

Wrestling: Hofstra's Heller Earns Bronze Medal At The 20th Maccabiah Games

Courtesy: Hofstra Athletic Communications

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Hempstead, NY – Hofstra University sophomore wrestler Sage Heller earned a bronze medal for Team USA in the 2017 Maccabiah World Games in Beer Sheva, Israel.

Heller, a native of Riverwoods, Illinois, recorded a 2-1 record in the 86 kg/189 lb. freestyle division at the 20th Maccabiah Games to capture the bronze medal. He was one of the 12-man Team USA squad who all earned medals in freestyle wrestling.

Complete bout-by-bout results from the Maccabiah Games are not currently available.

Heller was selected to the U.S. Maccabiah Team after winning five matches in his weight class at the Maccabiah Team USA Wrestling Trials at the University of Pennsylvania in April.

Heller led the Hofstra Pride in victories during the 2016-17 season with a 23-17 mark at 174 pounds. He tallied eight wins by decision, four pins, four tech falls and three major decisions on the year. He won the Lock Haven Classic, placed second in the Journeymen/Blue and Gold Tussle B Division, third at the Binghamton Jonathan Kaloust Bearcat Open and fifth at the New York State Collegiate Championships.

In addition to Heller's bronze medal, Team USA had five gold medalists in Zachary Sherman of Plantation, Fla. at 61 kg/134 lbs., Mitchell Finesilver of Greenwood Village, Colo. at 70 kg/154 lbs., Matt Finesilver of Greenwood Village, Colo. at 74 kg/163 lbs., Donald McNeil of Plainville, [Mass.at](#) 97 kg/213 lbs. and Michael Kosoy of Boca Raton, Fla. at 125 kg/275 lbs.

The Finesilver brothers compete for Duke, while McNeil wrestles for Rider and Kosoy wrestles for NC State. Sherman, who wrestled for Blair Academy, has committed to compete for North Carolina.

Winning silver medals were Parker Kropman of Rochester, N.Y. at 65 kg/143 lbs. and Gordon Wolf of Lawrenceville, N.J. at 86 kg/189 lbs. Kropman wrestles for Binghamton and Wolf wrestles at Lehigh.

The team added five bronze medals, which went to Nathan Engel of Annapolis, Md. at 57 kg/125.5 lbs., Moshe Schwartz of Franktown, Colo. at 57 kg/125.5 lbs., Bo Schlosser of Franktown, Colo. at 61 kg/134 lbs., Jack Mutchnick of Owings Mills, Md. at 65 kg/143 lbs. and Heller.

Engel, who won two gold medals at the 19th World Maccabiah Games in 2013, is an assistant coach at the U.S. Naval Academy. Mutchnick wrestles for American, Schwartz competed with prep power Wyoming Seminary while Schlosser is a native of Iowa.

The team was led by head coach Chris Feder of San Rafael, Calif. and assistant coach Robinson Prebish of Richmond, Va.

The Maccabiah World Games, a competition for Jewish athletes across the world, is the third largest multi-sport event on earth behind the Olympic Games and the Pan American Games. Wrestlers are part of the overall 1,100+ member Team USA at the 2017 World Maccabiah Games, which features 10,000 athletes, from 80 countries, participating in 43 sports.