

ALL-AMERICANS



Jimmie **COX**

1929 | WHEELING, W.VA.

The first WVU wrestler to attain All-America honors, Jimmie Cox placed third at the 1929 NCAA Championships at Ohio State. Cox won three matches at 135 pounds in guiding West Virginia to a ninth-place team finish.



Robert **PERRY**

1955 | GROVE CITY, PA.

Robert Perry was one of two Mountaineers to earn All-America honors in 1955 at Cornell. Perry won his opening round match via fall over Syracuse's Don Clark at 115 pounds. He won two more matches before taking fourth-place honors to become WVU's second All-American.



Lewis **GUIDI**

1955 | MCMURRAY, PA.

Mountaineer Lewis "Lou" Guidi was the second WVU wrestler to earn All-America status at the 1955 NCAA Championships with a second-place finish. WVU's 123-pounder posted a 4-1 record before falling in the championship match to Pitt's Ed Peery. Guidi's runner-up finish, along with teammate Robert Perry's fourth-place result, pushed West Virginia to a 12th-place team finish. He was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.



Mark **CAGLE**

1979 | PHOENIXVILLE, PA.

Mark Cagle placed eighth out of 32 competitors at the 1979 NCAA Championships at Iowa State. Wrestling at 134 pounds, the sophomore posted a 21-5 season record, with all five losses coming to grapplers who had also qualified for the NCAAs, including eventual national champion Darryl Burley of Lehigh. Cagle became the Mountaineers' fourth All-American.



Jim **ACKERLY**

1987 | ERIE, PA.

West Virginia's fifth All-American wrestler, Jim Akerly brought the program national publicity with his back-to-back national rankings (ranked No. 3 as a sophomore and a junior). The first Mountaineer invited to participate in the East-West All-Star Classic, Akerly collected more wins (119) than any previous WVU grappler to lead the Mountaineers to four-consecutive Top 20 finishes. During his four-year association with the Mountaineer wrestling program, Akerly was a driving force behind a 45-23 team record. The Erie, Pa., native earned All-America status in 1987 at the NCAA Championships at Maryland, where he finished eighth at 150 pounds.



Michael **CARR**

1988 | ERIE, PA.

Wrestling only one season at WVU, Michael Carr, an Iowa State transfer, set a Mountaineer record at the time for most takedowns in a season with 70. Posting 39 wins, Carr became West Virginia's second Eastern Wrestling League individual champion. He also won titles at the Navy Turkey Bowl, Hoosier Invitational and the WVU Open. Carr earned All-America honors for his seventh-place finish in the 158-pound weight class at the 1988 NCAA Championships at Iowa.



Mark **BANKS**

1990, 1991 | YORK, PA.

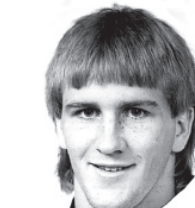
Wrestling for West Virginia from 1990-91, Mark Banks was one of the most accomplished wrestlers in Mountaineer history. Banks earned back-to-back fifth-place finishes at the NCAA Tournament in 1990 and 1991 at 167 pounds to become the Mountaineers' first two-time All-American. Banks, who competed in the National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Star Classic in 1991, also won consecutive 167-pound EWL titles with the Mountaineers, West Virginia's first two-time league titlist. Throughout his four-year career, which included two years at Bloomsburg, Banks compiled a 22-1 record in EWL dual matches. During his stay in Morgantown, Banks never lost a league match in 13 decisions and helped WVU win two league titles and earn a sixth-place finish at the 1991 NCAA Championships.



Dominic **BLACK**

1991 | LEXINGTON, KY.

Enjoying a banner collegiate career with the Mountaineers, Dominic Black finished as one of only five wrestlers in school history at the time to amass more than 100 career victories. Black capped his career with stellar seasons in 1990 and 1991. As a junior, he went 33-5 to establish a record for wins in a season by a Mountaineer 177-pounder, won an EWL title and competed in his second-consecutive NCAA Tournament. The following year, Black posted a 39-win season (third-best in school history), earned his second-consecutive EWL title and had a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Championships. In 1995, Black became the first West Virginia wrestler to ever represent the United States in an international event, as he won a gold medal in the 198-pound weight class at the World Cup of Freestyle. In 1999, Black made the U.S. World Wrestling Team, which participates in world championships. He won a national title and was a gold medalist at the 1999 Pan-American Games. He was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.



