NHSCA WRESTLING ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS NAMED FOR 2003-04 ACADEMIC YEAR

EASTON, Pa. – The National High School Coaches Association has once again selected its class of NHSCA Academic All-American wrestlers, with 67 athletes from 27 different states being honored in the Class of 2003-04.

"The academic awards presented by the National High School Coaches Association are obviously among the most important and deserving honors that the organization can present," said NHSCA executive director Bob Ferraro. "The athletes that receive NHSCA Academic All-American status are the young leaders that will no doubt become active difference-makers in their communities. They have learned the meaning of discipline and hard work, both in the class room and in their extracurricular ventures. The NHSCA is proud to announce the Academic All-American Class of 2003-04."

Athletes from across the nation submitted applications to be consider for the prestigious NHSCA award. In order to be ultimately selected for the Academic All-America status, athletes had to maintain a 3.4 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, and either place at their respective state wrestling tournament at least once in their career, or place at the NHSCA Senior Championships. Listed below are this year's recipients of the award, by graduating class.

Members of the graduating Class of 2003-04 selected for NHSCA Academic All-American wrestling status include: Kyle Altman of Albuquerque (N.M.) Academy; Luke Burkhardt of Shadyside (Ohio) High; Ben Cannon of Freeland High in Saginaw, Mich.; Jay Carlile of Battle Ground (Wash.), High; Rafael Chavez of Rock Springs (Wyom.) High; Jay Coman of C.E. Jordan High in Durham, N.C.; Shaun Dee of Southridge High in Beaverton, Ore.; Jalil Dozier of Jack Britt High in Fayetteville, N.C.; TJ Duvall of Ragsdale High in Greensboro, N.C.; Michael Eden of Grand Island (Neb.) Central Catholic; Dustin Fox of Galion (Ohio) High; Don Funk of Jonesville (Mich.) High; Andrew Gold of Mount Saint Joseph's High in Mount Airy, Mary.; Cody Grant of Torrington (Wyom.) High; Josh Greene of Hopkins School in Bethany, Conn.; Andrew Grillo of Holly Central High in Albion, N.Y.; Brady Hampton of Marshfield High in Coos Bay, Ore.; Tim Harner of Norristown (Pa.) High; Michael Jones of Sulpher (La.) High; Matthew Keefer of South Albany (Ore.) High; Michael Keefer of South Albany (Ore.); Taylor Layman of Franklin Road Academy in Brentwood, Tenn.; Chris Murray of Franklin Road Academy in Brentwood, Tenn.; T.H. Leet of The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Ga.; Max Lieberman of Hopkins School in New Haven, Conn.; Luke Lofthouse of Mountain Crest High in Avon, Utah; Dustin Ryan McCabe of Gloucester (Va.) High; Justin McFarland of C.E. Jordan High in Durham, N.C.; Matt McGill of Lomira (Wisc.) High; Eric McKee of A.C. Reynolds High in Fairview, N.C.; Adam Melton of Wadsworth (Ohio) High; Nick Miraglissolo of Woodstock (Conn.) Academy; Michael Nunn of Charlotte (N.C.) Latin High; Anthony Orio of Eastern Regional in Vorhees, N.J.; Bryan Osuna of Calvary Chapel High in Huntington

Beach, Calif.; Matt Pendle of Raritan High in Hazlet, N.J.; Kevin Robinson of North Iredell High in Statesville, N.C.; Leo Saniuk of Copley High in Akron, Ohio; Chet Alan Slevin of Ferndale (Wash.) High; Kyle Robertson of Corunna High in Owosso, Mich.; Clint Sponseller of West Holmes High in Glenmont, Ohio; Nick Sugalski of Woodruff High in Enoree, S.C.; Tyler Tubbs of Chokio-Alberta High in Chokio, Minn.; Dan Turner-Evans of Hopkins School in Bethany, Conn.; Dan Vallimont of Jefferson Township High in Lake Hopatcong, N.J.; Dustin Walker of Sulphur (La.) High; Wesley Walker of Countryside High in Tarpon Springs, Fla.; Mykel Walsh of Panguiteh (Utah) High; Casey White of Walled Lake Central in Commerce, Mich.; Tyler Wortman of Grand Island (Neb.) Central Catholic; Andrew Willuweit of Gregory (S.D.) High; Lior Zamir of Fair Lawn (N.J.) High; Blaine Ziegler of Sheridan High in Banner, Wyo.

The 2003-04 class of juniors selected for the award include: Wil Carter of Union Grove High in McDonough, Ga.; Steven Kim of The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Ga.; Levi Mele of Uintah High in Vernal, Utah; Jairus Murton of Lawrence County High in Louisa, Kent.; Jayson Ness of Bloomington (Minn.) Kennedy High; Tony Pescaglia of Columbia (Missouri) Hickman High; Kevin Robinson of North Iredell High in Stateville, N.C.; Eric Seamando of Hettinger (N.D.) High; Bryan Sigmon of Bandys High in Claremont, N.C.

And the sophomore selections for Academic All-American wrestler for 2003-04 by the NHSCA include: Steven Gilbert of Albuquerque (N.M.) Academy; Zach McKeon of Riverwood High in Marietta, Ga.; Joseph N. Moutoux of Neshaminy High of Langhorne, Pa.; Daniel Rucker of Cherokee High in Woodstock, Ga.

An important note on the NHSCA Academic All-American wrestling award is that in the 2004-05 academic year, the deadline for application will be moved up to May 1, 2005. In the past this deadline has not been until August. Athletes and coaches should be sure to note this deadline change in submitting applications for 2004-05.

The National High School Coaches Association is a not-for-profit 501c3 service organization founded in 1989 to provide support and leadership programs for the nation's 500,000 high school coaches and 10 million high school athletes. The NHSCA selects Coaches and Senior Athletes of the Year in 20 boys and girls sports, and sponsors 10 national championship events in the sports of wrestling, golf, and soccer. The 15th annual National High School Seniors Wrestling Championships attracted 804 entries from 48 states to Cleveland, Ohio in April. The NHSCA also sponsors the National High School Football Strength, Speed and Agility Championship in May in Allentown, Pa., the National Open High School Golf Championships for Men and Women and the National Open High School Wrestling Championships in Virginia Beach in June. For a complete list of this year's events, visit the NHSCA's web site at www.nhsca.com.



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adam Melton

in recognition of your academic and athletic excellence

September 1, 2004

Robert / Jurano
NHSCA Executive Director