

Wrestling: Hofstra Begins Season At The Princeton Open Sunday

Courtesy: Hofstra Athletic Communications

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PRINCETON OPEN LIVE MAT STREAMS – ESPN+

[Mat 1](#) | [Mat 2](#) | [Mat 3](#) | [Mat 4](#) | [Mat 5](#) | [Mat 6](#) | [Mat 7](#) | [Mat 8](#) | [Mat 9](#) | [Mat 10](#)

Hempstead, NY – The Hofstra Wrestling team begins its 2018-19 regular season this Sunday, November 4 when the Pride compete in the Princeton University Open at Jadwin Gymnasium. Competition begins at 9 a.m. Admission is free.

Thirteen teams, including 12 division I schools and one prep school, will compete in the weight class competition that is expected to run until 6:30 p.m. Expected to compete are Army, Columbia, Hofstra, Lehigh, Maryland, Old Dominion, Princeton, Purdue, Rider, Rutgers, Sacred Heart, Stanford and the USMAPS. Princeton will stream all 10 mats exclusively on ESPN+ with links found else on this page.

Pride Head Wrestling Coach Dennis Papadatos leads an all-Hofstra alumni coaching staff as he enters his fifth season in charge of the Blue and Gold fortunes. He is assisted by Michael Patrovich, '07, Jamie Franco, '14 and volunteer assistant coach Michael Hughes, '18. Hofstra returns 11 wrestlers, including eight starters, from last year's squad and has added nine newcomers.

It is expected that the newcomers will be in the thick of things as they battle for starting roles when the Pride's dual match schedule begins on Friday, November 16 against Rutgers at the David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex at 6 p.m. Individual match and season tickets are available for purchase at the Mack Sports Complex Box Office during normal business hours, online at HofstraTickets.com and by phone at (516) 463-TIXX (8499).

Leading the Hofstra returnees is redshirt senior Nezar Haddad at 197. Haddad posted a 19-14 record including a 13-6 mark in dual matches in 2017-18. Junior Sage Heller, who is joined this year by his freshman 149-pound brother Holden, was 15-14 last season and leads the returnees with 61 dual match points. Other returning starters include junior 125-pounder Jacob Martin (10-19), redshirt sophomore 133-pounder Garrett Lambert (6-16), junior 141-pounder Vinny Vespa (10-16), senior 149-pounder Ryan Burkert (10-12), redshirt sophomore 157-pounder Chris Mauriello (2-8), and redshirt sophomore 165-pounder Ricky Stamm (8-17). Redshirt junior Omar Haddad, who started at 285 in 2016-17, also returns to the Pride line-up this season.

Papadatos is expected to use 15 wrestlers, eight attached and seven unattached, at the Princeton Open. Expected to wrestle attached are redshirt freshman transfer from Wyoming, Trent Olson at 125; Lambert at 133; Mauriello at 157; Stamm at 165; Sage Heller at 174; Michael Oxley at 184; Nezar Haddad at 197; and Omar Haddad at 285. Wrestling unattached will be Martin and freshmen Dylan Ryder, and Matt Templeton at 125; freshman Corey Langner at 165, freshman Trey Rogers at 184; and freshman Reggie Poulin and sophomore transfer from Nassau Community College Zachary Knighton-Ward at 285.

Following the Princeton Open, Hofstra will continue with competition to get a good look at his team at the Journeymen Northeast Collegiate Classic in Albany, New York on Sunday, November 11 at 9 a.m.