5		



# KORBIN MYERS

**Graduate Student** 

Boiling Springs / Edinboro Carlisle, Penn.

Major: Agriculture and Life Sciences

133

3 seed

# 2021 ACC CHAMPION FOUR-TIME NCAA QUALIFIER 2019 ACC THIRD-PLACE

## ON THE MAT

- · Highest NCAA seed of his career.
- Won his first ACC Championship with a 3-1 decision over Micky Phillippi.
- Beat a ranked opponent by major decision for the third straight week with a 13-5 win over No. 13 Jarrett Trombley (2/5). Has now beaten the No. 11, 12 and 13 wrestlers in the country.
- Won via 11-2 major decision over UNC's No. 11 Jaime Hernandez for his second straight bonus-point win over a ranked opponent (1/30).
- Beat No. 12 Louie Hayes of Virginia by 12-1 major decision in his ACC season debut (1/22), registering his first bonus-point victory of the season.
- Won both his dual matches at the West Virginia quad via decision (1/10).
- Returned to the mat with a win over Campbell's Gabe Hixenbaugh in the first dual of the season (1/2).
- Missed all of last season with an injury and was granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA.
- · Quailified for the 2019 NCAA Championships.
- Placed third at the 2019 ACC Championships.
- Went 20-10 during the 2018-19 season, his first in Blacksburg after transferring from Edinboro.
- Named ACC Wrestler of the Week (1/29/19) after knocking off Pitt's Micky Phillippi and Lehigh's Brandon Paetzell.
- Left Edinboro with a 74-34 career record including his redshirt year.

# **CAREER STATS**

Year	Overall	Dual	ACC	MD	Techs	Falls	Time	Points
2016-17	30-12	10-5	0-0	11	3	3	0:53	37
2017-18	28-11	11-2	0-0	7	2	3	1:38	39
2018-19	20-10	9-4	3-2	5	2	2	3:41	34
2020-21	8-0	6-0	3-0	3	0	0	-	21
Career	86-33	36-11	7-2	26	7	8	0:53	131

# VS. '20-'21 OPPONENTS

Dual / ACC Dual / ACC Champ	ionships
OPP.	RESULT
Gabe Hixenbaugh (Campbe	ll)W, 4-1 dec.
Mario Guillen (Ohio)	W, 7-2 dec.
Joey Thomas (West Virginia	) W, 8-2 dec.
Louie Hayes (Virginia)	W, 12-1 MD
Jaime Hernandez (North Carolin	
Jarrett Trombley (NC State)	
Joe Heilmann (North Carolina)	W, 10-3 dec.
Micky Phillippi (Pitt)	W, 3-1 dec.

IN THE KANKINGS				
WK	INTERMAT	FLO	TRACK	
1	10	8	11	
2	9	7	11	
3	8	7	9	
4	8	7	9	
5	8	7	9	
6	8	7	9	
7	7	7	8	
1.00	_	4	4	
ACC	5	4	4	
NCA	4 4	4	4	



**Bryce ANDONIAN** 149 lbs. | So. Kirtland, Ohio an-DOH-nian



**Hunter BOLEN** 184 lbs. | r-Jr. Floyd, Va. BOH-lin



John BORST Heavyweight | r-Jr. Stephens City, Va.



Connor BRADY 157 lbs. | r-Fr. Powell, Ohio



**Hunter CATKA** Heavyweight | Fr. Brookhaven, Penn. CAT-kuh



Kolton CLARK 174 lbs. | r-Fr. Scottsboro, Ala.



Caden DARBER 149 lbs. | r-Jr. Williamsburg, Va.



174 lbs. | Fr. Warrenton, Va.



Sam FISHER Jordan FLORENCE 165 lbs. | r-So. Bealeton, Va.



141 lbs. | r-So. Powhatan, Va.



Collin GERARDI Mario GONZALEZ-ESCOBAR 174 lbs. | Fr. Chantilly, Va.



**Brandon GREEN** 174 lbs. | Fr. Swedesboro, N.J.



Jake HART 157 lbs. | r-So. Fort Mill, S.C.



141 lbs. | Fr. Pittsburgh, Penn. HILL-ee-gas



Sam HILLEGAS Simeone HOLMES Dakota HOWARD 174 lbs. | Fr. Midlothian, Va. SIM-E-ohn



174 lbs. | r-So. Cleveland, Ohio



Colby KASSIR 184 lbs. | Fr. Virginia Beach, Va. KASS-eer



Sam LATONA 125 lbs. | r-Fr. Alabaster, Ala. luh-TOHN-a



Mekhi LEWIS 165 lbs. | r-So. Bound Brook, N.J. ma-KAI



Korbin MYERS 133 lbs. | Gr. Carlisle, Pa.



Joey PRATA 125 lbs. | r-Sr. Richmond, Va. PRAH-tah



Stan SMELTZER 197 lbs. | r-Jr.



Andy SMITH 197 lbs. | Fr. Smithfield, Va. Christiansburg, Va.



Alex SWOOPE 157 lbs. | Fr. Virginia Beach, Va. **SWOPE** 



Nick THOMPSON 125 lbs. | Fr. Fort Worth, Texas



Jarett TRONGE 285 lbs. | So. Powhatan, Va. **TRONG** 



Clayton ULREY 165 lbs. | Fr. Grantville, Penn. OOL-ray



Nathan WARDEN Brandon WITTENBERG 174 lbs. | Fr. Coal City, W. Va.



125 lbs. | r-Fr. Haymarket, Va. WHIT-in-burg



Tony ROBIE Fourth Season ROH-bee



Jared FRAYER Head Coach Associate Head Coach Fourth Season



Cody BREWER Second Season



Jared HAUGHT Assistant Volunteer Assistant Second Season **HAWT** 

