

Drexel's Upset Bid of No. 14 Penn Falls Just Short



Ryan Hluschak handed Matt Dragon his first technical decision loss of the season

Philadelphia, Pa. - Drexel nearly upset No. 14 Penn as the Dragons held a 17-15 lead with just two matches left, but the Quakers rallied by winning the final two matches to win, 22-17. Drexel dropped to 14-10 with the loss while the 14th-ranked Quakers improved to 6-5.

After Penn won the opening match at 184 pounds, Jon Oplinger executed a stunning pin of Jack Sullivan at 1:32 to give Drexel an early 6-4 match lead. Heavyweight Chris Cowen followed with a 4-0 decision over Ben Reiter to give Drexel a 9-4 advantage. Penn fought back as Rollie Peterkin won a hard-fought match over Steve Mytych in overtime with a 4-1 decision. Penn would win the next two matches by major decision to give Penn a 15-9 lead. The Dragons looked to regain the momentum when senior co-captain Mark Cartella took the mat at 149 pounds. Cartella was taken down twice in the first period as the score had Brian Spangler ahead late in the first, 4-2. Cartella earned a takedown just before the end of the period and did not allow Spangler to escape to knot the score at four entering the second period. Cartella earned an escape in the second period and started on top in the third period where he rode Spangler out to earn a point in riding time advantage and the decision, 6-4.

After Cartella's victory, junior Ryan Hluschak took to the mat at 157 pounds against Matt Dragon, an NCAA Qualifier a season ago. Hluschak stunned the Palestra crowd as he thoroughly dominated en route to a technical fall victory at 5:08. The technical fall earned the Dragons five team points and gave the Dragons a 17-15 lead with just two matches remaining. Penn recovered by taking the final two contests to secure the match. After a Penn major decision victory at 165 pounds, Penn led 19-17 entering the final match at 174 pounds. Head Coach Jack Childs sent senior co-captain and former NCAA Qualifier Nick Kozar to the mat while the Quakers representative was NCAA All-American Matt Herrington. In a tough battle, Herrington pulled out a 5-3 decision to give Penn the 22-17 victory.

Drexel will return to the mat on Wednesday, Feb. 7 with a home CAA match against George Mason. The first match will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Penn 22, Drexel 17

184 -- Lior Zamir (P) maj. Brian Stouffer, 14-4

197 -- Jon Oplinger (D) wbf. Jack Sullivan, 1:32

285 -- Chris Cowen (D) dec. Ben Reiter, 4-0

125 -- Rollie Peterkin (P) dec. Steve Mytych, 4-1 (OT)

133 -- Matt Valenti (P) maj. Billy Martin, 13-5

141 -- Brett McCurdy (P) maj. Morgan Remillard, 11-2

149 -- Mark Cartella (D) dec. Brian Spangler, 6-4

157 -- Ryan Hluschak (D) t.f. Matt Dragon, 5:08

165 -- Zack Hanaman (P) maj. Billy Haydt, 16-4

174 -- Matt Herrington (P) dec. Nick Kozar, 5-3