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FIGHTING ILLINI WRESTLING

Martinez, Richards Set For World Team Trials Challenge Tournament

Braunagel twins, Cardani to compete in Junior Freestyle World Team Trials.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Former Illini wrestlers [Isaiah Martinez](#) and Zane Richards will continue their pursuits for spots on the United States' World Championships team at the World Team Trials Challenge Tournament this weekend in Raleigh, North Carolina at North Carolina State University. The winner at each weight class will advance to the final stage of qualifying, the Final X, which will be held on June 15 in Lincoln, Nebraska at the University of Nebraska.

Senior Men's Freestyle competition will begin on Saturday, May 18 and conclude on Sunday, May 19. Fans can watch the competition live on FloWrestling with a subscription to the platform.

Last month, Martinez won the U.S. Open Championship at 74 kilograms, automatically securing a spot in the Challenge Tournament best-of-three championship round for the weight class. The best-of-three championship series begins at 12 p.m. CT on Sunday. The 74 kg champion will move on to the Final X to take on World bronze medalist Jordan Burroughs in a best-of-three series for the spot on this year's U.S. Senior World Team.

Former Illini Zane Richards placed third at the U.S. Open at 57 kg. He'll work through the bracket this weekend and try to advance through the Challenge Tournament to the Final X. The 57 kg Challenge Tournament champion will take on U.S. Open 57 kg Champion Daton Fix at the Final X in a best-of-three series for a spot on this year's U.S. World Team.

Illini freshmen wrestlers [Danny Braunagel](#), [Zac Braunagel](#) and [Justin Cardani](#) will also look to earn spots on the U.S. Freestyle Junior World Team this weekend in Raleigh. [Zac Braunagel](#) earned a spot on the Junior World Team in Greco Roman at 82 kg by winning the 82 kg title at the U.S. Open last month. Junior Freestyle competition will begin on Friday, May 17 and conclude on Saturday, May 18.

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini Wrestling, visit FightingIllini.com, follow the Illini on Twitter ([@illiniwrestling](https://twitter.com/illiniwrestling)) and Instagram ([illiniwrestling](https://www.instagram.com/illiniwrestling)) and like [Fighting Illini Wrestling](https://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniWrestling) on Facebook.

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