



ESPN Family of Networks to Provide Extensive Coverage of 2009 NCAA Wrestling Championships

Courtesy: matburn.com
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ST. LOUIS, MO – ESPN television subscribers who are wrestling fans will have the opportunity to watch the 79th annual NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships on Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

Beginning with the quarterfinal round, ESPNU, ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN360.com will combine for expanded live coverage, as all 11 hours will be presented in high definition for the first time ever.

Also for the first time, ESPN2 will telecast the semifinals along with ESPNU. The quarterfinals will air Friday, March 20, at 11 a.m. ET on ESPNU and ESPN360.com, and the semifinals at 7 p.m. on ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN360.com. For the third consecutive year, the semifinals will be telecast in a side-by-side format, allowing viewers to see both semifinal matches in each weight class at the same time, both on ESPNU and ESPN2.

ESPNU will telecast the Championship Medal Round on Saturday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m., and the hunt for the Div. I title culminates with the Finals at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN. During the Finals, two referees per match each will wear a microphone, providing fans with even more access to and understanding of the action.

ESPN360.com, ESPN's broadband sports television network, once again will complement the ESPNU HD, ESPN2 HD and ESPN HD telecasts with unparalleled access to all rounds of the

championships. ESPN360.com will provide live coverage of all four mats during the quarterfinals and both mats in the semifinals, offering users the option to select the match they want to see.

Dave Armstrong will serve as play-by-play announcer alongside analysts Tim Johnson and Olympic gold medalist Jeff Blatnick, with reporter Quint Kessenich, a former two-time county wrestling champion. For ESPN360.com coverage, 1981 NCAA 134-pound champion wrestler Jim Gibbons, who coached the 1987 Iowa State Cyclones to the national title, returns as analyst and will be joined by play-by-play announcer Shawn Kenney.

ESPN360.com is available at no cost to millions of U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel. Users accessing ESPN360.com from an on-campus ".edu" or ".mil" network domain in the United States receive free, seamless access to the NCAA Div. I Wrestling Championships and hundreds of other live college and professional sporting events each month. ESPN360.com is also available via affiliated ISPs nationwide, including AT&T, Verizon, RCN, Insight, Frontier, Cavalier, Charter, Mediacom, Conway, Grande Communications and many more.

The 2009 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships kick off on Thursday, March 19 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis. Brackets for the championship are expected to be released on Monday.

NCAA Div. I Wrestling Championships Television Schedule

Scottrade Center, St. Louis

Fri., March 20 - 11 a.m. - Quarterfinals – Live ESPNU HD / ESPN360.com

Fri., March 20 - 7 p.m. - Semifinals – Live ESPNU HD / ESPN2 HD / ESPN360.com

Sat., March 21 - 10:30 a.m. - Championship Medal Round - Live ESPNU HD / ESPN360.com

Sat., March 21 - 6:30 p.m. - Finals - Live ESPN HD / ESPN360.com