

2009-10 WYOMING COWBOY WRESTLING

Las Vegas Invitational: The next competition for the Cowboy team will be the 28th Annual Cliff Keen Las Vegas Collegiate Wrestling Invitational, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5, in Las Vegas, Nev. at the Star of the Desert Arena in Buffalo Bill's Resort and Casino.

The annual event is considered the top pre-season tournament in the country. Forty-four teams are scheduled to compete, featuring 12 of the top-25 ranked wrestling programs in the country and highlighted by No. 3 Cornell, No. 5 Ohio State, No. 7 Nebraska and No. 8 Boise State. Wyoming could also match-up with fellow Western Wrestling Conference schools Air Force, Northern Colorado and Utah Valley.

Last year both Joe LeBlanc (third at 184 pounds) and Shane Onufer (seventh at 174) placed at the prestigious event.

Team Tidbits: Following are several notes from UW's 2009-10 season to this point...

- *Winning Big* - Sophomore Michael Martinez (125 pounds) has an overall record of 10-1 with seven of those wins coming by way of major decision. Sophomore Joe LeBlanc (184) also has an overall record of 10-1 and five of his wins have come by technical fall, three by way of fall.

- *50 Career Wins* - Three Cowboys currently on the roster have accumulated 50-plus wins in their UW careers. Senior Cory VomBaur has 67, while LeBlanc (55 wins) and Shane Onufer (53) have each eclipsed that landmark in only their second year. Junior Cole Dallaserra (49) and Martinez (48) will break into the group shortly.

- *10 Season Wins* - It has not taken long for multiple Cowboy wrestlers to rack up 10-plus wins in the early-going of this season. Sophomore Chase Smith (141 pounds) has 12 victories already, while Dallaserra (149), redshirt freshman Kasey Garnhart (133), LeBlanc and Michael Martinez each have 10 wins. True freshmen Jimmy Belleville (149/157 pounds), Tyler Cox (125) and Patrick Martinez (165/174) all will redshirt this season, but all have 10-plus victories competing unattached. Belleville is 15-2, Cox is 12-2, while Patrick Martinez is 11-1.

WWC Wrestler of the Week: Last Tuesday, Nov. 17, Wyoming sophomore 125-pounder Michael Martinez (Pagosa Springs, Colo.) was named the Western Wrestling Conference's Wrestler of the Week.

It is Martinez's third career weekly honor from the WWC, the first this season. In national polls released last Tuesday by InterMat, Martinez climbed to the No. 10 spot at 125 pounds.

A returning NCAA qualifier at 125 pounds, Martinez started his season in a big way Nov. 13-14 by going 5-0 and getting a huge win over No. 9 ranked Ben Kjar of Utah Valley in the final of the Cowboy Open.

On Friday, Martinez, ranked No. 17 at the time, opened the Cowboys' home dual with Northwest College (24-13 team win) by cruising to a technical fall victory. He used four takedowns, three nearfalls and a reversal to beat Phillip Grout, 18-3.

Then on Saturday at the 37th annual Cowboy Open tournament, Martinez won the 125-pound Elite weight class. He was 4-0 and recorded three major decisions on the day. In the finals he got one of the biggest wins of his young career, over Kjar by sudden victory decision 5-3. After forcing the pace in the closing minutes, Martinez earned the decisive takedown near the edge of the mat late in the overtime period.

Body Bar Classic: The UW team faced off with some East Coast programs last Saturday at the Body Bar Classic tournament in Ithaca, N.Y. UW more than held their own, with a weight-class title from sophomore Chase Smith, as well as four other top-six finishes.

