

MASON CITY, IA (September 18, 2007) - The North Iowa Area Community College wrestling program was honored by USA Wrestling magazine, earning the number one ranking for its 2007-08 recruiting class among non-Division I programs.

Head coach Richard Fergola's recruiting class includes a four-time Illinois state high school champion, Albert White of Chicago's St. Rita High School, three-time Nebraska state champion DeVaughn Perkins from Omaha, NE, and Omaha North High, two-time Arizona two-time champ Aaron Hancock of Campe Verde High and two-time Iowa state champion T.J. Moen from Saydel High.

"NIACC and my coaching staff did an absolutely wonderful job in the recruitment of these student-athletes," said Fergola. "I am very excited about these young men that have committed to our program."

Along with Moen, Iowa students among the 19 NIACC recruits from Iowa include: Jordan Bartoszek and Jordan Graham of Mason City; Harley Godderz of Rudd; Tyler Eckerman of Garner; Nick Fox of Riceville; Jason Schweer of Waverly; Skyler Morrison of Sioux City; Jadd Dithmart of Ogden; Clarence Jordan of Waterloo; Nathan Jones of Ankeny; Seth Cooper of Keokuk; Casey Watts of LaPorte City; Tyler Pilcher of Fairfield; Jeff Ragan of Mitchellville; Ben Riedinger of Council Bluffs; Hiram Serrano of Muscatine; Luke Stika of Cresco and A.J. Youngblut of Raymond.

Moen is the most decorated Iowan as he was seventh in the state meet as a sophomore and won titles in Class 2A at 140- and 145-pound division respectively during his junior and senior years. He's also been a Cadet national champion Greco-Roman wrestler and placed third in Junior Greco-Roman competition last summer in Fargo, North Dakota. Jones, a teammate of Moen at Saydel, was sixth in the 135-pound class last winter.

Luke Stika, who wrestled at Crestwood High School, placed second in the Class 2A 189-pound class in 2007. Dithmart of Ogden High School was runner-up at 215 in the Class 1A division. Youngblut finished seventh for Waterloo's Don Bosco High in the 2007 Class 1A 152-pound division and Serrano was a sixth-place finisher at 285 in the 2006 Class 3A meet for Muscatine High School.

Along with White, Perkins and Tudor, out-of-state wrestlers at NIACC include: David Bjorkstrand of Burnsville, MN; Tyler Hancock, Beau Tudor and Preston Brogdon (teammates of Tudor) of Camp Verde, AZ; Timothy Hill of Chesapeake, VA; Cody Hogan of Richmond, MO; Jerald Parker of Lincoln, NE; Glenn Rhees of Atascadero, CA; and Jacob Schotanus of Adams, MN.

White, an All-America wrestler, finished with nearly 200 wins during his prep career and was a four-time Illinois State High School Class AA champion. White also won the 2006 Junior National Freestyle title in Fargo.

Perkins, a three-time Class A (large schools) state champion from Omaha North High School never lost in 86 matches during his high school career in Nebraska after missing his freshman year with back troubles. Parker was the 130-pound runner-up in the Nebraska Class A division this winter for North Star High School.

Aaron Hancock of Camp Verde High was a two-time prep state champion in the Arizona Interscholastic Association meet (2004 and 2005). His prep teammate, Tudor, won the 2007 Class 1A/2A 275-pound state title after finishing second the year before. Tyler Hancock - Aaron's brother - had placed fourth and sixth during his high school career.

Cody Hogan was a four-time state place-winner with Richmond High School, ending his senior year as a

state Class 2 champion at 125 pounds. He had previously finished third twice and was second as a freshman at the Class 1 level in Missouri. Hogan also finished as a high school senior All-American placing fifth at the 2007 National High School Coaches Association Senior Nationals.

Bjorkstrand of Burnsville High School finished third 2006 Minnesota State High School League Class AAA meet at the 152-pound division and earned All-America honors at the junior level. The other Minnesotan in the recruiting class, Schotanus of Southland High School, was a state runner-up at 275 in Class A after having finished fourth in 2006.

Timothy Hill from nationally ranked Great Bridge High School was a Virginia state qualifier and placed sixth at the prestigious Iron Man Tournament. His team captured three consecutive team titles at the state level.

Rhees wrestled for Dana College in 2005 before transferring to NIACC. As a redshirt at Dana, Rhees placed second at the prestigious Kaufman-Brand Open at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He was highly decorated as a prep wrestler, placing fourth in the California Interscholastic Federation state championships and winning three Junior Greco All-American honors.

NIACC had a rich wrestling tradition under previous head coach Kaye Young, ranking among the nation's best junior colleges from 1967 until the program was disbanded in 1976. The Trojans won the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship in 1973 and a number of wrestlers earned individual titles during NIACC's initial decade as a program. More about NIACC wrestling can be found on www.niacc.edu/athletics.