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Four Huskers Reach Semis at Big Ten Championships

Minneapolis, Minn. – Nebraska will send four wrestlers to compete in the semifinals at the Big Ten Championships for the first time since 2015-16. NU had one representative in the semifinals last year and two in 2016-17. The Huskers are tied for fourth place in the team standings after the first session with 45 points.

Chad Red Jr. (141), Tyler Berger (157), Taylor Venz (184) and Eric Schultz (197) combined to go 7-0 with two pins, a tech. fall, a major decision and three decisions in Session I of the 2019 Big Ten Championships as they all advanced to the semifinals.

Five of NU's eight grapplers who competed in the first round of the Big Ten Championships picked up victories to advance to the quarterfinals. Tyler Berger (157) and David Jensen (285) each had first round byes, so they qualified for the quarters automatically.

#7 seed Zeke Moisey (125) fell early in the first round after being pinned just 0:18 into the first period by Indiana's #10 Elijah Oliver. Moisey had a first-round bye in the consolation bracket so he will compete in the second round of consolations tonight at 6 p.m.

True freshman Jevon Parrish, the No. 13 seed at 133 pounds, dropped an 18-5 major decision in the first round to #4 Roman Bravo-Young of Penn State. Parrish later fell in the first round of the consolation bracket to #12 Paul Konrath (Indiana), 8-3, to end his stay at the Big Ten Championships.

#8 seed Chad Red Jr. (141) came out with a fury in his first match, notching his second straight victory by pinfall. Red Jr. got Rutgers' Peter Lipari to his back and pinned him 50 seconds into the first round.

In the quarterfinals, Red Jr. took on the No. 1 seed, Michael Carr of Illinois. Just a few weeks ago, Red Jr. fell in a 4-3 decision to Carr. This time, Red Jr. would not come up short. He earned key takedowns in both the first and third periods and sustained a late push from Carr to win, 8-4. Red will advance to the semifinals tonight, where he takes on #5 Kanen Storr of Michigan.

Jordan Shearer (149) came into the competition unseeded and fell to #3 Pat Lugo of Iowa in an 8-5 decision in round one. He responded in the first round of consolations to pin Parker Filius of Purdue in the first period. Shearer will participate in wrestle backs tonight at 6 p.m.

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No. 2 seed Tyler Berger (167) used the extra rest he earned with the first round bye to prepare for his quarterfinal bout with Rutgers' 157-pound grappler #10 John Van Brill. Berger landed an early takedown and never let Van Brill get within striking distance as he took an 11-5 decision.

Isaiah White (165), the #4 seed in his weight class, outlasted Michigan State's Austin Hiles in the first round, but fell in a back-and-forth battle to #5 Logan Massa (Michigan) in the quarterfinals. White will face #14 Cole Wysocki (Purdue) in the second round of consolations.

#4 seeded 174-pounder Mikey Labriola got his first Big Ten Championship appearance off to a roaring start with a first period pin of Maryland's Josh Ugalde to advance to the quarters. Labriola could not sustain his momentum, however, as he lost 6-4 in sudden victory to #5 Devin Skatzka of Minnesota.

Making his return to his home state of Minnesota, No. 3 seed Taylor Venz was unstoppable in Session I this morning. The 184-pounder needed just 1:52 to pin his first-round opponent. He then went on to defeat Wisconsin's #6 Mason Reinhardt in a 14-0 major decision. He'll take on Penn State's #2 Shakur Rasheed tonight in the semifinals.

#5 Eric Schultz (197) will be making a semifinals appearance as well for the Huskers. He took a 27-11 tech. fall victory in round one and followed it up with a grind-it-out, 3-2 decision over Purdue's #4 Christian Brunner. He'll get #1 Bo Nickal from Penn State in the semifinals tonight.

Huskers heavyweight #7 David Jensen received a first-round bye in the 285-pound bracket. In the quarters, he fell in an 8-4 decision to Penn State's Anthony Cassar. Jensen will compete in wrestle backs tonight at 6 p.m.

Session II will be shown on BTN Plus and FloWrestling while fans can track live stats and see up to the minute bracket updates for all weight classes.

