Women's basketball, 2B, 9B.

Wrestling, 5B, 7B, 12B.

Men's basketball, 3B, 8B.

SPORTS

UNCP's Brendon Parker-Risk moves through the air as he attempts to take down his opponent during the Super Region I Duals on Jan. 21.

The Pine Needle

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By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

The English E. Jones Center welcomed 13 different teams to campus as UNCP hosted the Super Region I Duals on Jan. 21 and 22, with each team wrestling four matches in the tournament.

Matches ran simultaneously on four different mats throughout the two days, as three different nationally ranked teams, including the host Braves, were in the field.

Along with No. 6 UNCP, fourth-ranked Newberry College and 12th ranked Pitt-Johnstown all faced off as schools from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina invaded town.

The Super Region I Dual tournament helps wrestlers and teams lead up to the Super Region I Tournament, which will be held Feb. 25-26 at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.

The host Braves fared well at the tournament, finishing 3-1 with wins over Shippensburg, Mercyhurst and Seton Hill and dropping their only match to Pitt-Johnstown.

After the tournament, the Braves’ record moves to 11-3, pushing UNCP to 10 or more wins for the second straight year for the first time since the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons.

The host Braves received unorthodox performances from the first four weight classes in the lineup en route to their two opening night wins.

All-American Russell Weakley, ranked first in the region at 125-pounds, tallied a pin and a tech fall victory in his two wins.

Timdarius Thurston also grabbed two wins.

Against Shippensburg, Joe Figueroa earned a decision win, while Tyquan Easton won by decision against Mercyhurst as both wrestled at 141 pounds.

Brendon Parker-Risk finished an even 1-1 on the night with a pin against Shippensburg before he fell by a one-point decision against Mercyhurst.

Mike Williams, ranked No. 1 in the region at 165-pounds, remained undefeated with a major decision win over Shippensburg and a quick pin against Mercyhurst.

John Starrock and Sheheem Bryant combined to keep the Braves undefeated at 184-pounds, with Starrock earning a pin against Shippensburg before Bryant nullified a decision win over Mercyhurst.

Shane Nolan capped off his first day of the tournament with two decision victories at 197-pounds, while Seth Stewart (285-pounds) and Dennis Fix (174-pounds) each picked up one win in their only matches in day one.

Hot start

On Friday night, UNCP took home a 40-6 win against Shippensburg to open their tournament before taking down Mercyhurst 25-8 in the nightcap.

It was the Braves’ biggest margin of victory in their nine game series with Mercyhurst and UNCP’s first victory in seven tries over Shippensburg.

The Braves received un-beaten performances from the first four weight classes in the lineup en route to their two opening night wins.

Win

All-American Russell Weakley, ranked first in the region at 125-pounds, tallied a pin and a tech fall victory in his two wins.

Timdarius Thurston also grabbed two wins.

Against Shippensburg, Joe Figueroa earned a decision win, while Tyquan Easton won by decision against Mercyhurst as both wrestled at 141 pounds.

Williams would continue his winning streak with a third period pin in his matchup, followed up by Fix’s pin in the 174-pound matchup.

The Braves’ one hiccup came in the 184-pound match, but the match ended like it began, as Nolan and James De La Riva each won by forfeit to close out the contest.

In the Braves’ final victory of the tournament, things didn’t go their way against Pitt-Johnstown.

The Open match, Russell Weakley was injured and had to injury forfeit the remainder of the match, giving Pitt-Johnstown an easy 6-0 advantage.

The injury forfeit was the first loss of Weakley’s senior campaign, as he now sits at 16-1 on the year.

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