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FIGHTING ILLINI WRESTLING

Gunther Wins Wrestlebacks Bout During Session II At NCAA Championships

Five Illini to continue on in consolation brackets at Session III tomorrow.

[Brackets](#) | [Trackwrestling Hub](#)

PITTSBURGH - Redshirt junior [Joey Gunther](#) won his first wrestlebacks match in the 165-pound consolation bracket during Session II Thursday night at NCAA Championships. Gunther bounced back in the second session of nationals, picking up a 6-3 decision over Duke's Zach Finesilver to advance in the consolation bracket. Five Illini will continue competition at NCAA Championships in wrestlebacks during Session III on Friday morning. Session III will begin at 10 a.m. CT and will air on ESPNU.

Gunther took the initial 1-0 lead in his matchup with Duke's Zach Finesilver after a hands to the face call against Finesilver midway through the first. Late in the second frame, Gunther picked up a takedown to take a 3-2 lead into the third. Gunther closed the match out strong in the final period. He recorded a quick escape, followed not long after by a takedown to put his lead at 6-2 with just over a minute to go. Gunther would go on to win the bout over Finesilver in a 6-3 decision. Moving on to the next round in wrestlebacks at 165-pounds, No. 26 Gunther will take on No. 24-seed Cael McCormick of Army tomorrow during Session III.

[Travis Piotrowski](#), [Mike Carr](#), [Eric Barone](#) and [Emery Parker](#) head to wrestlebacks after coming up short in their second round championship bracket matchups Thursday night.

Carr battled with Max Murin, but would drop a 4-3 decision in the second round bout at 141-pounds. Parker was defeated in a close contest with Pittsburgh's Nino Bonaccorsi, with Bonaccorsi taking the 184-pound second round match in a 9-7 decision. Last season at NCAA Championships, Parker rattled off seven straight wins in wrestlebacks to place third and earn All-American honors at 184-pounds.

Session III of NCAA Championships begins tomorrow at 10 a.m. CT on ESPNU. There will be two rounds of wrestlebacks during the session.

Session III Consolation Matchups:

125 Cons Round 2: #12 (11) [Travis Piotrowski](#) vs. #22 (21) Sean Russell (Northern Iowa)

141 Cons Round 2: #9 (6) [Mike Carr](#) vs. #24 (21) Austin Headlee (North Carolina)

157 Cons Round 2: #13 (15) [Eric Barone](#) vs. #18 (17) BC LaPrade (Virginia Tech)

165 Cons Round 2: #27 (20) [Joey Gunther](#) vs. #24 (21) Cael McCormick (Army)

165 Cons Round 2: #21 (26) [Joey Gunther](#) vs. #26 (24) Cael McCormick (Army)
184 Cons Round 2: #4 (4) [Emery Parker](#) vs. #15 (14) Dylan Wisman (Missouri)

Full Day 1 Results:

125: #12 (11) [Travis Piotrowski](#) | 1-1

Champ Round 1: #12 (11) [Travis Piotrowski](#) dec. #25 (22) Cole Verner (Wyoming), 4-3
Champ Round 2: #6 (6) Sean Russell (Minnesota) major dec. #12 (11) [Travis Piotrowski](#), 10-1

133: #22 (30) [Dylan Duncan](#) | 0-2

Champ Round 1: #3 (3) Nick Suriano (Rutgers) major dec. #22 (30) [Dylan Duncan](#), 12-3
Cons Prelim: (32) Devan Turner (Oregon State) dec. #22 (30) [Dylan Duncan](#), 7-5
[Dylan Duncan](#) is eliminated.

141: #9 (6) [Mike Carr](#) | 1-1

Champ Round 1: #9 (6) [Mike Carr](#) dec. #27 (7) Anthony Sparacio (Binghamton), 8-2
Champ Round 2: #18 (22) Max Murin (Iowa) dec. #9 (6) [Mike Carr](#), 4-3

157: #13 (15) [Eric Barone](#) | 1-1

Champ Round 1: #13 (15) [Eric Barone](#) dec. #19 (18) Logan Parks (Central Michigan), 5-3
Champ Round 2: #2 (2) Tyler Berger (Nebraska) Fall #13 (15) [Eric Barone](#), 6:07

165: #27 (26) [Joey Gunther](#) | 1-1

Champ Round 1: #7 (7) Isaiah White (Nebraska) dec. #27 (26) [Joey Gunther](#), 5-1
Cons Round 1: #27 (26) [Joey Gunther](#) dec. #24 (23) Zach Finesilver (Duke), 6-3

184: #4 (4) [Emery Parker](#) | 1-1

Champ Round 1: #4 (4) [Emery Parker](#) dec. #30 (29) Will Schany (Virginia), 5-2
Champ Round 2: #8 (13) Nino Bonaccorsi (Pittsburgh) dec. #4 (4) [Emery Parker](#), 9-7

#-Coach's Poll Ranking

()- NCAA Championships Seed

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini Wrestling, visit [FightingIllini.com](#), follow the Illini on Twitter ([@illiniwrestling](#)) and Instagram ([illiniwrestling](#)) and like [Fighting Illini Wrestling](#) on Facebook.



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