2009-10 WYOMING COWBOY WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent / Event (Location)	Time/Result
2009		
Nov. 13	Northwest College (Laramie, Wyo.)	W, 24-13
Nov. 14	37th Annual Cowboy Open (Laramie, Wyo.) Presented by UniWyo Federal Credit Union	NTS
Nov. 21	Body Bar Classic (Ithaca, N.Y.)	4th of 12
Nov. 22	Sprawl & Brawl (Binghamton, N.Y.) vs. No. 24 Michigan State	L, 20-13
	vs. West Virginia	W, 19-18
Dec. 4-5	Las Vegas Invitational (Las Vegas, Nev.)	All Day
Dec. 18	Stanford (Palo Alto, Calif.)	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Reno Tournament of Champions (Reno, Nev.)	All Day
2010		
Jan. 5	North Carolina State (Laramie, Wyo.)	7 p.m.
Jan. 7	Oregon State (Corvallis, Ore.)	8 p.m.
Jan. 15	Northern Colorado* (Laramie, Wyo.)	7 p.m.
Jan. 17	Nebraska (Lincoln, Neb.)	2 p.m.
Jan. 29	Oklahoma State# (Laramie, Wyo.)	7 p.m.
Jan. 30	Utah Valley vs. N. Iowa (Laramie, Wyo.) Utah Valley*	2 p.m. 4 p.m.
	Northern Iowa*	6 p.m.
Feb. 5	South Dakota State* (Brookings, S.D.)	6 p.m.
Feb. 7	North Dakota State* (Fargo, N.D.)	12 p.m.
Feb. 12	Cal State Fullerton (Laramie, Wyo.)	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	Air Force* (Colorado Springs, Colo.)	7 p.m.
March 6	West Regional/WWC Championship (Brookings, S.D.)	All Day
March 18-20	NCAA Championships (Omaha, Neb.)	All Day

*denotes Western Wrestling Conference dual

#denotes match to be held in the Arena-Auditorium

All times listed are Mountain Standard

As a team, the 'Pokes placed fourth of 12 teams with a total of 92 points. No. 20-ranked Kent State placed first by scoring 147.5 points, while the event host and No. 4 Cornell tied with No. 10 Maryland at 109 points.

Highlighting the Cowboys' event finishes was a bracket win by Smith at 141 pounds. Smith had a break-through tournament and went on a whirlwind tour at his weight. He had bonus-point wins in four of his five matches, with two pins, a technical fall victory and a win by major decision. Smith's finals opponent was Chase Skonieczny from Kent State, whom he stuck in the first period at 2:33 to put an exclamation point on his day.

No. 6-ranked Cowboy sophomore Joe LeBlanc was 3-1 and placed second, losing 8-4 to No. 5 Dustin Kilgore of Kent State in the 184-pound final. Of his three wins, LeBlanc earned a pin and a technical fall. He now has a season record of 8-1, with five technical falls and two pins.

UW sophomore and No. 10-ranked Michael Martinez also placed second, narrowly losing a sudden victory, overtime decision 6-4 in the 125-pound final to Frank Perrelli from Cornell. Martinez had two major decisions on his way to a 3-1 record. He is now 8-1 for the season with five major decisions and one technical fall.

Junior Matthew McLaughlin (Hwt.) and No. 16-ranked sophomore Shane Onufer (165) were two 'Pokes that lost early and had to fight their way back through the consolation bracket. Onufer was 5-1, with two falls and a major decision, placing fifth. McLaughlin was 4-2, with a pin and a major decision, placing sixth.

Sprawl & Brawl: The Cowboys ended their East Coast road trip on Sunday in Binghamton, N.Y. at the Sprawl and Brawl Duals. Wyoming competed in two morning duals, first with No. 24-ranked Michigan State and then with West Virginia. UW lost to the Spartans 20-13, but then bounced back and defeated the Mountaineers 19-18. The 'Pokes now have a 2-1 dual record.

Junior Cole Dallaserra at 149 pounds, as well as the sophomore trio of No. 6 Joe LeBlanc (184), No. 10 Michael Martinez (125) and Chase Smith (141), each won both their match-ups for the Cowboy team.

Wyoming's dual with Michigan State was tight throughout, but

(See Sprawl & Brawl..., Pg. 5)

