

Golden Eagles to host top Division I wrestling schools

Oklahoma and Buffalo among the eight schools competing at Brockport this weekend.

By **BRYAN SULLIVAN**

Messenger Post Staff

Don Murray's coaching philosophy has not changed in his long career with the SUNY Brockport Wrestling team.

Murray has always believed to be the best, you have to wrestle against the best competition. This weekend, his team will have a chance to go against some of the country's best wrestlers.

SUNY Brockport will host the Seventh Annual SUNY Brockport/Oklahoma Gold Wrestling Tournament Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Tuttle North Gymnasium. The semifinals are 2 p.m. and the finals begin at 6 p.m.

"It's good for us to get these programs in here," Murray said. "This is the toughest tournament of the season for us. It helps the kids get ready for the rest of the season."

The Golden Eagles are one of eight teams competing. Division I teams Oklahoma, Rutgers, Army and Buffalo are also scheduled to com-



STAFF PHOTO/BRYAN SULLIVAN

Brockport State's Donny Ooton (left) works on a move with Andrew Grillo in a practice on Nov. 1. The Golden Eagles are hosting the Seventh Annual SUNY Brockport/Oklahoma Gold Wrestling Tournament Saturday.

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Wrestling against Division I schools is nothing new for the Golden Eagles.

Brockport finished ninth in the Eastern Michigan Open last Saturday in a field that featured several Big 10 schools. The Golden Eagles will wrestle at Ashland University on Nov. 18 against Division I schools from

around the country.

Brockport's Brett Giehl reached the consolation semifinals at 184 last Saturday before losing to a wrestler from the Naval Academy. The junior said this tournament helps the team for the rest of the season.

"It's intimidating to start the year," Giehl said. "It helps us though, because when we

get through it we are back to the Division III competition."

The competition should be tough for the Golden Eagles Saturday.

The Sooners entered the season ranked as high as three in the preseason polls, and have won two dual meets this season by a score of 92-0.

Bloomsburg (Pa.) is coming off a 11-9 season last

year. Six Bloomsburg wrestlers finished in the top five in last week's Buffalo Open to start this season.

"It's really tough competition, it's different than what we are used to in the season," said Andrew Grillo, a Brockport junior who wrestles at 157 pounds for the Golden Eagles. "It's tough, upper division competition."

Murray and Jack Spates, Oklahoma head coach, have worked together at the Oklahoma Gold Wrestling Camp, held during the summer at SUNY Brockport.

Murray had been hoping to get a tournament with Division I schools at Brockport for several years, but working with Spates at the summer camp finally gave him the contact he needed to host a tournament.

"A lot of the area coaches wanted to bring in a big named University to come in, and Oklahoma was perfect," Murray said. "It's good for (Brockport) too, because it gives the athletes some exposure for going against Division I teams."

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