

## **Martinez Battles Olympic Champ Saturday For Spot on World Team**

*Martinez wrestles Olympic Champion in Lincoln*

**CHAMPAIGN, Ill.** – Former Illinois wrestler, and recently named volunteer assistant coach, Isaiah Martinez will wrestle 2012 Olympic Champion and four-time World Champion Jordan Burroughs on Saturday, June 9, in the Final X at the Bob Devaney Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The final qualifying round for the United States' 2018 World Championships quad, Martinez and Burroughs will wrestle in a best-of-three series to determine the 74-kilogram roster spot beginning at 6 p.m. central time. A live stream of the competition can be streamed live on [FinalX.tv](http://FinalX.tv).

The 74kg series is one of four being held in Lincoln on Saturday, while two other sites will host the remaining six weight classes on the following two Saturdays in June. Lincoln will host the 57kg, 70kg, 74kg and 97kg finals on the men's side and the women's 55kg, 59kg and 68kg finals.

State College, Pennsylvania will host the 65kg, 79kg and 86kg finals on June 16, while Bethlehem, Pennsylvania will be the host for the 61kg, 92kg and 125kg finals on June 23.

Martinez reached the Final X match-up with Burroughs with sweeps of both the U.S. Open and the World Team Trials Challenge Tournament. Martinez held his opponents scoreless through each of his five U.S. Open matches, outscoring them 49-0. As the winner of the U.S. Open, Martinez automatically advanced to the Challenge Tournament best-of-three final where he swept Nazar Kulchytsky with a pair of 13-2 victories.

The 2018 Illinois graduate finished his Illinois career as a two-time NCAA Champion and four-time NCAA Finalist. The 16<sup>th</sup> wrestler in the illustrious history of the Big Ten to win four Big Ten titles, Martinez leaves Illinois with the program's highest win percentage (.975) and tied for 10<sup>th</sup> on the Illinois all-time wins list with 116.

Martinez's opponent, Jordan Burroughs earned his spot in Final X as the defending World Champion at 74kg, the fourth of his career. A two-time Olympian, Burroughs won gold at the 2012 London Games. Graduating from Nebraska, Burroughs was a two-time NCAA champion and won the 2011 Dan Hodge Trophy as the best college wrestler.

Tickets for the Final X this weekend can be purchased through [Nebraska](#).

**BOUT ORDER | FINAL X | LINCOLN**

**Saturday, June 9 at the Bob Devaney Center, starting at 6 p.m.**

Bout One - Men's freestyle 70 kg

2017 World silver medalist – James Green, Lincoln, Neb. (Titan Mercury WC/Nebraska WTC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Jason Chamberlain, Fresno, Calif. (Titan Mercury WC/Valley RTC)

Bout Two - Women's freestyle 59 kg

2017 World silver medalist – Alli Ragan, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Sunkist Kids/Hawkeye WC/OTC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Jenna Burkert, Colorado Springs, Colo. (U.S. Army WCAP)

Bout Three - Men's freestyle 97 kg

2017 World champion – Kyle Snyder, Columbus, Ohio (Titan Mercury WC/Ohio RTC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Kyven Gadson, Ames, Iowa (Sunkist Kids/Cyclone RTC)

Bout Four - Women's freestyle 55 kg

2017 World bronze medalist – Becka Leathers, Choctaw, Okla. (Titan Mercury WC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Jacarra Winchester, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Titan Mercury WC/OTC)

Bout Five - Men's freestyle 57 kg

2017 World silver medalist – Thomas Gilman, Iowa City, Iowa (Titan Mercury WC/Hawkeye WC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Daton Fix, Sand Springs, Okla. (Titan Mercury WC/Cowboy WC)

Bout Six - Women's freestyle 68 kg

2018 U.S. Open champion - Tamyra Stock, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Titan Mercury WC/OTC)

2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Randyll Beltz, Colorado Springs, Colo. (U.S. Army WCAP)

Bout Seven - Men's freestyle 74 kg

2017 World champion – Jordan Burroughs, Lincoln, Neb. (Sunkist Kids/Nebraska WTC)

**2018 WTT Challenge Tournament champion – Isaiah Martinez, Leemore, Calif. (Titan Mercury WC/Illini RTC)**

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