2009-10 WYOMING COWBOY WRESTLING ROSTER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hometown (Last School)</u>
Jimmy Belleville	Freshman	149/157	Tumwater, Wash. (Black Hills HS)
Tyler Cox	Freshman	125	Gillette, Wyo. (Campbell County HS)
Cole Dallaserra	Junior	149	Butte, Mont. (Butte HS)
Tyler Davis	Sophomore	157	Oviedo, Fla. (Oviedo HS)
Jake Eitzen	Freshman	133	Estes Park, Colo. (Estes Park HS)
Kasey Garnhart	RS Freshman	133	Ten Sleep, Wyo. (Riverside HS)
Lee (LJ) Helbig	RS Freshman	184/197	Mason, Mich. (Mason HS)
Alfonso Hernandez	Sophomore	197	Blackfoot, Idaho (Blackfoot HS)
Dallas Hintz	Sophomore	174	Ephrata, Wash. (Ephrata HS)
Eric Jones	RS Freshman	157	Lake Tapps, Wash. (Auburn Riverside HS)
Mikah Kadera	Sophomore	157	Sheridan, Wyo. (Sheridan HS)
Kyle Komata	Freshman	133	Woodinville, Wash. (Woodinville HS)
Joe LeBlanc	Sophomore	184	Meeker, Colo. (Meeker HS)
Michael Martinez	Sophomore	125	Pagosa Springs, Colo. (Pagosa Springs HS)
Patrick Martinez	Freshman	165/174	Hemet, Calif. (Temecula Valley HS)
Matthew (Bubba) McLaughlin	Junior	Hwt.	Murphysboro, Ill. (Rend Lake College, Ill.)
Joe O'Farrell	Sophomore	184/197	Greeley, Colo. (University HS)
Shane Onufer	Sophomore	165/174	Auburn, Wash. (Auburn HS)
Michael Poulos	RS Freshman	184	Laramie, Wyo. (Laramie HS)
Alex Rieder	Senior	165/174	Paonia, Colo. (Paonia HS)
Brock Smith	Sophomore	165/174	Gering, Neb. (Chadron State College, Neb.)
Chase Smith	Sophomore	141/149	Enumclaw, Wash. (Enumclaw HS)
Cory VomBaur	Senior	133/141	Vancouver, Wash. (Evergreen HS)
Colton Zier	RS Freshman	141	Basin, Wyo. (Dickinson State Univ., N.D.)

Note: RS identifies a student-athlete that has used their redshirt year the previous season.

Head Coach: Mark Branch (Oklahoma State '97), Second Season

Assistant Coaches: Ben VomBaur (Boise State '03), Fourth Season;
Travis Shufelt (Nebraska '05), Second Season

Asst./Cowboy Wrestling Club Head Coach: Ethan Kyle (Oklahoma State '07), First Season

Student Manager: Mike Hautala

COWBOYS BY YEAR

Seniors (2) - Alex Rieder, Cory VomBaur

Juniors (2) - Cole Dallaserra, Matthew McLaughlin

Sophomores (10) - Tyler Davis, Alfonso Hernandez, Dallas Hintz, Mikah Kadera, Joe LeBlanc, Michael Martinez, Joe O'Farrell, Shane Onufer, Brock Smith, Chase Smith

Redshirt Freshmen (5) - Kasey Garnhart, Lee Helbig, Eric Jones, Michael Poulos, Colton Zier

Freshmen (5) - Jimmy Belleville, Tyler Cox, Jake Eitzen, Kyle Komata, Patrick Martinez

COWBOYS BY WEIGHT

125 - Tyler Cox, Michael Martinez

133 - Jake Eitzen, Kasey Garnhart, Kyle Komata, Cory VomBaur

141 - Chase Smith, VomBaur, Colton Zier

149 - Jimmy Belleville, Cole Dallaserra, C. Smith

157 - Belleville, Tyler Davis, Eric Jones, Mikah Kadera

165 - Patrick Martinez, Shane Onufer, Alex Rieder, Brock Smith

174 - Dallas Hintz, P. Martinez, Onufer, Rieder, B. Smith

184 - Lee Helbig, Joe LeBlanc, Joe O'Farrell, Michael Poulos

197 - Helbig, Alfonso Hernandez, O'Farrell

Hwt - Matthew McLaughlin

* Some wrestlers listed at multiple potential weights

Sprawl & Brawl cont'd... the Spartans ultimately won six of 10 bouts to earn a seven-point victory.

Martinez started things off right for the 'Pokes with a 15-5 major decision win at 125 pounds, but then redshirt freshman Kasey Garnhart ran into No. 1-ranked Franklin Gomez at 133 pounds and suffered a 17-1 technical fall set-back. Down 5-4, UW won the next two matches with Smith and Dallaserra earning five-point decisions. Now the Cowboys had a 10-5 lead before losing three straight match-ups by narrow margins to go down 14-10. LeBlanc brought his team back to within one (14-13) by winning 8-3, however Wyoming would get no closer and lost the last two bouts by two-point decisions.

