

Story on [Lehighsports.com](http://lehighsports.com):

<http://lehighsports.com/news/2017/2/13/wrestling-no-11-lehigh-to-host-no-12-rutgers-friday-as-part-of-nwca-dual-championship-series.aspx>

# No. 11 Lehigh to host No. 12 Rutgers Friday as part of NWCA Dual Championship Series

BETHLEHEM, Pa. – The 11th-ranked Lehigh wrestling team will host No. 12 Rutgers, Friday at 7 p.m. inside Leeman-Turner Arena at Grace Hall as part of the National Wrestling Coaches Association National Duals Championship Series, the NWCA announced Monday morning.

The NWCA matched the top dual meet teams from five conferences (ACC, Big 12, EIWA (2), EWL and Southern) plus two wild card selections to host Big Ten schools for eight separate duals, beginning Friday and running through Sunday. The 16-team EIWA was awarded two bids, with one going to Ivy League champion Cornell and one going to Lehigh, the top team among Patriot League/non-Ivy EIWA members.

This marks the second year of the National Dual Championship Series, and the second consecutive year that Lehigh and Rutgers have been paired with one another. Last year, the eight Big Ten institutions hosted so this year the non-Big Ten institutions will have the opportunity to host.

Tickets to the Lehigh-Rutgers dual are now on sale and can be purchased at [LehighTickets.com](http://LehighTickets.com) or by calling 610-7LU-GAME during normal business hours. Lower bench seating is available for \$20 while upper bench seating is available for \$10. Tickets for Lehigh students, faculty and staff will cost \$5. For Lehigh season ticket holders, this NWCA dual was included in the season ticket package.

Lehigh improved to 9-4 in duals and 7-1 against EIWA opponents with a 28-10 win over Army West Point Friday night. Among non-Ivy League EIWA foes, Lehigh defeated each of the other four Patriot League institutions that sponsor wrestling (Bucknell, Navy, American, Army West Point), plus Drexel. The Mountain Hawks will compete in the National Dual Championship Series for the second straight season.

Rutgers improved to 12-4 in duals with a 28-6 home win over Northwestern on Sunday. The Scarlet Knights are 6-3 in Big Ten duals, with losses to Penn State, Michigan and Ohio State. Lehigh and Rutgers faced four common opponents this season. Both teams defeated Princeton but lost to Cornell, Penn State and Michigan.

Last year, Lehigh was sent to Rutgers for the NWCA National Dual Championship Series, with the Scarlet Knights prevailing 18-15 in a dual that was decided in the final bout at heavyweight.

Prior to last year's dual, Lehigh and Rutgers met 44 times between 1941 and 2014 with Lehigh winning 42 of the 44 duals in the series. The Scarlet Knights' two wins came in 1950 and then 2013. A 17-16 Rutgers win at the RAC snapped a 38-dual Lehigh winning streak against its border rival. The most recent dual at Lehigh between the Mountain Hawks and Scarlet Knights was a 27-9 Lehigh victory inside Leeman-Turner Arena at Grace Hall on February 8, 2014. Rutgers left the EIWA for the Big Ten following the 2103-14 season.

The eight NWCA National Championship Dual Series matchups are listed below. No. 1 Oklahoma State and No. 2 Penn State will meet for the second straight year in the championship match, with the dual set for 4 p.m. Sunday in Stillwater, Okla.

**Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. ET: No. 12 Rutgers at No. 11 Lehigh**

Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. ET: No. 16 Michigan at No. 7 N.C. State

Friday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. ET: Purdue at No. 17 South Dakota State

Saturday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. ET: No. 3 Iowa at No. 24 Edinboro

Sunday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. ET: No. 4 Ohio State at No. 8 Cornell

Sunday, Feb. 19, 3 p.m. ET: Indiana at No. 20 Appalachian State

Sunday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. ET: No. 2 Penn State at No. 1 Oklahoma State

Sunday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. ET: No. 6 Nebraska at No. 5 Virginia Tech

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