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Gettysburg Wrestling Set for CC Championship Saturday

Bullets begin postseason run at conference tournament

GETTYSBURG, Pa. – The Gettysburg College wrestling team will take its first steps on the postseason road by competing in the Centennial Conference Championship hosted by the United States Merchant Marine Academy this Saturday in Kings Point, N.Y.

With the NCAA Division III regional and national events looming on the horizon, Gettysburg has its sights set on using this weekend's conference event as a springboard for a strong postseason. The Bullets are hoping to channel the same energy that helped the team win team titles at both the Messiah College Invitational and Gettysburg Invitational and led to 11 individual titles this season.

After finishing among the top four in each of the last three CC Championships, Gettysburg is looking to make a run up the ladder at the top teams, including four-time defending team champion Stevens Institute of Technology. Stevens remains the team to beat with four of their six individual champions from 2018 returning.

"The team is ready to have a great performance," said Head Coach **Andy Vogel**, who is in his 12th season at Gettysburg. "I think our strength is better in tournaments than in dual meets, so it is exciting to have the chance to show that this weekend."

The Bullets have never won a team title at the conference meet, and to end that streak it will take a complete effort from its entire lineup. The only current member of the team to stand atop the podium at the CC Championship is senior **Paul Triandafilou** (Derwood, Md./Georgetown Prep), who is the two-time heavyweight champion.

“Paul will need to avenge an earlier loss to (Blake) Bunce of Merchant Marine to win his third straight championship,” noted Vogel. “He should cruise to the finals where he will have that chance.”

Triandafilou has made his mark as one of the all-time greats at Gettysburg and in Centennial Conference history. He will try to become the conference’s first three-time heavyweight champion since Drew Reinecker from McDaniel College in 2003-05. The last Bullet to win three conference titles was **Andrew Goldstein '09**, who claimed the 157-pound crown from 2007-09.

Triandafilou enters the weekend ranked eighth in the country. He is 26-3 this season with all three of his losses coming to wrestlers ranked among the top seven.

Senior **Colin Kowalski** (Derwood, Md./Georgetown Prep) will likely earn the top seed at 174 pounds after posting a perfect mark (7-0) in Centennial duals this season. Kowalski has finished conference runner-up twice, first at 157 pounds in 2016 and again at 165 in 2018. He’ll aim to become Gettysburg’s first champ at 174 since **Zach Thomson** earned the title in 2013. Kowalski is 30-2 with 15 falls, two technical falls, and eight major decisions this season. He enters the weekend ranked 10th in the country.

“Colin Kowalski will be a heavy favorite and the top seed at 174,” said Vogel. “He will need to wrestle well to win, but if he does, he should come out on top.”

Triandafilou and Kowalski give Gettysburg its best opportunity to crown two conference champions in the same year since 2008. That year, **Matt Shank '08** and Goldstein won gold at 149 and 157, respectively. Triandafilou and Kowalski enter the weekend as the only classmates in program history to each win over 100 career matches. Triandafilou is currently tied with Shank for second on the all-time wins list with a mark of 114-18, while Kowalski is tied for fourth with a career record of 102-24.

Additional returning all-conference performers for the Bullets include junior **Colin Devlin** (Dresher, Pa./Upper Dublin) and senior **Dan Ebert** (Fairfield, Conn./Fairfield Warde). Devlin was the runner-up at 141 as a first-year and finished third at 149 last season. The junior is 20-5 with nine pins on the year at 149. Ebert has displayed the same form as a senior that helped him finish runner-up at 174 pounds two years ago. He missed all of his junior campaign with an injury, but the Connecticut native has bounced back to post a 20-7 record with six falls at 184 pounds this year.

Sophomore **Sean Thompson** (Plainsboro, N.J./West Windsor-Plainsboro South) placed fourth at 141 pounds in his CC Championship debut last season. Thompson has produced another productive campaign with a 19-10 overall record, including 5-2 in CC duals.

The rest of the lineup will feature newcomers to the conference tournament looking to

make an impact. Sophomore **Alex Shaffer** (Doylestown, Pa./Archbishop Wood) will wrestle at 133, freshman **Ray Martin** (Downingtown, Pa./West Chester Henderson) at 157, sophomore **Marc Larson** (Warren, N.J./Watchung Hills) at 165, and sophomore **Mike Iodice** (Flemington, N.J./Hunterdon Central) at 197.

Opening matches are slated to begin at 10 a.m. inside the USMMA gym. Fans unable to attend can follow [live results](#) and [live video](#) throughout the day.

-Go Bullets-

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