

Mountain Hawks to face another tough Big Ten test Saturday at No. 4 Iowa

BETHLEHEM, Pa. – For the third time in four duals, Lehigh will face a top-five opponent as the 16th-ranked Mountain Hawks close out the fall semester against No. 4 Iowa Saturday at storied Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Lehigh is winless in its first three duals for the first time in 11 years but the Mountain Hawks have already faced No. 5 Michigan and No. 1 Penn State. Last weekend, a shorthanded Lehigh squad was edged by Princeton 21-19 before being blanked by the top-ranked Nittany Lions. The Mountain Hawks will be looking to head into the final exam break on a positive note against an Iowa team that Lehigh has never beaten.

Five wrestlers appear in the latest InterMat rankings, with the trio of senior Ryan Preisch, junior Jordan Kutler and sophomore Jordan Wood all coming in at No. 6 in their respective weight classes. Lehigh also has eight wrestlers ranked by FloWrestling, six by Amateur Wrestling News and five by The Open Mat. Freshman Josh Humphreys entered FloWrestling's rankings at 157 after making his dual debut last weekend. Kutler, Preisch, sophomore Jake Jakobsen and Wood are ranked across the board for Lehigh at the final four weight classes.

Last weekend the Mountain Hawks found themselves on the wrong end of a couple of instances that had not occurred in quite some time. Lehigh's loss to Princeton was its first against the Tigers since January 1968 and snapped a 14-dual winning streak in the series for the Brown and White. The short-handed Mountain Hawks failed to win a match Sunday at No. 1 Penn State, marking the first time they were shut out since falling 33-0 to the Nittany Lions at Stabler Arena in December 2007.

True freshman Josh Humphreys made his official Lehigh debut at 157 last weekend, picking up a hard-fought 5-4 decision over Princeton's Quincy Monday on Friday before battling top-ranked Jason Nolf of Penn State before losing by fall via a third-period cradle. Humphreys, a four-time state champion from Parkersburg, W. Va., became the first true freshman to compete in duals for the Mountain Hawks since Kyle Gentile and Joe Lobeck during the 2016-17 season. Humphreys competed unattached at the Nov. 11 Jonathan Kaloust Bearcat Open, officially going 4-0 with two falls and two wins over former EIWA finalists to claim the 157-pound title.

One of college wrestling's most storied programs, Iowa has won 23 national championships and 35 Big Ten titles. The Hawkeyes have won their first five duals to start the season, including a narrow 19-18 triumph over rival Iowa State on Dec. 1. Iowa also owns dual wins over Cal State Bakersfield, Kent State, Princeton and Purdue. Iowa's projected lineup features ranked wrestlers at nine weight classes, including a pair of No. 1-ranked grapplers. Spencer Lee is the defending NCAA champion at 125, while heavyweight Sam Stoll is also ranked first. Alex Marinelli (165), Jacob Warner (197) and Kaleb Young (157) are all ranked in the top 10 at their respective weights. The Hawkeyes have four Pennsylvania products listed among their 14 probable starters. Iowa also has two notable transfers in Austin DeSanto (Drexel) at 133 and Pat Lugo (Edinboro) at 149. Tom Brands is in his 13th season as Iowa's head coach.

Lehigh and Iowa meet for the 26th time overall and the first time since February 2014. The Mountain Hawks last wrestled Iowa in Iowa City in December 2012. Lehigh has dropped the previous 25 duals against Iowa including all 13 duals contested in Iowa City. Lehigh and Iowa once met in 21 consecutive seasons from 1972 to 1992. Iowa is one of seven schools that Lehigh owns zero all-time dual wins against, but it is the only school in the group that Lehigh has wrestled more than two times.

Lehigh has not had a great deal of success in duals in the state of Iowa, winning just twice in 19 road dual meets against Iowa, Iowa State, Northern Iowa and Cornell College. The Mountain Hawks posted a 40-0 win at Cornell College in 1972 and also won 21-12 at Iowa State in 2002. Lehigh is 0-14 all-time versus Iowa in Iowa City. Lehigh last visited Iowa for a dual meet in December 2012 and before that in the 2002-03 season. Iowa hosted the 2015 NWCA National Duals, where Lehigh upset eventual national champion Ohio State as part of a 1-2 showing, but did not face the host Hawkeyes.

Saturday's match is set for an 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 p.m. CT start from Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City, Iowa. Streaming video will be available via BTN Plus on BTN2Go.com as well as on Flowrestling.org with a subscription required to watch. Audio coverage will be available on Fox Sports Radio 1230 and 1320 and LVFoxSports.com beginning at 8:15 p.m. (ET).

Lehigh will break for final exams and will return to action at the South Beach Duals, Dec. 29-30 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Mountain Hawks will wrestle two duals per day and will be challenged by No. 9 Minnesota, No. 6 Missouri, No. 12 North Carolina and Virginia. Lehigh will open the new year with home duals against EIWA rivals Bucknell and Cornell, Jan. 11-12 inside Leeman-Turner Arena at Grace Hall.

The 2018-19 Lehigh wrestling season is presented by the Historic Hotel Bethlehem.

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| Date: | December 8, 2018 |
| Opponent: | No. 4 Iowa Hawkeyes |
| First match: | 7:30 p.m. (CT) |
| Arena: | Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,077) |
| Location: | Iowa City, Iowa |
| Lehigh's record: | 0-3 overall, 0-1 EIWA |
| Iowa's record: | 5-0 overall, 1-0 Big Ten |
| Series: | Iowa leads 25-0 |
| Streak: | Iowa has won all 25 duals |
| Television: | None |
| Radio: | Fox Sports Radio 1230 and 1320 beginning at 8:15 p.m. (ET). |
| Internet broadcast: | Video via BTN Plus at BTN2Go.com and Flowrestling.org (Subscription required for both) Audio at LVFoxSports.com |
| Behind enemy lines: | http://hawkeyesports.com |

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Iowa match

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