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**January 13, 2021**

### **ACC Weekly Release**

<http://theacc.co/ACCWrestling2021>

### **Takedowns**

- The ACC continues to place four teams among the top 15 of the NWCA Coaches' Rankings. NC State remains at No. 4, followed by No. 8 Virginia Tech, No. 12 Pitt and No. 13 North Carolina. The Wolfpack and Hokies maintain the same positions among the top 10 that they held last week, while Pitt and North Carolina each moved up a notch.
- Friday night's ranked matchup between Virginia Tech and North Carolina in Chapel Hill opens ACC competition and also marks the return of Friday Night Duals on ACC Network. Six duals, including five ranked matchups, will be carried live each Friday night through Feb. 12. This week's match between the Hokies and Tar Heels is set for a 6 p.m. start.
- Other ACC action lined up for this weekend includes NC State at Virginia on Friday, followed by Duke at Pitt on Saturday morning. The Duke-Pitt match will be the Blue Devils' season opener.
- ACC teams remain unbeaten against non-conference opponents (10-0), and then-No. 13 Pitt delivered the conference's first win over a ranked opponent with last weekend's 24-9 victory over No. 17 Lehigh. ACC teams were 43-18 (.705) in dual matches versus non-league opponents in 2019-20, including a 12-7 mark versus top 25 opposition.
- Pitt's 15-point margin of victory over Lehigh ranks as the Panthers' largest home win versus the Mountain Hawks in a series that has seen the programs wrestle 65 dual meets.
- NC State currently owns the nation's longest dual-match winning streak with 19 consecutive victories, including last season's perfect 15-0 mark. Current head coach Pat Popolizio, in his ninth year at the helm, picked up his 200th career victory (119th at NC State), when the Wolfpack downed Appalachian State 24-12 last Friday night.
- Thirty-two ACC wrestlers are ranked among the nation's top 20 in their respective weight classes by InterMat, including 16 among the top 10. Virginia Tech redshirt sophomore Mekhi Lewis, who captured the 2019 national championship at 165 pounds, remains No. 1 in that weight class. North Carolina's Austin O'Connor is ranked No. 1 at 149 pounds. NC State senior Hayden Hidlay (157 pounds) and Virginia Tech's Hunter Bolen (184) are ranked No. 2, while Virginia's Jay Aiello (197) is at No. 3.
- Dating back over the last six seasons, NC State has been ranked among the top 10 teams in 76 straight NWCA coaches' national rankings
- After making his mark in the 184-pound weight class last season, Pitt junior Nino Bonaccorsi continues to find success after moving up to 197. Bonaccorsi earned his first ranked win of the season at 197 last weekend, beating Lehigh's Jake Jakobsen, ranked 15th by InterMat, in an impressive 7-2 decision. Bonaccorsi currently holds a No. 5 national ranking in his new weight class.

### **Recent Results**

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Friday, Jan. 8  
12 Appalachian State at #4 NC State 24

**Saturday, Jan. 9**  
Gardner-Webb 1 at Virginia 44  
#17 Lehigh 9 at #13 Pitt 24

**Sunday, Jan. 10**  
#14 North Carolina 45, Gardner-Webb 0  
#8 Virginia Tech 39 vs. Ohio 6  
#8 Virginia Tech 32 vs. Kent State 9  
#8 Virginia Tech 24 at West Virginia 10

**Upcoming Schedule**

**Friday, Jan. 15**  
NC State at Virginia, 5 p.m.  
Virginia Tech at North Carolina, 6 p.m. (ACC Network)

**Saturday, Jan. 16**  
Duke at Pitt, 10 a.m.

**Friday, Jan. 22**  
Virginia at Virginia Tech, 5 p.m.  
Pitt at NC State, 6 p.m. (ACC Network)  
North Carolina at Duke, 6 p.m.



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