In their next head-to-head match-up, Wyoming won five matches and West Virginia won five matches, however the Cowboys had two bonus-point wins, while the Mountaineers had only one.

Again, Martinez started the dual with a major decision victory (14-4), only to see that lead shrink immediately when Garnhart lost a close two-point decision at 133 pounds. The team score was 4-3 in favor of Wyoming when Smith and Dallaserra won back-to-back decisions for UW to stretch the margin to 10-3. Three straight wins by WVU would give them their only lead of the day, 12-10. Included in those wins was a key victory at 165 pounds by No. 13 Donnie Jones (3-2) over Wyoming's No. 16 Shane Onufer, as well as a triumph for No. 20 Chance Litton (6-3) over UW's Alex Rieder. LeBlanc then made short work of his WVU opponent, earning the win by fall only 40 seconds into the match. That win, combined with Alfonso Hernandez' 4-2 decision at 197 pounds gave the Cowboys a 19-12 lead, which would be enough for the team win despite a Mountaineer pin in the heavyweight match.

UNC Open / Kaufman-Brand Open: Several Cowboy wrestlers that did not make the East Coast trip stuck around the area and competed in more local tournaments.

UW freshman Kyle Komata was the lone Cowboy who made the trip to Omaha, Neb. on Sat., Nov. 21 for the Kaufman-Brand Open. Komata went 1-2 in the Amateur 133-pound weight class.

Five 'Pokes went to Greeley, Colo. on Sun., Nov. 22 for the UNC Open. Freshman Patrick Martinez won the 174-pound bracket by going 5-0 with two major decisions. Taking third place were freshmen Jimmy Belleville (7-1 at 157 pounds) and Jake Eitzen (5-1 at 133), as well as sophomore Joe O'Farrell (4-1 at 197). Freshman Tyler Cox was 2-2 at 125 pounds.

Cowboys In The Rankings: There are several national organizations that send out weekly and preseason collegiate wrestling rankings, most notably the InterMat poll and the National Wrestling Coaches Association poll.

As a team, the 'Pokes are listed as 'Receiving Votes' in the NWCA's first poll of the season. UW is tied for No. 24 on W.I.N. Magazine's preseason power index.

All four of Wyoming 2009 NCAA qualifiers enter the 2009-10 season ranked in one poll or another.

Returning All-American Joe LeBlanc (184 lbs) is listed in the InterMat individual rankings at No. 6 and No. 3 by W.I.N. Magazine.

Shane Onufer (165 lbs) is ranked No. 16 by InterMat and No. 15 by W.I.N.

Michael Martinez is No. 10 at 125 pounds by InterMat and No. 13 by W.I.N.

Cory VomBaur is ranked No. 20 by W.I.N. at 141 pounds, which is where he will wrestle to begin this season, despite qualifying for the NCAA Tournament the past three years at 133.

