

FARGO 2019 16U & JUNIOR NATIONALS TEAM KANSAS



2019 USA Wrestling-Kansas 16U & Junior Nationals Recap

The 2019 Team Kansas contingent gathered in McPherson for their Fargo-prep camp at Central Christian College of Kansas on July 5th. After the three-day camp and few days back home, the team boarded the charter in Topeka for a drive to South Dakota for a one day camp at Legends of Gold. It was then on to Fargo for acclimation and weight reduction before 16U Freestyle action got underway.

The 2019 team was made up of seventy-eight members. The breakdown included; ten girls and twenty-nine boys in the 16U Division and six girls and thirty-three boys in the Junior Division. Of the group, twenty-seven came from the Class of 2020 (34%), twenty from the Class of 2021 (26%), the Class of 2022 took up thirteen roster spots (17%), incoming freshmen from the Class of 2023 were represented by ten individuals (13%), and the outgoing Class of 2019 had eight individuals on the team (10%). Using the 2018-19 KSHSAA classification system; 45% of the team came from the 5A classification, 29% from 6A, 23% from 4A, and 3% from 321A. Five high schools had three representatives on the team (Olathe North, Mill Valley, Maize, Kapaun, and Goddard). Chanute High School had four representatives on the team and Olathe South led all schools with seven members on the 2019 Team Kansas Fargo roster.

Returning All-Americans participating in the 2019 event included; **Keegan Slyter** (Cadet Greco 120 lbs. 4th 2018), **Tony Caldwell** (Cadet Greco 285 lbs. 6th 2018 and Cadet Freestyle 285 lbs. 8th



Cade Lutt earned double All-American honors at the 2019 Junior Nationals when he placed third in Freestyle and fourth in Greco at 220 pounds.

2018), **Nichole Moore** (Cadet 100 lbs. 5th 2017 and Junior 100 lbs. 7th 2017), and **Elisa Robinson** (Cadet 172 lbs. 4th 2016, Cadet 164 lbs. Runner-up 2017, Junior 180 lbs. 3rd 2018). Returning All-American **Duane Villalpando** (Cadet Freestyle 160 lbs. 6th 2018) was on the roster, but was unable to compete in 2019 due to an injury sustained at the prep camp. **Kyle Haas** (Cadet Freestyle 170 lbs. 8th 2017, Cadet Greco 182 lbs. Runner-up 2018, Cadet Freestyle 182 lbs. 3rd 2018) elected not to

compete in order to train for the 2019 UWW Cadet World Championships after winning the trials in both Freestyle and Greco in Akron.

-Fargo 2019 Summary-

16U Woman's Freestyle - Unfortunately for Team Kansas, competition was done for our U16 women prior to the medal rounds. For the second year in a row the 16U ladies left the Fargodome without an All-American. The team did, however, have a good performance as compared with the two total individual victories in the 2018 tournament. A quartet of ladies finished with 3-2 records to fall just shy of the placing rounds. That group included; **Jordyn Knecht** of Paola (122), **Elise Rose** of Marysville (122), **Madyson Gray** of Lawrence (132), and **Gianna Culbert** of Burlingame (138). Interestingly, Knecht put the second loss on Rose to eliminate her from the



Damien Mendez captured double All-American honors at the Cadet level in 2019, finishing in 7th place in both styles. He went 7-2 in Greco and 8-2 in Freestyle. He also earned the Most Falls award in Greco.

competition. Despite not having an All-American, the team finished in a respectable fifteenth-place.

Junior Woman's Freestyle - Team Kansas came away with four All-Americans in the Junior Woman's Division, including finalist **Elisa Robinson** of Junction City (180), who went 4-1. She now has four All-American finishes at Fargo, including two Runner-up performances. **Nikki Moore** of Abbyville (Nickerson High School) placed third at 112 lbs. after an impressive showing in the consolation finals that saw her climb out of a 6-0 deficit to claim a 13-10 victory. She was 5-1 in the tourney and now has three All-American finishes. The previous two came in 2017 when she placed 5th in the Cadet Division and 7th in Juniors. **Amanda Newcome** of Osawatomie placed 6th at 100 lbs. after making an appearance in the semifinals. She went 3-3 in the competition. Rounding out the place winners was **Morgan Mayginn** of Onega, who placed 8th at 152 with a 4-3 record. Team Kansas finished in eleventh place.

