ESU Wrestling Takes Down LIU Post, 26-24, in Final Dual Action Before Super Region 1 Championships

February 13, 2018

EAST STROUDSBURG - East Stroudsburg University won four of the six contested bouts, getting wins from redshirt junior Blake Cohen at 149, No. 5-ranked redshirt sophomore Mike Raccioppi at 165, freshman Dillon Warner at 197 and freshman Hunter Marhan at 285 to upend LIU Post, 26-24, in a Super Region 1 dual on Tuesday night at Koehler Fieldhouse.

Warner won an 18-10 major decision and Marhan posted a 7-5 decision on a takedown with 20 seconds left to give the Warriors the final two bouts, after a pair of forfeits gave LIU Post a 24-19 edge going to 197.

Cohen and senior Christian Silva (157), both in their fourth seasons with the Warriors, were recognized on Senior Night prior to the match.

ESU led 12-6 through three bouts, picking up forfeits by freshmen Victor Lopez (125) and Peter Nace (133), with LIU Post's Joe Calderone winning by first-period fall at 141.

Cohen notched a 13-3 major decision at 149 in his final dual action, earning the bonus point win over Dan Espanaria with a four-point nearfall with five seconds remaining.

LIU Post closed to 16-12 with a fall by TJ Fabian with four seconds left in the first period.

Raccioppi improved to 19-3 on the season and 15-1 vs. DII competition with an 8-4 decision over Jackson Mordente at 165, building on his 6-3 lead after the first period with a takedown with 50 seconds left in the second. Raccioppi closes the dual season with a 14-1 mark.

ESU led 19-12 going to 174 pounds, where LIU Post received forfeits from two regionally-ranked wrestlers at 174 and 184 to go in front, 24-19.

At 197, Warner wrestled up two weight classes and pulled away from Jesse Weiner for an 18-10 major decision, sealing it with a takedown with 30 seconds left and a 1:04 riding time advantage at the final whistle.

Marhan captured the must-win final bout for the Warriors with his 7-5 decision over Damian Caffrey at 285. He led 2-1 after two periods, getting a first-period takedown, but trailed by 1:52 in the riding time after Caffrey rode out the entire second period.

Marhan was hit with his second caution to start the third, leveling it at 2-2, and Caffrey escaped shortly after for a 4-3 lead. Marhan had a takedown and Caffrey escaped to make it 4-4, and after Marhan was awarded a penalty point, he scored the match-winning takedown with 20 seconds left for a 7-4 lead and held off Caffrey's reversal attempt. The riding time point made the final 7-5.

ESU's next action will be at the NCAA Division II Super Region 1 Championships at Pitt-Johnstown on February 23-24, with the top four finishers at each weight class advancing to the NCAA DII Championships at Upper Iowa on March 9-10.

Raccioppi is ranked No. 1 in the region at 165, Cohen is No. 7 at 149 and Warner is No. 8 at 174.

ESU 26, LIU Post 24
125 - Victor Lopez (ESU) won by forfeit; ESU leads 6-0
133 - Peter Nace (ESU) won by forfeit; ESU leads 12-0
141 - Joe Calderone (LIU Post) pinned Francesco Palagruto, 1:32; ESU leads 12-6
149 - Blake Cohen (ESU) maj. dec. Dan Espanaria, 13-3; ESU leads 16-6
157 - TJ Fabian (LIU Post) pinned Christian Silva, 2:56; ESU leads 16-12
165 - #5 Mike Raccioppi (ESU) dec. Jackson Mordente, 8-4; ESU leads 19-12
174 - Dan Arkow (LIU Post) won by forfeit; ESU leads 19-18
184 - Dan McClure (LIU Post) won by forfeit; LIU Post leads 24-19
197 - Dillon Warner (ESU) maj. dec. Jesse Weiner, 18-10; LIU Post leads 24-23
285 - Hunter Marhan (ESU) dec. Damian Caffrey, 7-5; ESU wins 26-24

SR1 rankings:
141 - #3 Calderone (LIUP)
149 - #7 Cohen (ESU)
157 - #6 Fabian (LIUP)
165 - #1 Raccioppi (ESU), #8 Mordente (LIUP)
174 - #3 Arkow (LIUP)
184 - #6 McClure (LIUP)
197 - #8 Dillon Warner (FSIU) (ranked at 174)