2009-10 WYOMING COWBOY RECORDS

Name (Weight Wrestled)	Overall	Tourn.	WWC	Dual (Points)	* vs. Ranked	Pins (Fastest)	Technical Falls	Major Decisions	Career (Weights Wrestled)
Jimmy Belleville (149)	8-1	8-1	-	-	-	4 (1:14)	-	1	Redshirting
Jimmy Belleville (157)	7-1	7-1	-	-	-	1 (1:03)	-	1	
Tyler Cox (125)	12-2	12-2	-	-	-	1 (3:41)	2	3	Redshirting
Cole Dallaserra (149)	10-2	8-2	-	2-0 (6)	0-1	2 (2:18)	1	2	49-23 / 12 falls (141/49/57)
Tyler Davis (157)	3-2	3-2	-	-	-	-	-	1	25-18 / 3 falls (157/65)
Tyler Davis (165)	1-0	-	-	1-0 (4)	-	-	-	1	
Jake Eitzen (133)	7-5	7-5	-	-	-	3 (2:13)	1	-	Redshirting
Kasey Garnhart (133)	10-7	9-5	-	1-2 (3)	0-1	1 (2:47)	-	-	10-7 (133)
Lee (LJ) Helbig (197)	7-4	7-4	-	-	-	2 (2:48)	-	3	7-4 / 2 falls (197)
Alfonso Hernandez (197)	7-5	6-3	-	1-2 (3)	-	-	-	1	30-24 / 2 falls (197)
Dallas Hintz (174)	6-5	6-4	-	0-1	0-1	-	-	1	19-14 / 1 fall (165/74/84)
Eric Jones (157)	3-3	3-3	-	-	-	2 (4:01)	-	-	3-3 / 2 falls (157)
Mikah Kadera (157)	6-9	6-6	-	0-3	-	1 (4:49)	-	1	19-18 / 5 falls (157/65)
Kyle Komata (133)	5-4	5-4	-	-	-	-	-	3	Redshirting
Joe LeBlanc (184)	10-1	7-1	-	3-0 (15)	0-1	3 (0:40)	5	-	55-9 / 10 falls (184)
Michael Martinez (125)	10-1	7-1	-	3-0 (13)	1-0	-	1	7	48-12 / 2 falls (125)
Patrick Martinez (165)	6-1	6-1	-	-	-	-	-	2	Redshirting
Patrick Martinez (174)	5-0	5-0	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Matthew McLaughlin (Hwt)	8-5	7-3	-	1-2 (3)	-	2 (1:15)	-	1	8-5 / 2 falls (Hwt.)
Joe O'Farrell (197)	8-5	8-5	-	-	-	2 (2:53)	-	3	14-15 / 5 falls (184/97)
Shane Onufer (165)	9-3	9-1	-	0-2	0-1	3 (1:30)	-	3	53-14 / 17 falls (165/74)
Michael Poulos (184)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Injured
Alex Rieder (174)	5-6	5-4	-	0-2	0-1	-	1	3	37-39 / 14 falls (157/65/74)
Brock Smith (174)	5-3	5-3	-	-	-	-	-	2	24-10 / 2 falls (157/74)
Chase Smith (141)	12-2	10-2	-	2-0 (6)	-	2 (2:33)	1	2	34-25 / 6 falls (141/49)
Cory VomBaur (141)	4-2	3-2	-	1-0 (3)	-	-	-	-	67-48 / 1 fall (133/41)
Colton Zier (141)	1-4	1-4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1-5 (141/49)
Colton Zier (149)	0-1	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	
Totals	149-84	134-69	-	15-15		29	13	43	

* record vs. ranked opponents is based on Intermat/NWCA DI Top-20 rankings at the time of the match

Notable Place-Winners at Tournaments

- Tyler Cox (125)
 - 1st, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
 - 1st (Amateur), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
- Michael Martinez (125)
 - 1st (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
 - 2nd, Body Bar Classic, 11/21/09
- Jake Eitzen (133)
 - 3rd, UNC Open, 11/22/09
- Kasey Garnhart (133)
 - 3rd, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
- Chase Smith (141)
 - 1st, Body Bar Classic, 11/21/09
- Cole Dallaserra (149)
 - 1st (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
- Jimmy Belleville (149)
 - 1st, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
 - 2nd (Amateur), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
- Jimmy Belleville (157)
 - 3rd, UNC Open, 11/22/09
- Eric Jones (157)
 - 2nd (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
- Patrick Martinez (165)
 - 1st, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
 - 2nd (Amateur), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09

- Shane Onufer (165)
 - 1st (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
 - 5th, Body Bar Classic, 11/21/09
- Dallas Hintz (174)
 - 1st, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
- Patrick Martinez (174)
 - 1st, UNC Open, 11/22/09
- Brock Smith (174)
 - 2nd, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
- Joe LeBlanc (184)
 - 1st (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
 - 2nd, Body Bar Classic, 11/21/09
- Lee (LJ) Helbig (197)
 - 1st, Northwest Wyoming, 11/7/09
- Alfonso Hernandez (197)
 - 3rd (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
- Joe O'Farrell (197)
 - 3rd, UNC Open, 11/22/09
- Matthew McLaughlin (Hwt.)
 - 2nd (Elite), Cowboy Open, 11/14/09
 - 6th, Body Bar Classic, 11/21/09