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HOOSIERS OPEN SEASON WITH INTRA-SQUAD WRESTLE-OFFS

NASHVILLE, Ind. – The Indiana wrestling team kicked off its 2006-07 campaign with the annual intra-squad wrestle-offs, held at Brown County High School on Sunday, Nov. 5. Three of the Hoosiers' four returning NCAA qualifiers competed in the event, with all three taking major decisions over their teammates.

"It was a good event today," head coach Duane Goldman said. "I really appreciate the large crowd that attended. They really added a lot to the wrestle-offs. I was pleased with the way we wrestled today – it's a great opportunity for us as coaches to analyze and criticize our athletes. It's given us a good idea of what we need to work on going into our competitive season."

Andrae Hernandez was the first returning qualifier to compete, matching up with his cousin, Jose Escobedo, at 133 pounds. Hernandez took a 12-2 major decision, the first major decision of the day. Two-time All-American Brandon Becker staved off a hard-fought effort from Ryan Pribble, moving on to a 12-2 major decision of his own. Junior Max Dean had to outlast a strong effort from two-time Indiana state champion Paul Young, but Dean eventually walked away with an 11-2 major decision.

Three newcomers posted major decisions of their own in the event, with redshirt freshmen Trevor Perry and Angel Escobedo and true freshman Nathan Everhart walking away with decisive victories. Perry tallied a 12-4 victory over freshman Nick Avery, Escobedo bested sophomore Wesley Fike 19-7, and Everhart topped walk-on Justin Kuhlman 16-6.

Perhaps the most anticipated matchup of the event came at 149 pounds, where highly touted redshirt Matt Coughlin faced Bloomington standout Kurt Kinser. The two grapplers fought to a 1-1 tie in their bout. In other action, at 125 pounds Fike defeated Ted Strychalski 6-2, Alex Warren topped Justin Sciscoe 4-0 at 141, Nick Walpole bested Scott Kelly 8-1 at 141, Jantzen Minton beat Eric Cameron 4-3 at 184 and Marc Bennett downed Justin Curran 5-2 at 184.

The Hoosiers will begin their regular season on Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Michigan State Open in East Lansing, Mich.

125: Angel Escobedo maj. dec. Wesley Fike, 19-7
125: Wesley Fike dec. Ted Strychalski, 6-2
133: Andrae Hernandez maj. dec. Jose Escobedo, 12-2
141: Alex Warren dec. Justin Sciscoe, 4-0
141: Nick Walpole dec. Scott Kelly, 8-1
149: Matt Coughlin tied Kurt Kinser, 1-1
157: Brandon Becker maj. dec. Ryan Pribble, 12-2
165: Max Dean maj. dec. Paul Young, 11-2
174: Trevor Perry maj. dec. Nick Avery, 12-4
184: Marc Bennett dec. Justin Curran, 5-2
184: Jantzen Minton dec. Eric Cameron, 4-3
197: Nathan Everhart maj. dec. Justin Kuhlman