



PIPE DREAM SPORTS

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Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Kaylor receives at-large bid to NCAA tournament

Justin Tasch

Pipe Dream Sports

The Binghamton University wrestling team has already made history this season, setting a school record for Division I dual meet wins and winning its first-ever Colonial Athletic Association tournament title. This Thursday at the NCAA tournament in Omaha, Neb., the team will look to put an exclamation point on its already successful season by crowning its first Division I national champion. The Bearcats have their best chance ever at achieving that goal, as they are sending six wrestlers to compete in the tournament.

NCAA tournament

Date: Thursday
Location: Omaha, Neb.
Time: 11 a.m.

Junior Anwar Goeres (141 pounds), redshirt freshman Donnie Vinson (149), sophomore Justin Lister (157), senior Josh Patterson (174) and redshirt freshman Nate Schiedel (184) qualified for the national tournament with their finishes at the CAA tournament. Sophomore Matt Kaylor (165) received an at-large bid into the tournament. Everybody except for Patterson, who is making his fourth appearance, is competing in the NCAA tournament for the first time. The brackets for each weight class have 33 wrestlers, including 12 seeded wrestlers.

Head coach Pat Popolizio is proud of the wrestlers and his coaching staff for what they have done to put

themselves in this position.

"It's been a lot of hard work," he said. "Having the right kids in the program that have bought into the system we have here ... it's easy to work with them. They want to be great. They motivate me, they motivate the rest of the coaching staff and they are willing to make some changes in whatever it is that we ask, and that's why they've improved. It's been an unbelievable experience."

Winning a national title is something each wrestler has been striving toward all year, according to Popolizio.

"The ultimate goal is to win an individual national title," he said. "Every guy that's going [to Omaha] to compete has been training for that. It's been something we've been preaching all year. If they fall short, they become an All-American. That's also a great accomplishment, as well."

Patterson placed seventh at last year's NCAA tournament at 184 pounds, earning All-America honors. This year he is competing at the 174-pound weight class.

"I felt a little outsized at 184," Patterson said. "And now I'm feeling better at 174. I've got my weight under control. I'm just ready to have a good tournament."

Patterson, seeded No. 11 at 174, is pleased with his position in the 33-man field.

"I like where I'm at in the bracket," he said. "Obviously there are going to be a lot of tough kids at every weight; I know that at 174 there are going to be a lot of tough kids. I'm just going to wrestle my best and hopefully come out where I want to be at the end."

Goeres, the CAA champion at 141 pounds, will square off against University of Minnesota's Michael Thorn in the first round. Thorn is the



David Katz/Assistant Photo Editor

Sophomore Justin Lister, wrestling at 157 pounds, accumulated a 28-8 record this season en route to his first NCAA tournament berth.

No. 3 seed in the bracket.

"I'm not really looking at the difficulty of the match," Goeres said. "I'm looking at it like it's just another step and I've got to do it. You've got to go after it one match at a time. I can have an easy guy and a hard guy after that, but it'd be nice taking out the hard guy first and have an easier route the rest of the day."

Lister was not expecting the team to be this successful when he signed here.

"At first, I was like, 'Yup, this is an average Division I program,'" he said. "But now we're breaking top-

20. We're showing up in magazines; our name is next to Iowa, Iowa State, Michigan State ... it's almost surreal to be put next to team names that have been around for decades in the sport."

Popolizio has said that Lister has all the tools to win a national title, but Lister knows he needs to believe in himself for it to happen.

"You can have so many people tell you, 'You're a stud, you're quicker than everybody, you're faster, stronger,' you can have people tell you that but it's whether or not you believe it, and that's what it comes down to."

Schiedel is glad to have Patterson along with him at his first NCAA tournament, and is hoping to duplicate Patterson's success from last season.

"It's nice to have a man out there that's been through it and actually place," Schiedel said. "I've looked up to [Patterson] a lot and I hope that I can follow his footsteps and be an All-American."

Wrestling is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Qwest Center in Omaha. The finals are set for Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Men's lacrosse ends 4-game skid with 15-9 win

Roslyn Lo

Contributing Writer

In the midst of a grueling road stretch filled with losses, the men's lacrosse team finally ended its skid. The Bearcats shattered a four-game losing streak with blazing offense and a slew

of record-setting performances in their highest-scoring game since 2006.

The Binghamton University men's lacrosse team (2-4) overpowered the Marist Red Foxes (3-1) in a 15-9 victory this past Saturday at Tenney Stadium, picking up its first win since the season opener. With pressure to avoid a repeat of last season's record mounting after

every loss, the Bearcats played with renewed efficiency. Binghamton head coach Ed Stephenson attributes the team's strong offensive performance to its patience, something that was lacking in its previous games.

"It's really easy to defend a team that's impatient," Stephenson said. "We were more patient with the ball.

The other guys on offense need to understand that if you're patient with the ball you actually have more shots, instead of forcing the ball."

The Bearcats controlled the game from the first quarter, netting six goals in their most productive period. Senior attack Jeff Rurey scored three times, giving Binghamton an early lead. Stephenson points out the first quarter as the Bearcats' best display of skill.

"We controlled the ball on the offense, we reduced our turnovers early on and we had some nice, long possessions and came out with some goals," he said.

Binghamton offense slowed down in the second quarter as Marist pulled within three goals at halftime, with the score at 8-5. Its goal in the middle of the second quarter was the closest Marist would get to tying the score, as the Bearcats regained their momentum by scoring seven consecutive goals after halftime and shutting out the Red Foxes in the third quarter.

By the time the Bearcats finished their second-half scoring spree, they commanded a 10-goal lead over Marist. With five minutes left in regulation, the Red Foxes had a late charge, scoring four straight goals to end the game, setting the final score of 15-9.

"We held them to 15-5 with five minutes left, we did a good job, but I wish we could have finished stronger," Stephenson said. "The difference was that we controlled face-offs, and we had good solid possessions that put some pressure on them."

Foxes' 17.

The long-awaited Bearcats victory was topped off with several new records. For the first time in school history, three players produced hat tricks in the same game. The offensive trio was Rurey, freshman attack Matt Springer and senior midfielder Steve Carlson. Springer was named America East Rookie of the Week for the second straight time for his efforts.

Men's lacrosse

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Sophomore face-off specialist Jeff Donigan contributed to the fray with two marks of his own, winning a record 24 out of 27 faceoffs while setting a new program-high win percentage of .889.

The win against Marist puts Binghamton's record at 2-4. The Bearcats will play the last game of their road trip at Hobart College (1-2) in hopes of continuing their momentum heading into conference play. Looking ahead, Stephenson expects his team to work even harder and capitalize on scoring opportunities.

"Hobart is a tough team with good offense and a good goalie. We have to play a 60-minute game this time; two-thirds is not enough to win this game."

The Bearcats are set to play the Statesmen at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at McCooley Field.



David Katz/Assistant Photo Editor

Freshman attack Matt Springer was named America East Rookie of the Week for the second consecutive time after netting four goals in a win over Marist.

Binghamton outshot Marist 40-19, and took 33 ground balls to the Red