

## Cheering RIT Deaf Wrestlers

January 1, 1998

Rochester Institute of Technology's NCAA Division III men's wrestling program features three deaf wrestlers: All-American Matt Hamill (Loveland, OH), Jay Jakubowski (Redford, MI), and Tony Wallace (Franklin, OH). Hamill wrestles in the 190-pound weight class, Jakubowski in the 177-pound weight class, and Wallace in the 167-pound weight class.

Both Hamill and Jakubowski fared extremely well against the Division I competition at the East Stroudsburg Invitational November 22. Hamill placed 2nd in the 190-pound weight class after going 4-1 on the afternoon. The Loveland High School graduate held a 4-3 advantage with 25 seconds remaining in the championship match against Scott Stay, Division I's 7th ranked wrestler in the nation from the University of North Carolina. For his achievement, Hamill was named the Rochester Area College Athletics Male Athlete of the Week November 25. Hamill won the NCAA title in the 167-pound weight class in 1997 along with two gold medals at the World Games for the Deaf in Copenhagen in July.

Jakubowski earned 4th place in the 177-pound weight class for the Tigers. He collected a 4-2 overall record on the afternoon. There were 30-35 Division I wrestlers in each weight class at the tournament.

Rookie Tony Wallace placed first in the Oneonta Invitational November 22, going 5-0 in the 167-pound weight class. He placed second at the RIT Invitational the weekend of December 6.

Wallace was recently ranked eighth in the nation among NCAA Division III wrestlers. In the quarterfinal match of the RIT Invitational, he upset the nation's 6th ranked wrestler, also the tournament's top seed. He eventually lost to the fourth ranked wrestler in the nation, 9-7, in the championship bout.