Big Ten Championships

Session I

March 9, 2019

Minneapolis, Minn. (Williams Arena)

125 Pounds: Zeke Moisey – 0-1

First Round: #10 Elijah Oliver (Indiana) pinned #7 Zeke Moisey (Nebraska) (0:18)

Consolation First Round: Bye

Consolation Second Round: #7 Zeke Moisey (Nebraska) vs. #9 Devin Schroeder (Purdue)

133 Pounds: #13 Jevon Parrish – 0-2 (DNP)

First Round: #4 Roman Bravo-Young major dec. #13 Jevon Parrish (Nebraska), 18-5

Consolation First Round: #12 Paul Konrath (Indiana) dec. #13 Jevon Parrish (Nebraska), 8-3

141 Pounds: #8 Chad Red Jr. – 2-0

First Round: #8 Chad Red Jr. (Nebraska) pinned #9 Peter Lipari (Rutgers) (0:50)

Quarterfinals: #8 Chad Red Jr. (Nebraska) dec. #1 Michael Carr (Illinois), 8-4

Semifinals: #8 Chad Red Jr. (Nebraska) vs. #5 Kanen Storr (Michigan)

149 Pounds: Unseeded Jordan Shearer – 1-1

First Round: #3 Pat Lugo (Iowa) dec. U. Jordan Shearer (Nebraska), 8-5

Consolation First Round: U. Jordan Shearer (Nebraska) pinned U. Parker Filius (Purdue) (2:42)

Consolation Second Round: U. Jordan Shearer (Nebraska) vs. #5 Cole Martin (Wisconsin)

157 Pounds: #2 Tyler Berger – 1-0

First Round: Bye

Quarterfinals: #2 Tyler Berger (Nebraska) dec. #10 John Van Brill (Rutgers), 11-5

Semifinals: #2 Tyler Berger (Nebraska) vs. #6 Steve Bleise (Minnesota)

165 Pounds: #4 Isaiah White – 1-1

First Round: #4 Isaiah White (Nebraska) dec. #13 Austin Hiles (Michigan State), 8-4

Quarterfinals: #5 Logan Massa (Michigan) dec. #4 Isaiah White (Nebraska), 8-6

Consolation Second Round: #4 Isaiah White (Nebraska) vs. #14 Cole Wysocki (Purdue)

174 Pounds: #4 Mikey Labriola – 1-1

First Round: #4 Mikey Labriola (Nebraska) pinned #13 Josh Ugalde (Maryland) (0:49)

Quarterfinals: Devin Skatzka (Minnesota) dec. #4 Mikey Labriola (Nebraska), 6-4

Consolation Second Round: #4 Mikey Labriola (Nebraska) vs. #11 Carver James (Illinois)

184 Pounds: #3 Taylor Venz – 2-0

First Round: #3 Taylor Venz (Nebraska) pinned #14 Brendan Devine (NW) (1:52)

Quarterfinals: #3 Taylor Venz (Nebraska) major dec. #6 Mason Reinhardt (Wisconsin), 14-0

Semifinals: #3 Taylor Venz (Nebraska) vs. #2 Shakur Rasheed (Penn State)

197 Pounds: #5 Eric Schultz – 2-0

First Round: #5 Eric Schultz (Nebraska) tech. fall U. Niko Capello (Maryland), 27-11 (4:57)

Quarterfinals: #5 Eric Schultz (Nebraska) dec. #4 Christian Brunner (Purdue), 3-2

Semifinals: #5 Eric Schultz (Nebraska) vs. #1 Bo Nickal (Penn State)

Heavyweight: #7 David Jensen – 0-1

First Round: Bye

Quarterfinals: #2 Anthony Cassar (Penn State) dec. #7 David Jensen (Nebraska), 8-4

Consolation Second Round: #7 David Jensen (Nebraska) vs. U. Christian Colucci (Rutgers)

Team Scores (Points):

1. Penn State (77)
2. Minnesota (54)
3. Ohio State (53.5)
4. **Nebraska (45)**
4. Michigan (45)
6. Iowa (41)
7. Wisconsin (31.5)

8. Rutgers (23.5)
9. Northwestern (20)
10. Michigan State (17)
11. Purdue (16.5)
12. Illinois (16)
13. Indiana (9)
14. Maryland (1.5)



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2019 Big Tens
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