Seven Fighting Scots Place at Michigan State Open

EDINBORO, PA – The 16th-ranked Edinboro wrestling team had a total of seven wrestlers place in the Michigan State Open on Sunday. In addition, seven more wrestlers placed in the freshmen/sophomore division.

Four Fighting Scots reached the finals, with just one coming away with a championship. Gregor Gillespie improved to 8-0 on the season and 82-6 for his career with five wins to come away with the title at 157 lbs. Ranked number after winning the 149 lb. national championship a year ago, the junior handed 18 th-ranked Chase Pami of Cal Poly in the semifinals, then held off Michigan's Jeff Marsh, 5-3, in the finals. Marsh was looking for his second straight upset after defeating eighth-ranked Brandon Becker of Indiana in the semifinals.

Three Fighting Scots came away with second place finishes. Eric Morrill turned in a strong showing at 125 lbs. The sophomore came away with a second place finish, winning three of four matches. He suffered a 2-0 loss to Brandon Precin of Northwestern, ranked 12th by InterMat, in the finals. Morrill began the day with a 1-0 win over Aaron Hart, then picked up a 3-2 decision over Drew Forshey of North Carolina. In the semifinals he defeated Old Dominion's Billy Chamberlain, 5-0. Morrill is now 5-2 on the season, with both losses to ranked wrestlers.

Newcomer <u>Dan Thompson</u> reached the finals at 184 lbs. before suffering a 7-2 defeat to Ben Kelto of Central Michigan. Thompson won three of four matches to improve to 4-2. <u>Terry Tate</u> filled in for regular starter Joey Fendone at heavyweight and reached the finals before dropping a 9-4 decision to Penn State's John Laboranti. Tate now has a 4-1 record.

<u>Daryl Cocozzo</u>, who is redshirting at 149 lbs., came away with a third place finish, winning six of seven matches. Cocozzo lost to Kurt Kinser of Indiana, 5-4, in the quarterfinals, but came back with four straight wins. He defeated Cary Manson in the third place match, 3-0. A week ago the sophomore finished first at the UB Open.

Ricky Deubel and Pat Bradshaw finished fourth at 133 and 197 lbs., respectively. Deubel was

4-2, with both losses coming to Ohio State's Will Livingston by identical 4-3 scores. The junior lost to Livingston in his second match, then fell in the consolation finals. Deubel now owns a 6-3 record.

Bradshaw reached the consolation finals thanks to four straight wins after dropping his opening bout, 11-6 to Dennis Drury of North Carolina. He retired due to injury in the consolation final against Arturo Basulto of Cal Poly. The sophomore has a 6-3 record.

In the freshmen/sophomore division, two of the gems of this year's recruiting class captured first place. Thomas Straughn, the regular starter at 149 lbs. who had a tough start with three losses last week in the Fighting Scot Duals, won all four of his bouts this week. He posted an 11-3 major decision over Keenan Duffie of North Carolina in the finals.

After finishing third at 165 lbs. in the UB Open last Sunday, Paul Paddock picked up a first place finish, winning all four of his matches. In the finals, he won a 3-0 decision over Justin Zeerip of Michigan. Paddock gave up just one escape in four bouts.

The third of Edinboro's blue-chip recruits, Chris Honeycutt, came away with a third place finish at 184 lbs. He won his first two matches to reach the semifinals before losing by fall against Kent State's Dustin Kilgore. Kilgore went on to finish first. Honeycutt, meanwhile, finished the day 4-1, defeating Cam Simaz in the consolation semifinals, 14-10, then picking up a 3-1 decision over Nick Tenpenny of North Carolina in the third place match.

Kyle Fluke placed in his second straight event. After a second place finish at the UB Open, the sophomore was third, going 4-1. The Fighting Scots picked up fourth and fifth place at 141 lbs. Torsten Gillespie, who started all three matches in the Fighting Scot Duals, went 3-2 to finish fourth. He lost to eventual champion Nick Stabile of North Carolina, 7-2, in the semifinals.

Fellow freshman Kory Bissett picked up fifth place, going 3-2, as well. Freshman Matt Coleman rounded out Edinboro's place winners with a fourth place finish at 165 lbs., finishing with three wins in five matches.