Scott **COLLINS**

1991 | CLEARFIELD, PA.

Scott Collins was one of the greatest wrestlers in West Virginia history. The two-time EWL finalist became the first Mountaineer to win a national title when he claimed first-place honors at the 1991 NCAA Championships at Iowa City. By becoming the EWL's 12th national champion, Collins was named co-EWL Wrestler of the Year. The 142-pounder also captured the 1991 EWL title. Collins, who went undefeated in EWL action during his national title season in 1991, ranked second in EWL history for most dual wins by a 142-pounder. Collins finished his career as the school's all-time win leader, and he helped the Mountaineers win two EWL titles. Collins registered a sixth-place finish at the 1991 NCAA Championships. He was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.



Doug **TAYLOR**

1993 | MILESBURG, PA.

Making his first NCAA appearance, Doug Taylor became West Virginia's seventh All-American at the 1993 NCAA Championships in Ames, Iowa. Taylor, who battled an injury-plagued season, finished fifth at 158 pounds. Taylor lost a controversial overtime decision in the semifinals, trying to become only the second Mountaineer wrestler to reach the NCAA final round. Taylor advanced to the NCAA Tournament by virtue of his second-place finish at the EWL Championships.



Dean **MORRISON**

1994 | AMITYVILLE, N.Y.

In 1994, Dean Morrison concluded his outstanding career by becoming the second West Virginia wrestler to win an NCAA title. Morrison defeated Wyoming's Reese Andy in Chapel Hill, N.C., to claim national supremacy and lead the Mountaineers to a 14th-place team finish. During his career, Morrison became the first wrestler in school history to win three Eastern Wrestling League titles (1992-94) and just the fourth to win more than 100 career matches (103). Named the 1994 EWL Wrestler of the Year, Morrison competed in the prestigious National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Star Classic in Pittsburgh. Morrison's 33 wins in 1994 also tied him with Dominic Black for the most wins by a Mountaineer 177-pounder in a season.



John **KOSS**

1997 | COLLINGSWOOD, N.J.

A powerful wrestler, John Koss became the first four-time NCAA qualifier in WVU history. Koss capped off a brilliant campaign by advancing to the semifinals of the 1997 NCAA Championships. He recorded an impressive 87 wins as a Mountaineer, which was seventh best at the time in school history. Koss wrestled to an 8-0 dual-meet record at 177 pounds his senior season to top off a career 23 wins in the EWL. After his first NCAA appearance as a freshman, Koss was named a fifth-team selection to the Amateur Wrestling News' all-rookie team.



Mike **MASON**

1997, 1998 | WILLIAMSTOWN, W.VA.

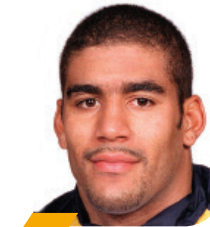
Mike Mason is remembered as one of the most diligent and hard-working wrestlers in the history of the program. The second WVU wrestler to be a two-time All-American – both at 150 pounds – and the first All-American from the state of West Virginia, Mason earned his first All-America honors in 1997 when he was seeded eighth and wrestled to the quarterfinal round. He posted a 35-5 record his junior year, including a 10-0 dual meet record. As a senior, Mason advanced to the NCAA semifinal, losing a controversial double-overtime decision, then came back to win two hard-fought matches and finish third for his second All-America honor. He competed in the NWCA All-Star Classic, won an EWL title and was the fifth WVU wrestler to reach 100 career wins.



Ian "Whitey" **CHLEBOVE**

1998, 1999 | NORTHAMPTON, PA.

A dangerous force at 134 pounds his junior year and 141 pounds his senior year, Ian "Whitey" Chlebove became a two-time All-American with his seventh-place finish at the 1998 NCAA Championships in Cleveland and his sixth-place finish at the 1999 NCAA Championships at Penn State. As a senior, Chlebove was ranked as high as fourth nationally during the season. As a junior, he was ranked as high as third. In 1996, Chlebove was one win away from All-America honors with a 3-2 finish at the tournament. After a redshirt season in 1997, he posted a 27-8 record in 1998 to set a WVU record at 134 pounds.