16U Men's Freestyle - The 16U group put **Hunter Taylor** of Abilene (88) and Goddard's **Cayleb Atkins** (160) in the semifinals, but both fell short of making the finals. Taylor finished in 6th place, Atkins came back to place 5th. **Ethan Kremer** (Mill Valley) placed 4th at 285 lbs. His spring and summer included a double championship at the Northeast Regional and double All-Tourney Team finishes at 16U National Duals. **Jared Simma** of Shawnee (St. Thomas Aquinas High School) placed 7th at 152. His 6-2 record included a 9-6 barnburner in the bloodround. **Damien Mendez** of

Dodge City also placed 7th. He had an impressive 8-2 record in the competition. Team Kansas finished fifteenth in the team standings.

16U Men's Greco -

Kansas followed up their solid Freestyle performance with a strong finish in Greco. **Hunter Taylor** and **Jared Simma** both made the finals and both finished as double All-Americans. **Caël Alderman** of Olathe finished 6th at 88 lbs. after making the semifinals. **Damien Mendez** matched his 7th place finish in Freestyle. He finished 7-2 to tally an impressive 15-4 total record for both styles to top the overall list for Team Kansas. The team finished in thirteenth-place. **Mendez** earned the Most Falls award with four falls in 6:17.

Junior Men's Freestyle - **Cade Lutt** of

Olathe and St. James Academy was the only place winner in the rugged Junior Freestyle tournament for Team Kansas. He finished in third-place at 220 lbs. After a loss in the semifinals, he rolled with a pair of tech-falls on the backside. The team finished in twenty-first place.

Junior Men's Greco - The Juniors put it together in Greco, scrapping their way to four All-American finishes to close the tournament on a positive note for the Junior Men. **Cade Lutt** once again made the semifinals, where he dropped a competitive match to 5X Fargo Champ Braxton Amos. He finished with a fourth-place showing and a 5-2 record. After an opening round loss, **Grant Treaster** (120) of Newton demonstrated grit on the backside. He won six in a row finishing with a 7-3 record in 6th place. Mill Valley's **Zach Keal** finished 5-2 in 7th place at 120 lbs. **Preston Martin** of Paola (132), like Treaster, dropped his opening match, then won seven in a row on the backside to earn a place on the podium. He finished 8-2 and captured 7th place. Team Kansas finished in seventeenth-place in Junior Greco. **Martin** earned the Most Falls award with six falls in 10:26.

The grand total of eighteen All-American finishes in 2019 is one of the best ever for Team Kansas. Top all-time All-American finishes include; twenty-four in 2008, twenty-two in 2006, twenty in 2015, and eighteen in 1987 and 2019 (note: The Cadet Men's division was added in 1986. In 2002 Junior Women was added as a separate division. In 2011 Cadet Women were added as a separate division).



FARGO 2019
CADET & JUNIOR NATIONALS
TEAM KANSAS
ALL-AMERICANS



Cael Alderman
 16U Greco, 6th place, 88 lbs.



Cayleb Atkins
 16U Freestyle, 5th place, 160 lbs.



Zach Keal
 Junior Greco, 7th place, 120 lbs.



Ethan Kremer
 16U Freestyle, 4th place, 285 lbs



Cade Lutt
 Junior Freestyle, 3rd place, 220 lbs.
 Junior Greco, 4th place, 220 lbs.



Preston Martin
 Junior Greco, 7th place, 132 lbs.



Morgan Mayginnnes
 Junior Woman's, 8th place, 152 lbs.



Damien Mendez
 16U Freestyle, 7th place, 113 lbs.
 16U Greco, 7th place, 113 lbs.



Nikki Moore
 Junior Woman's, 3rd place, 112 lbs.



Amanda Newcome
 Junior Woman's, 6th place, 100 lbs.



Elisa Robinson
 Junior Woman's, Runner-up, 180 lbs.



Jared Simma
 16U Freestyle, 7th place, 152 lbs.
 16U Greco, Runner-up, 152 lbs.



Hunter Taylor
 16U Freestyle, 6th place, 88 lbs.
 16U Greco, Runner-up, 88 lbs.



Grant Treaster
 Junior Greco, 6th place, 120 lbs.