

Fourteen Freshman Join Wrestling Program

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Army West Point head wrestling coach Kevin Ward has announced the addition of 14 freshman to his program in preparation for the 2021-22 season.

The group is made up of cadet-athletes that represent 10 different weight classes and will join a program that sent seven wrestlers to the 2020 NCAA Championship, marking the team's third-consecutive year of achieving the feat.

“Overall, I think we are just really excited to finally get this recruiting class on campus and in the wrestling room,” Ward said. “This is a group of guys that showed tremendous belief in our program by committing to us through the lockdowns and all the strict covid protocols. And from what we’ve seen out of them already they are worth the wait. They are hard-working, eager to learn, and ready to contribute. No one should be surprised to see a few freshmen in our lineup this season.

Nic Botello | 149 lbs. | Mashpee, Ma. | Wyoming Seminary HS

Ward's thoughts: “Nic's a guy we've known for a long time. We started recruiting him early and knew he could be a good one for us. Injuries slowed him down last year, but he's healthy now and super anxious to compete. He's incredibly strong and has a style that should translate well to college wrestling.”

Kade Carlson | HWT | Salt Lake City, Utah | Corner Canyon HS

Ward's thoughts: “We got to know Kade when he came to our summer camp and were really impressed with his athleticism and work ethic. He's quick, has great balance, and is strong. He has all the tools to be a top-10 heavyweight.”

Dominic Falcone | 174 lbs. | Easton, Pa. | Easton Area HS

Ward's thoughts: “Dominic had an outstanding high school career at Easton HS in both football and wrestling. He is incredibly strong and powerful. When he hits techniques, he is so explosive and is a challenge for anyone at that weight. On top of that, he has leadership qualities that help make everyone around him better.”

Thomas Godbee | 197 lbs. | Vidalia, Ga. | Vidalia HS

Ward's thoughts: “We see a ton of upside in Tom. His technique is super raw, but he is eager to learn and has the attitude of a warrior. He competes at a high pace with the determination you would expect from an Army wrestler. As he refines his technique, he can become very competitive.”

Dalton Harkins | 165 lbs. | West Chester, Pa. | Malvern Prep

Ward's thoughts: “Dalton comes in as a highly-touted freshman that was ranked in the top five in the country in high school. He was part of the incredible rise of Malvern Prep, so he knows what it's like to help elevate a program. He's a competitor and a winner and we love his attitude.”

Zach Keal | 141 lbs. | Shawnee, Kan. | Mill Valley (USMAPS)

Ward's thoughts: “Zach is probably one of the best technical wrestlers in this recruiting class. He's the son of a high school coach, so he's been immersed in the sport for a long time. As he continues to

develop his strength and physicality, he should be able to compete for a starting spot early in his career.”

Kenny Kiser | 149 lbs. | Meadville, Pa. | Saegertown HS

Ward’s thoughts: “There’s a lot to love about this kid. He is unassuming and quiet, but the kid is a fierce competitor and finds ways to win. He’s not flashy but he gets it done. Very blue collar type guy with zero quit in him. Excited to see what he does.”

Preston Maucere | 149 lbs. | Deer Park, N.Y. | St. Anthony’s

Ward’s thoughts: “Preston is a very mature freshman who expects a lot out of himself. He has an exciting style and is good in all positions. He should be in the mix early at 149.”

Mark Metz | 157 lbs. | Cumming, Ga. | Pinecrest Academy

Ward’s thoughts: “We know this family well, as Mark’s older brother is a sophomore on our team. Mark is hard working, smart, and a talented wrestler. Those intangibles will help him fight his way into contention for a starting spot.”

Jake Staud | 125 lbs. | Morgantown, W.V. | University HS (USMAPS)

Ward’s thoughts: “Jake has been really well coached and it shows in his technique. He is good in all positions and can score points in a lot of different ways.”

Walker Stephenson | 184 lbs. | Simpsonville, S.C. | Hillcrest HS

Ward’s thoughts: “The first thing you notice when you watch Walker wrestle is his competitiveness. He has a fierce mentality and never concedes anything. He will be exciting to watch.”

Kyle Swartz | 197 lbs. | Dillsburg, Pa. | Northern York HS

Ward’s thoughts: “Kyle has as much potential as anyone on the team. He’s such a great athlete and incredibly mature for a freshman. Physically, he can match up with anyone and his attitude has been great. Once he makes some technical improvements everyone in the country will know his name.”

Richard Treanor | 133 lbs. | Davidson, N.C. | William Amos Hough

Ward’s thoughts: “Maybe the biggest surprise of the recruiting class. He had an incredible senior year of high school winning his 3rd state title and a national title to go along with it. He loves wrestling and loves to train. We could see him in the mix early on this season.”

Daniel Uhorchuk | 125 lbs. | Signal Mountain, Tenn. | Signal Mountain HS

Ward’s thoughts: “What’s impressed me most about Daniel is his focus. He loves to train and pays attention to the details in practice. Very coachable in that way.”

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