Vertus **JONES**

1998, 1999, 2000 | SLICKVILLE, PA.

One of the finest athletes to come through the WVU program, Vertus Jones became the Mountaineers' first three-time All-American with his second-place finish at the 2000 NCAA Championships in St. Louis. His first All-America honor came with a second-place finish at 177 pounds at the 1998 NCAA Championships in Cleveland. His second All-America honor came with a third-place finish at the 184-pound weight class at the 1999 NCAA Championships at Penn State. As a sophomore, Jones was the youngest of 20 finalists at the 1998 tournament and the youngest in WVU history to reach the NCAA finals. He is the first Mountaineer to be a four-time EWL champion and only the third EWL wrestler to be a four-time champion. He was the second WVU wrestler to win the EWLs as a freshman.

Jones posted a stellar 30-2 senior season at 184 pounds, setting the all-time West Virginia consecutive-wins streak at 24 and finished his career with a 95-21 mark, which was sixth best at the time at WVU.



Sam **KLINE**

1999 | ELKINS, W.VA.

A master of using his speed and size at 174 pounds, Sam Kline finished third at the 1999 NCAA Championships at Penn State to garner All-America honors, defeating three ranked opponents along the way. Kline capped off a stellar career with a 28-5 senior campaign, finishing with 84 wins to 22 losses. Kline won the 1999 EWL Tournament, the 1997 and 1998 WVU Open, and the 1997 and 1998 Navy Classic. He finished eighth at the 1998 Las Vegas Invitational.

During his career, Kline qualified for three NCAA Championships.



Greg **JONES**

2002, 2004, 2005 | SLICKVILLE, PA.

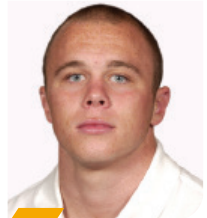
Greg Jones became the first Mountaineer to win multiple national titles with his 184-pound championship in St. Louis as a junior. He added to his legacy as a senior after blowing through competition yet again for his third national championship in four years.

During his senior year, Jones posted a perfect 25-0 record and was named the NCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. He became just the 20th wrestler in NCAA history to win multiple national titles at different weight classes.

As a junior, Jones posted his third victory of the tournament over Ben Heizer of Northern Illinois in winning his second crown, 10-5. Jones' performance was so dominant that he did not give up an offensive point during the entire 2004 NCAA Tournament, going 5-0.

In one of the most remarkable performances in the history of West Virginia athletics, freshman Jones cruised through the 174-pound bracket en route to the NCAA Championships. Jones was 34-2 and raked in numerous honors in his rookie campaign. At the NCAA Championships, Jones dominated the field by outscoring his opponents 62-27 and only allowing a takedown in the first round. He defeated Greg Parker of Princeton 12-5 in the finals.

A four-time EWL champion, he was twice named EWL Wrestler of the Year and was named the 2004 EWL Points Champion. In 2002, he was the EWL Tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler and the EWL Freshman of the Year.



Brandon **LAUER**

2003 | HIGHLAND, MD.

Despite missing portions of the season to injury, Brandon Lauer fought his way to an eighth-place finish at the NCAA Championships in Kansas City. Lauer trailed early in his first-round match, but went on to stun fifth-seeded Zach Roberson of Iowa State by pinning him at 4:21. He continued his roll with another fall in the second round, this time finishing off Jason Cuocolo of Sacred Heart in 2:19. After a narrow loss in the championship quarterfinals, Lauer needed one more win to assure himself of All-America status. He seemingly had the match in hand, but a late rally by Tom Clum of Wisconsin forced the match into overtime. Lauer was able to collect himself and quickly finished off the match with a takedown four seconds into the extra session for the sudden victory. Nursing an ailing knee, Lauer dropped his last two matches to finish eighth in the nation at 133 pounds.



Shane **CUNANAN**

2003 | SPOKANE, WASH.

