

STCC wrestling teams cap off a successful season at Nationals

SPRINGFIELD – The men and women's wrestling teams at Springfield Technical Community College wrapped up a successful season at the 2019 NCWA National Wrestling Championships in Allen, Texas.

The men's team came in fifth place out of 77 colleges with five wrestlers being named All-American. The women's team captured third place in the nationals, with two All-Americans. The teams competed March 14-16 in the National Collegiate Wrestling Association championships.

The Rams also earned some individual academic honors. Earning 2019 NCWA All-Academic Team honors were Jacob Berry and Mike Clark. On the women's team, Cristal Reyes received the honor.

To be eligible for the academic honor, nominees must have at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

"To be named an NWCA All-Academic team is a huge accomplishment," said Ram head coach Alberto Nieves. "As a team and staff we talk about academics on a daily basis and to have both the men's and women's on the All-Academic Team is really impressive. It demonstrates how well-rounded these students are at STCC and how well balanced they are on and off the wrestling mat."

Nieves was voted men's Coach of the Year for the third year in a row for the Northeast conference. Asnage Castelly was voted women's Coach of the Year for the Northeast conference.



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Members of the wrestling teams at STCC competed in a national championship in Allen, Texas, from March 14 to March 16.

The men defended the conference championship for the third time and finished the season with a 10-4 record.

Here are the men's individual results at the National Championships: Marcos Mecardo, 141 pounds, second place (national runner-up), All-American; David Ortiz, 133 pounds, third place, All-American; Chaasadyah St. Phard, 285 pounds, fifth place, All-American; Jacob Berry, 174 pounds,

sixth place, All-American; Mike Clark, 157 pounds, seventh place, All-American; Chris Vega, 125 pounds, (national qualifier); Damian Figueroa, 149 pounds, (national qualifier); Ryan Williams, 149 pounds, (national qualifier); Justin Perez, 157 pounds, (national qualifier); Josh Fontanez, 165 pounds, (national qualifier) and George Hargrove, 197 pounds, (national qualifier).

In the NCWA Nationals, the women's wrestling team came in third place out of 29 colleges. Here are the women's individual results at the National Championships: Josselinne Campos, 130 pounds, first place, (national champion) All-American; Tara Linneman, 136 pounds, first place, (national champion) All-American; Cristal Reyes, 116 pounds, (national qualifier) and Savvy Eliza, 123 pounds, (national qualifier).