

SPORTS NEWS



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Wrestling

For Immediate Release: November 18, 2002 • Contact: John Hartrick

BU hosts successful Bearcat Open to kick off season

More than 250 wrestlers from 17 schools began their seasons in BU's West Gym on Saturday, and the Bearcats had several solid performances. Coach Mike Fusilli's young group was led by junior **Jeff McAveney (New Fairfield, Conn.)**, who placed fourth at 174 pounds. Freshman heavyweight **Jon Gregg (Johnsonville, N.Y./LaSalle Academy)** won three of four matches before withdrawing from the tournament, and four other wrestlers won three matches, including sophomore **Josh Ruff (Bainbridge, N.Y./Bainbridge-Guilford)**, who posted three major decisions at 141.

"This was a good first meet," Fusilli said. "We would have liked to have had more placewinners, but we had a handful of guys lose narrow matches which would have put them in the finals (for places 1-6). We have a lot of room for improvement, but I'm confident we will be able to win those close matches as the season progresses."

McAveney wins four matches to place fourth

Junior 174-pound **Jeff McAveney (New Fairfield, Conn.)**, seeded fourth, won four of six matches to place fourth. He opened with a 4-1 decision against a conference opponent from Boston University before losing to the fifth seed from Cornell. In the wrestlebacks, McAveney scored a 9-7 decision, a 12-3 major decision, and advanced to the third place bout with a forfeit win. There, he was defeated again by the same wrestler from Cornell, 14-3.

"Jeff wrestled in a tough weight class," Fusilli said. "He should be very pleased with how he did."

Gregg looks strong in collegiate debut

Freshman heavyweight **Jon Gregg (Johnsonville, N.Y./LaSalle Academy)** was impressive in his collegiate debut, succumbing only to back pain after four matches. Gregg, who has big shoes to fill with the graduation of NCAA qualifier Craig Tefft, posted two pins before losing in the quarterfinals to the eventual champion and reigning NCAA Division II runner-up from Gannon. In that match, Gregg led 1-0 entering the third period before experiencing back pain. His opponent capitalized and strung together six consecutive points to win 6-1. Gregg's collegiate career was delayed one full year with a back injury last season, and after an ensuing 7-1 decision in the wrestlebacks, Fusilli pulled his young wrestler to avoid further injury.

"Jon had a good day," Fusilli said. "Because of his recent back trouble, he hadn't practiced much, but came out and gave the top-ranked Division II wrestler in the country a great match. He also had three dominant matches."

Privitere set to return to lineup

Senior 157-pound **Joe Privitere (Johnson City, N.Y.)** sat out the Bearcat Open while recovering from an ankle injury, but will be ready for BU's opening dual against Buffalo. Privitere has 81 career victories, which ranks fifth all time at Binghamton.

Up Next: Home dual against Buffalo

The Bearcats will host Buffalo at 3 p.m. on Sunday in their first dual of the season. Binghamton is 2-6 all-time against the Bulls, who posted a 29-10 victory last season in Buffalo.

2002-03 Schedule/Results

NOVEMBER

16 Sat. BEARCAT OPEN no scoring

24 Sun. BUFFALO (West Gym) 3 p.m.

26 Tue. ARMY 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

6 Fri. EASTERN MICHIGAN and BOSTON UNIV. 3:30 p.m.

8 Sun. @ Kent State Duals 4:30 p.m.
w/ Gardner-Webb, Mercyhurst

20 Fri. @ Delaware Beast of East TBA

JANUARY

11 Sat. @ N.C. State Duals 10 a.m.
w/ George Mason, UNC-Greensboro

17 Fri.- @ NYS Championship 11 a.m.

18 Sat. hosted by Buffalo

22 Wed. @ Wagner 7 p.m.

24 Fri. %Old Dominion 6 p.m.

%Drexel 8 p.m.

25 Sat. %James Madison 11 a.m.

%Hofstra 1 p.m.

29 Wed. @ Rider 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1 Sat. PRINCETON and FRANKLIN & MARSHALL 4/8 p.m.

8 Sat. @ Sacred Heart 7 p.m.

15 Sat. SLIPPERY ROCK 11 a.m.

19 Wed. EAST STROUDSBURG 7 p.m.

21 Fri. @ Columbia 7:30 p.m.

MARCH

7 Fri.- Colonial Athletic Association TBA

8 Sat. Champ. hosted by Hofstra

20 Thu.- NCAA Championship TBA

22 Sat. in Kansas City, Mo.

%CAA Duals hosted by George Mason