




Wrestling Set For Grapple in the Grove Versus Missouri

Illini season debut takes place at Grange Grove

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – The Illinois wrestling team begins their 2018-19 campaign on Saturday, November 3 with an outdoor dual vs. No. 10 Missouri to be held at Grange Grove outside of Memorial Stadium at 12:30 p.m. CT. Between the Illini and the Tigers, the dual will feature 12 ranked wrestlers, including six in the top-10 of Intermat's preseason rankings.

Parking Information: Parking lots open at 7 a.m. as part of the normal football game day procedure. Passes are required for admittance to all parking lots adjacent to Memorial Stadium. Game-day purchase parking is available in Research Park and to the east of the Ubben Basketball Complex off St. Mary's Drive (lot 46 and 47) and Florida Ave (lot 49). For more information regarding parking on football game days, view the [Game Day Guide](#) and [Parking Map](#).

#10 Missouri vs. #17 Illinois	
When	Saturday, November 3 // 12:30 p.m. CT
Where	Grange Grove // Champaign, Ill.
Follow Live	Live Scoring
Team Information	Dual Notes 2017-18 Stats
Social Media	@IlliniWrestling  #Illini  @Illinwrestling  Facebook  YouTube 

Illinois Probables			Missouri Probables	
Wt. Class	Wrestler	Record	Wrestler	Record
125	#12 Travis Piotrowski - OR- Josh Contreras	0-0	Colby Smith -OR- Cameron Vadiviez	0-0
133	#19 Dylan Duncan - OR- Abdullah Assaf	0-0	#9 John Erneste	0-0
141	Mike Carr	0-0	#3 Jaydin Eierman	0-0
149	Christian Kanzler	0-0	#4 Grant Leeth	0-0
157	Eric Barone	0-0	Lane Stigall -OR- Luke Fortuna	0-0
165	#17 Joey Gunther - OR- Johnny Mologousis - OR- Nick Gasbarro	0-0	#14 Connor Flynn	0-0

174	Jake DiBenedetto	0-0	#4 Daniel Lewis	0-0
184	#2 Emery Parker	0-0	#15 Canten Marriott -OR- Dylan Wisman	0-0
197	Andre Lee	0-0	Wyatt Koelling -OR- Jacob Raschka	0-0
HWT	Deuce Rachal	0-0	Jake Bohlken	0-0

Quick Hits

*Illinois and Missouri will wrestle outside at Grange Grove outside of Memorial Stadium. Should the weather be a conflict, the dual will be moved inside to Huff Hall. The dual takes place just hours before Illinois football kicks-off against Minnesota at 2:30 p.m. CT

*Illinois returns seven of its ten starters after tying for 13th place finish at the 2018 NCAA Championships, including All-American [Emery Parker](#) and NCAA qualifiers [Travis Piotrowski](#), [Dylan Duncan](#), and [Mike Carr](#).

*Five of Illinois' 10 projected starters for Saturday's dual vs. Missouri are ranked by one or more of InterMat's Win Magazine's or FloWrestling's preseason rankings. [Emery Parker](#) leads the Illini with his No. 2 ranking in each preseason ranking, while [Mike Carr](#) is also in the top-10 with a No. 8 ranking from InterMat.

*The Fighting Illini have won their opening dual in seven of the last eight seasons, including an 18-13 victory against No. 11 Missouri in 2010.

*Illinois is 20-11 all-time against Missouri with the series dating back to 1928. Missouri won the last meeting, a 20-18 victory in last season's season opener, held at the Missouri softball field.

*Missouri is the first of five preseason top-10 teams on Illinois' schedule. Illinois will travel to No. 6 Michigan on January 12. They will then host No. 4 Iowa (Jan. 25), No. 3 Ohio State (Feb. 1) and No. 1 Penn State (Feb. 17) at Huff Hall, with the Iowa and Ohio State duals being televised on Big Ten Network.

*Illinois is 48-12 in non-conference duals under head coach [Jim Heffernan](#).

Sizing Up the Tigers

The Orange and Blue start the new season with a heavyweight matchup against Missouri, as the Tigers rank 10th in the InterMat Preseason Dual Rankings and No. 8 in the tournament rankings. Coming off a sixth place finish at 2018 NCAA Championships, All-Americans Jayden Eierman (4th/141), Grant Leeth (6th/149) and Daniel Lewis (4th/174) return along with preseason No. 9 John Erneste (133) and No. 14 Canten Marriott.

Border Battle History

Since their inaugural meeting back in 1928, the Illini and Tigers have met 30 times with the grapplers from Champaign holding a 20-11 all-time advantage. Missouri won the most recent dual meeting, a narrow 20-18 victory in last year's season opener contested in Columbia at Missouri's softball field.

Illini to Watch

Illini First Time Starters

Three transfer wrestlers are projected to make their debuts for the Illini on Saturday, all tough assignments coming against preseason ranked opponents. JUCO transfer [Christian Kanzler](#) will make his debut at 149-pounds. Iowa transfer [Joey Gunther](#) is a projected starter at 165-pounds, while Old Dominion transfer [Jake DiBenedetto](#) is slated to make his debut at 174-pounds for the Orange and Blue.

184: [Emery Parker](#)

Parker returns for his final campaign with the Illini, ranking second in five different preseason rankings. The Wadsworth, Ill. native was an All-American last season after placing third in the 184-pound bracket at NCAA Championships. Parker finished last season with a 28-4 record, and that winning percentage of .875 was good for the 24th best win percentage in Illinois history.

141: [Mike Carr](#)

Carr returns for the Orange and Blue at 141-pounds after an impressive redshirt freshman season. He was an NCAA qualifier, turning in a 3-2 record at the Championships. Carr also was the runner-up for 141-pounds at BIG Championships, and the only freshman at the Championships across all weight brackets to reach the title match. His 20 wins tied for second on the team.

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini wrestling, go to FIGHTINILLINI.com and follow @IlliniWrestling on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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