EMU Men's Wrestling: Wrestling Set for Cleveland State Open December 13, 2013

Eastern Michigan University

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Wrestling Set for Cleveland State Open

The Green and White takes a break from duals to compete in the Cleveland State Open, Saturday, Dec. 14.

LAST TIME IN CLEVELAND: The Eagles have competed in the Cleveland State Open the past three seasons and four of the past eight years. The Green and White was successful last season at the Cleveland State Open, Dec. 17, 2012, as two grapplers placed in their respective weight classes. Then-freshman Alexander Calandrino clinched a third-place finish at 125 lbs. as he went 5-1 on the day. Calandrino pinned Gardner-Webb's Alex White in 2:00 in his opening bout before falling by decision in his second match. The Howell, Mich. native went on to win four-straight matches en route to picking up the third-place finish for EMU, while former-wrestler Jaylyn Bohl went 4-2 on the day to grab a fifth-place finish for Eastern. Bohl had two pins on the afternoon to go along with a major decision to grasp the fifth-place spot.

Devan Marry (165 lbs.) and Nicholas Barber (141 lbs.) also had winning afternoons as each posted a 4-2 record on the day, but were unable to place in the top-six in their respective weight classes.

TAKING DOWN RANKED OPPONENTS: The Green and White has taken down two ranked opponents in two-straight duals as the Eagles defeated No. 23 Stanford, 18-16 in the Convocation Center before traveling to Norfolk, Va. and securing a 21-19 victory over No. 24 Old Dominion. Since EMU defeated both teams, the Cardinal has
moved up as high as No. 18 in the NCAA rankings, while the Monarchs dropped out of Wrestlingreport.com's top-25. The wins mark the first time in Eagle history that Eastern has defeated two ranked teams in a season. Prior to beating Stanford and Old Dominion, EMU last beat a ranked opponent in the 2012-13 campaign when it defeated then-No. 24 North Dakota State, 18-17, Nov. 24, 2012.

Individually, seven wrestlers have taken on ranked opponents as the team posts a 2-9 record this season against ranked opposition. Vincent Pizzuto and Nicholas Barber each have 1-1 records against ranked opponents as Pizzuto defeated No. 19 Sam Sherlock of Clarion in a 10-1 major decision before falling to Stanford's No. 3 Ryan Mango, 12-5. Barber first earned a 10-5 decision over Clarion's No. 31 Tyler Bedeyon before suffering a fall in 2:44 to No. 12 Chris Mecate of Old Dominion.

**DELPORTO CAPTURES 100th CAREER VICTORY:** Head Coach Derek DelPorto clinched his 100th career victory as a head coach when the Eagles grabbed a 21-19 victory over Old Dominion. The deciding win over the preseason No. 2 team in the MAC came in the final bout as the Eagles trailed by one heading into the heavyweight division.

The Erie, Pa. native posts a 100-90-2 all-time record after spending two years at Slippery Rock before coming to Eastern in 2006.

**DELPORTO NEARING ALL-TIME EMU COACHING RECORD:** Head Coach Derek DelPorto currently holds a 78-69-2 record at EMU, which is two wins shy of tying former head coach John Eisley. While at Eastern, Eisley posted an 80-74-4 record in his 12-year tenure. If DelPorto picks up just three more wins this season, he will take the all-time wins record in just eight seasons at the helm.

**GERMAINE REMAINS PERFECT:** Redshirt-senior Jared Germaine has come out strong in his final season as an Eagle. The Saginaw, Mich. native boasts a perfect 6-0 overall and dual record on the season as he has notched big wins in each of his bouts.

Germaine posted two decisions and a major decision at the EMU Duals before taking a 13-7 decision over Michigan State's Hermilo Esquivel and a 9-3 decision over Stanford's Tommy Pawelski.

Germaine's sixth win of the season got the Green and White off to a quick 3-0 lead over Old Dominion as he captured a 4-2 decision over Jerome Robinson in the opening bout. Robinson took an early 2-0 lead with a takedown in the first period before Germaine grabbed an escape to come within one. Germaine grabbed his first takedown in the second period to take a 4-2 lead. Neither wrestler was able to score in the final period as Germaine remained undefeated and improved to 6-0 on the season.

**DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS:** Eastern Michigan used five decisions en route to its victory over Old Dominion University. The deciding win over the No. 2 preseason team in the MAC and the No. 24 team on Wrestlingreport.com came in the final bout as the Eagles trailed by one heading into the heavyweight division. Jared Germaine (125 lbs.) and Jacob Davis (165 lbs.) picked up early decisions for the Eagles before Eastern used three-straight decisions from Phillip Joseph (184 lbs.), Nick Whitenburg (197 lbs.) and Khodor Hoballah (HWT) to clinch the 21-19 win over the Monarchs. Vincent Pizzuto was the only other Eagle to earn a win for the Green and White as he pinned ODU's Scott Festejo in 6:05 to secure six points for EMU.

**HOBALLAH COMES UP BIG AGAINST THE MONARCHS:** With the match on the line in the final bout of the night for the second dual in a row, Khodor Hoballah was able to come up with a big 7-2 decision over Matt Tourdot to give EMU the 21-19 victory in its first MAC dual. The first period was back-and-forth as Hoballah used an escape to take the 1-0 advantage before Tourdot had a takedown to take the 2-1 lead. Hoballah answered back with an escape to knot the match at 2-2. The score remained at 2-2 through the entire second period as Tourdot chose to be neutral heading into the final two minutes of action. Hoballah secured five points in the final period with one takedown to earn the 7-2 decision and give the Eagles their second-straight win.
OUTSCORING THE OPPOSITION: The Eagles are currently outscoring their opponents 181-87 on the young season as they have only allowed four teams to score in the double-digits through their first six duals. EMU dominated its first four opponents at the EMU Duals as it dropped only seven of its 40 bouts on the day, while averaging two pins per dual with eight total, including five in its first dual against Tiffin. The Green and White suffered its first loss of the season at Michigan State, but kept the Spartans to only one pin and six decisions, keeping the score under 30.

The Eagles came up with close wins over Stanford and Old Dominion, using a Phillip Joseph pin against the Cardinal and a Khodor Hoballah decision against the Monarchs. The Green and White only gave up 19 points, allowing the Eagles to maintain over a 90-point margin over all opposition.

COVERAGE OF THE CLEVELAND STATE OPEN: Fans can go to www.trackwrestling.com and check live updates on the brackets. Also, fans can follow the team on www.EMUEagles.com and Twitter (@EMUWrestling). Fans can join in on the conversation by using #FlyingHigher.

UP NEXT ON THE MATS?: Eastern Michigan returns to Ypsilanti to take on Olivet College on Wrestler's Night, Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Bowen Field House. The dual is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Wrestlers of all ages will get into the dual free of charge if they RSVP to Head Coach Derek DelPorto at ddelport@emich.edu.