

2009 Junior Duals Team Indiana Trip



The 2009 Junior Duals started their quest for a National Duals Title by having a mini-camp at Lawrence North High School. This was a late move due to construction at the Purdue University Athletic Facilities. Team selection and participation was hindered by the recent economic climate as well as the AAU national Championships (Disney Duals). The Disney Duals saw 16 teams from the state of Indiana competing which furthered down the talent pool in which the duals team is selected.

First up was Greco where Team Indiana landed in Pool C. The team started strong with a win versus Michigan Blue despite

forfeiting 3 weight classes and losing John Walker at 135 due to injury. Being down 4 athletes in a National Duals Competition is very arduous at best but Team Indiana was able to show its resolve as it was able to score in double digits in every dual it wrestled. A 1-4 record landed the team in Consolation Tournament #2. With backs against the wall the team was able to defeat Team New Jersey 43-26 and Team Minnesota (2) 34-32 to claim the Consolation Tournament 2 Championship. The team finished with a very solid 3-4 record in Greco despite all the adversity it faced with forfeits and injuries. There are several special mentions that need to be recognized in Greco with the first going to Cameron Vlahos (160 lbs.) who went 7-0 on the trip and was selected to the All Tournament Team. Another special mention goes out to Nate Cleveland who, although primarily a Folkstyle specialist, stepped in for the team and was able to win or score points that enabled the team to defeat Michigan in pool competition and Minnesota (2) in the Consolation Tournament 2 Final.

Members of Team Indiana Greco were: Patrick Parham (105), Curtis Smith (112), Cody Kendle (119), Chris Head (125), Derek Lundsford (130), John Walker (135), Will Mascaro (140), Bryce Schendel (145), Joe Lile (152), Cameron Vlahos (160), Drake Stein (171), Huey Hudson (189) and Nate Cleveland (215 & Hwt.)

The Freestyle Team entered the duals with high expectations as it boasted several individuals who had previous dual experience. The team, in Pool D, started the competition by dropping its first dual against Iowa in a very large eye opening experience. That experience prompted the team to win two straight against Nebraska 47-20 and South Dakota 39-29 setting up the dual versus pool number 2 seed Florida. The Florida dual was pivotal as the team needed to beat Florida if it had any shot at winning a spot in the All-American round. After several tense moments Team Indiana was declared the winner of the dual despite a 32-32 tie. The tie-breaker, at the time, was determined to be an unsportsmanlike conduct point deducted at 98 lbs. Apparently that point was later reinstated and the decision was reversed, although I was never notified of this fact. The apparent win over Florida set up a showdown with California and the right to wrestle in the All-American pool. With much excitement and several lead changes the team dropped its final match in Pool D by a score of 33-27 landing the team in Consolation Tournament #1. In tournament action the team found itself facing a familiar foe in Minnesota 2 whom the Greco team defeated earlier in competition. The Freestyle team did not have the same luck as it fell 31-31 to a very motivated Minnesota team. There were many bright spots for the team but none as bright as Camden Eppert (119) who was 6-0 for the trip and was placed on the All-American Tournament Team.

Members of Team Indiana Freestyle were: Paul Petrov (98), Patrick Parham (105), Cody Kendle (112), Camden Eppert (119), Chris Head (125), John Petrov (130), Cashe' Quiroga (135), Will Mascaro (140), Bryce Schendel (145), Sam Bennett (152), Cameron Vlahos (160), Drake Stein (171), Tim Buckingham (189), Nate Cleveland (215), and Christian Lentz (285).

Special mention needs to be given to the Ironmen of the trip as Patrick Parham, Cody Kendle, Chris Head, Will Mascaro, Bryce Schendel, Cameron Vlahos, Drake Stein and Nate Cleveland all served Team Indiana by going both styles.

I would personally like to thank my coaching staff (Joe Willmann, Brady Eppert and Glen Lanham) for all their help in making this entire trip one the kids will never forget. I also want to thank Jared Williams and his staff at Lawrence North for stepping up at the last minute to host our training camp.

Tom Erickson

Team Indiana Junior Duals Team Leader