

# All-Star Host

## 2009 NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, recently hosted the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships. Colleges from around the country were represented as 160 grapplers took to the mat.

"Cedar Rapids is just right for the wrestling community," said Dick Simmons, assistant athletic director for Cornell College, who served as tournament director. "The city is happy to have us, and the CVB and U.S. Cellular staff always help us organize a great event."

The 62 Division III teams competed at the U.S. Cellular Center as 8,000 fans took in the action. The venue gets rave reviews

from Simmons, who said the tournament will take place there again in 2010.

"There's not a bad seat in the house. It's a bowl-shaped arena, and it lets the

the floor at one time. But for the finals, a stage is assembled to elevate a mat off the ground for an enhanced showcase.

Simmons said part of the tournament's success is derived from the amenities of the Cedar Rapids area, with its restaurants, hotels and airport, all of which are factors in bringing back the tourney next March.

"We're hoping for another successful outing next year," Simmons said. "Next year we're trying to ramp it up even more. We've got some plans in place that we feel will really bring out the excitement and atmosphere for everybody."

—By Jesse Reeves

## Cedar Rapids Area CVB

fans sit high above so they can see every mat," Simmons said. "It's also just the right size—not too packed, so people have their space while watching."

Also adding to the excitement is the format for the championship rounds. In the preliminary rounds, six mats are on



*Play to WIN with Cedar Rapids, Iowa!*

*Your partner in success.*

- 30,000 s.f. multi purpose arena
- state-of-the-art minor league baseball stadium
- ice arena with 2 sheets of ice
- 20 field soccer complex
- 2,810 hotel rooms

Sports Tourism Department  
Cedar Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
800-735-5557 [www.cedar-rapids.com](http://www.cedar-rapids.com)