



Ohio Athletic Conference
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Timothy W. Gleason, Commissioner

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Julie Work

MUSKINGUM'S MINNER NAMED JANUARY OAC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Twinsburg, OH- Muskingum senior wrestler **Richie Minner (Marion/Pleasant)** has been named the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Scholar-Athlete of the Month for January.

In its eighth year of existence, the OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month honors an exceptional student-athlete on a monthly basis. Criteria for the award consist of the student-athlete being a sophomore, junior or senior status, competition in a sport that is in-season, sportsmanlike conduct and carrying at least a cumulative grade-point average (gpa) of 3.0.

Minner anchors the Muskingum wrestling team on the mat and in the classroom.

Minner, a 2004-05 National Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-American and Academic All-Ohio Athletic Conference honoree, is a middle childhood education major and carries a 3.38 grade point average.

"Anytime you are an Academic All-American you have the intrinsic motivation to perform, and Richie carries that same devotion onto the mat as well," said Head Wrestling Coach Phil Witker.

On the mat last season, Minner paced the squad with his third consecutive 22-plus win season. He led the Muskies with 22 wins, 71 takedowns, 62 escapes and eight minutes of riding time. Minner also garnered 22 wins as a sophomore and a team-high 24 victories as a freshman.

Minner's leadership style helps foster a great relationship with the other wrestlers on the squad and the Muskingum athletic staff. The dedication he consistently displays to his sport and his pursuit of academic excellence is something other student-athletes strive to emulate.

"Richie is always helping his teammates to be the best they can be," said Witker. "He takes charge during the fall practices and serves as a trusted liaison between the coaching staff, newcomers and veterans. Richie is the type of student-athlete that every coach cherishes."

The three-year letterwinner always strives for perfection whether it is in the classroom or on the mat.

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Muskingum Sports Information Director, Tom Caudill, is credited for this feature.

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