



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **LIFE UNIVERSITY SENDS FOUR WRESTLERS TO NAIA WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LIFE finishes Fifth in NAIA Eastern Qualifier Team Standings**

**Marietta, Georgia, February 24, 2014** – On February 22, 2014, Life University hosted the NAIA Eastern Wrestling Qualifier, which brought together 12 college wrestling programs for a one-day event with automatic bids to the NAIA Wrestling Championships on the line. The teams consisted of Life University (Marietta, Ga.), Brewton-Parker College (Mount Vernon, Ga.), Calumet College of St. Joseph (Whiting, Ind.), Campbellsville University (Campbellsville, Ky.), Cumberland University (Lebanon, Tenn.), University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, Ky.), Indiana Tech (Fort Wayne, Ind.), Lindsey Wilson College (Columbia, Ky.), Missouri Baptist University (Saint Louis, Mo.), St. Andrews University (Laurinburg, N.C.), Truett McConnell College (Cleveland, Ga.) and West Virginia Tech (Montgomery, W. Va.).

In the end, LIFE had four wrestlers earn automatic bids to the NAIA Wrestling National Championships in Topeka, Kan. to be held March 7-8, 2014 and finished in fifth place in the final team standings. LIFE wrestlers to advance to the NAIA National Championships included junior Oliver Brukardt (157 pounds), senior Trey Hicks (184 pounds), redshirt freshman Jacob Dempsey (197 pounds) and freshman Jacob Roza (285 pounds), who each finished in third place in their respective weight classes. LIFE also sent four wrestlers to nationals last year in their first season of intercollegiate competition.

"We definitely have improved from last year," noted LIFE Head Coach Mike Miller. "Each one of our qualifiers this year placed third as opposed to having three wild cards last year, so we're definitely excited about the guys we have going to compete for All-American honors this year in Topeka.

Brukardt, a returning national qualifier from LIFE's inaugural squad, went 3-1 during the tournament and won his third place match over West Virginia Tech's John Walters by technical fall in the third period for a 16-0 final score.

Hicks, LIFE's first, and of yet only, All-American in wrestling from the 2013 nationals, went 3-1 in the qualifier and won his third place match over Brewton-Parker College's Cody Chaney by a 3-2 decision.

Dempsey, in his first season of competition, went 4-1 during the tournament and won his third place match over Truett McConnell College's Dustin Branom by a 9-5



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decision.

Roza, also in his first season of competition as a true freshman, went 4-1 and won his third place match over St. Andrews University's Denzel Vaughan by fall just 2:49 into the match. In fact, Roza won each of his four matches by fall in impressive fashion.

"All four of these guys are not only great wrestlers on the mat, but they are leaders in our room and in the classroom," said Miller on his four national qualifiers. "They all push each other during the course of the season to make each other better, and that's resulted in this success."

### **Final Match Results:**

125 pounds: Chris Padilla (Missouri Baptist) over Cody Steiner (Campbellsville) (Dec. 8-5)  
133 pounds: Justin Brooks (Indiana Tech) over Keaton Thomas (Lindsey Wilson) (Fall 0:30)  
141 pounds: Wismit Moinius (Lindsey Wilson) over Travis Barroquillo (Indiana Tech) (Dec. 5-0)  
149 pounds: Jake Williams (Cumberland University) over Kyle Terry (Campbellsville) (SV-1)  
157 pounds: Joe Cozart (Lindsey Wilson) over Shawn Mcghee (Campbellsville) (Dec. 7-2)  
165 pounds: Kafuba Donzon (Indiana Tech) over Ream Cameron (Missouri Baptist) (MD 12-4)  
174 pounds: Eziekiel Hunt (Cumberland University) over LJ Grayson (Indiana Tech) (Dec. 3-2)  
184 pounds: Jameel Bryant (Lindsey Wilson) over Cody Linton (Cumberland University) (Dec. 5-3)  
197 pounds: Sam Johnson (University of the Cumberlands) over Jahwon Akui (Lindsey Wilson) (Dec. 5-2)  
285 pounds: Courtney Freeman (University of the Cumberlands) over Andre Dunn (Indiana Tech) (Dec. 11-5)

### **Team Results:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Indiana Tech- 149.5 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lindsey Wilson- 142.0 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Campbellsville University- 134.5 points  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: Cumberland University- 93.0 points  
5<sup>th</sup> Place: Life University- 66.5 points  
6<sup>th</sup> Place: Brewton-Parker College- 65.5 points



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7<sup>th</sup> Place: Missouri Baptist University- 62.5 points  
8<sup>th</sup> Place: University of the Cumberlands- 54.0 points  
9<sup>th</sup> Place: St. Andrews University- 39.5 points  
10<sup>th</sup> Place: Truett McConnell College- 30.0 points  
11<sup>th</sup> Place: West Virginia Tech- 15.5 points  
12<sup>th</sup> Place: Calumet College of St. Joseph- 3.0 points

### About Life University

Founded in Marietta, Georgia in 1974, Life University is a health sciences institution most known for its chiropractic program, the largest in the world. Life University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award four-year undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of health care, science, business and general studies fields, and also has programmatic accreditation through the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The mission of Life University is to empower students with the education, skills and values necessary for career success and life fulfillment, based on a vitalistic philosophy.