The 2003 regional wrestling tournament
10 a.m. March 2 at Pershing Arena
Bulldog Wrestling
Ready to Rumble

Mary Sue Albers
Sports Editor

This season, like so many in recent history, has been a battle for the Missouri Western men’s wrestling team, marked by triumphs and disappointments.

An example: Southeast Missouri State University (Warrensburg), a perennial nemesis of the Bulldogs, won the MIAA Division II tournament for the 11th straight year.

But it can’t be said that the Missouri Western men’s wrestling team has had a weak season. The team has faced some of the toughest competition in the nation, including a 28-10 loss to the University of Indianapolis.

The team has had several standout performers this season, including senior Corey Crandall, who is ranked fifth in the nation. Passley also maintained his place as the team’s top wrestler in the 1999-2000 season. CMSU has qualified for nationals last year and placed first in 1999-2000 season. CMSU’s team has three returning national qualifiers, including Mitch Suppeer, who is ranked fifth in the nation. 

Central Oklahoma is among the favorites for the national title. Though the Bulldogs haven’t seen CMSU or OU, they have wrestled the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

The Bronchos took over the top ranking March 13 after a convincing 21-13 win over the University of Nebraska-Kearney, which had the top ranking the previous week.

The favorite for the team title has to be Central Oklahoma, Ersland said. “They’ve had several national qualifiers this year, which is very solid and should contend for the national title.”

Each athlete has followed a different road to success at Truman, but each has the same goal in mind — to win a 25, 20-10 loss.

“Eat, sleep and breathe wrestling every day,” Schutter said. “It’s like any other sport.”

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