Using intensity, determination and superior conditioning, Shane Cunanan willed himself to the national semifinals and All-America honors in 2003. After cruising to a first-round victory, he scored one of the tournament's biggest upsets at 141 pounds by shocking fifth-seeded Zach Esposito of Oklahoma State, 3-1, in overtime. Cunanan controlled most of the match, but could not convert on several opportunities. Finally, his tireless effort produced a takedown. In the national quarterfinals, the story was again the same as Cunanan controlled the match and wore his opponent down before taking the 5-3 victory over the tournament's seventh seed, Dana Holland of Arizona State. His roll ended with a heartbreaking 4-3 loss in the national semifinals and he eventually finished sixth. Cunanan, who qualified for the NCAA Tournament four times, finally was able to finish his career as an NCAA All-American.



Matt **LEBE**

2005 | JEANNETTE, PA.

Matt Lebe became WVU's 20th All-American the hard way by fighting through the 157-pound consolation bracket after losing his opening match of the NCAA Tournament. Lebe pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the 2005 tournament when he knocked off Stanford's defending national champion, Matt Gentry, 5-3. The Jeannette, Pa., native then faced Clarion's Chris Horning, whom he had beaten twice before earlier in the season. Lebe jumped out to a 4-1 lead and held off Horning for the rest of the match to escape with a 6-5 win. He later was knocked out of the tournament by Arizona State's Brian Smith and finished seventh overall.



Brandon **RADER**

2006, 2007 | PARKERSBURG, W.VA.

No WVU true freshman had ever wrestled his way to All-America status before Parkersburg native Brandon Rader did so at the 2006 NCAA Championships in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Parkersburg High graduate finished sixth in the tournament to become just the fourth West Virginia native to earn All-America status. Rader, seeded ninth in the 141-pound weight class, got off to a blistering pace as he pinned his first two opponents. In his third bout, the freshman faced No. 1 seeded and undefeated Nate Gallick of Iowa State and lost a very close 3-0 decision. Rader rebounded in the consolation bracket by defeating Pitt's Ron Tarquinio for the third time in 2006. He then defeated Virginia Tech's Dave Hoffman, 11-7, in the consolation quarterfinals.

In 2007 Rader repeated his All-America status by finishing sixth for the second-consecutive year. This time, he rebounded from a second-round loss, which forced him to win four-consecutive matches to get back to the NCAA platform. His defining match occurred in the consolation semifinals against No. 4-seeded Manny Rivera of Minnesota when he came away victorious, 9-5.

The win for Rader made him just the sixth Mountaineer wrestler in school history to earn multiple All-America honors when he did so during the third session of the NCAA Championships in Detroit.



Zeke **MOISEY**

2015 | NORTHAMPTON, PA.

Zeke Moisey started the season as a redshirt freshman and went on to end it as the NCAA runner-up at 125 pounds. After competing unattached for the first few weeks of the season, Moisey's redshirt was pulled on Nov. 13, 2015, when first-year head coach Sammie Henson inserted him into the lineup against Arizona State, where Moisey claimed a major decision. He topped several ranked opponents during the season before taking the runner-up spot at the 2015 Big 12 Championship in Ames, Iowa, dropping a 5-3 decision to No. 9 Eddie Klimara of Oklahoma State.

Moisey earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships, entering the tournament unseeded. He then upset No. 15 Chasen Tolbert of Utah Valley in a 14-6 major decision before knocking off No. 2 seed Nahshon Garrett of Cornell in a 5-3 decision. Moisey got his revenge on No. 7 seed Klimara in the quarterfinals, winning a 5-2 decision. However, his most impressive feat came in the semifinals when he used a cradle to pin No. 6 seed Thomas Gilman of Iowa in just 52 seconds to advance to the NCAA finals, where he lost a 9-5 decision to No. 4 seed Nathan Tomasello of Ohio State to end his magical run.

Though he did not come away with a national title, Moisey made his way into several record books. He became the first WVU All-American since 2007 and the 30th overall and was the first Mountaineer to wrestle for a national championship since Greg Jones did so in 2005. Moisey was also the first unseeded wrestler to make it to the NCAA finals since 2003.

