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Blue Devils Open Duals Season at Boilermaker Duals

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DURHAM – The Duke wrestling program is set to compete in a full season of dual matches for the first time since 2019-20, traveling to West Lafayette, Ind., for the Boilermaker Duals on Sunday.

The Blue Devils will compete in a non-conference dual for the first time since February 9, 2020, opening the slate against Bellarmine at 9 a.m., Northern Illinois at 11 a.m., and No. 20 Purdue at 1 p.m. The dual against Purdue will be broadcast on Big Ten Network Plus.

LAST TIME OUT

Redshirt senior No. 7 **Matt Finesilver** won his second straight title this fall, taking the top-spot in the 174-pound bracket at the Mountaineer Invitational, in Boone, N.C.

Finesilver opened the day with a 6-2 decision over Indiana's Nick South and would advance to the final behind a medical forfeit. For the second straight time, Finesilver didn't drop a point in a final, controlling his bout with Kent State's Michael Ferre, winning a 6-0 decision.

Junior **Jonah Niesenbaum** was the other Blue Devil wrestler to reach a final, improving to 6-2 on the young season. Niesenbaum won a major decision over Gardner-Webb's Peyton McComas and took down Indiana's Jacob Bullock to reach 10 collegiate victories, before ultimately falling to the No. 4 wrestler in the nation in the 285-pound final.

No. 13 **Josh Finesilver** made his presence known at 149 pounds, earning the first ranked win by a Blue Devil this season. Finesilver took down 30th-ranked Graham Rooks in a 5-3 decision to secure third place in his bracket.

Redshirt sophomore **Brandon LaRue** (165 pounds) also added a third-place finish in the 165-open event, while junior **Wade Unger** (157 pounds) placed fourth.

OPPONENT HISTORY

- The Blue Devils will meet Bellarmine for the first time in program history. The Knights reclassified to Division I in 2020.
- Duke and Northern Illinois will meet for the second time in program history. The Huskies took the lone meeting on Jan. 4, 2003, in Columbus, Ohio.
- The Blue Devils will face off against the Boilermakers for the fourth time, with Duke trailing 1-2 in the all-time series. The Blue Devils won the most recent meeting, 28-18, in West Lafayette on Feb. 21, 2016.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Both Finesilver brothers carry national rankings via InterMat, with Matt checking in at No. 7 in the nation at 174 pounds and Josh at No. 13 in the 149-pound weight class.
- **Matt Finesilver** has started his season 7-0, with back-to-back titles at the Battle at The Citadel and Mountaineer Invitational. Finesilver will see his first dual action

since Feb. 22, 2019.

- Both Finesilver brothers are closing in on their 60th collegiate victories. Josh needs three more wins, while Matt needs four more. Redshirt senior **Kaden Russell** is one win away from his 30th collegiate victory.
- Head Coach **Glen Lanham** and Assistant Coach **Tom Erikson** make their return to Purdue, where they each spent time as Assistant Coaches. Lanham spent three seasons as an assistant coach from 2008-10, while Erikson spent 13 years (1999-2012) as an assistant coach.
- The Blue Devils begin a seven-game road dual swing, covering two states and Washington, D.C., before the home opener on Dec. 19.

Duke Probable Lineup				
Weight	Rank	Name	Year	Record
125	--	Logan Agin	Sophomore	4-2
133	--	Drake Doolittle	R-Sophomore	0-4
141	--	Patrick Rowland	R-Sophomore	3-4
149	13	Josh Finesilver	R-Senior	6-1
157	--	Wade Unger	Junior	4-4
165	--	Bryson Neace	Junior	1-4
	--	Brandon LaRue	R-Sophomore	4-3
174	7	Matt Finesilver	R-Senior	7-0
	--	Conor Becker	Sophomore	1-2
184	--	Vincent Baker	Junior	4-3
197	--	Kaden Russell	R-Senior	4-3
285	--	Jonah Niesenbaum	Junior	6-2

Bellarmino Probable Lineup				
Weight	Rank	Name	Year	Record
125	--	Jack Parker	Freshman	1-4
	--	Brandon Lucas	Senior	0-0
133	--	Max Dansereau	Junior	1-4
141	--	Logan Hoskins	Sophomore	0-5
149	--	Mitch Collica	Junior	1-3
	--	Chase Yost	Sophomore	0-1
157	--	Cole Nance	Freshman	3-2
	--	Alex Rivera	Junior	0-1
165	--	Devan Hendricks	Junior	2-2
174	--	Eric Beck	Senior	3-2
184	--	Sam Woolf	Senior	0-0
	--	Sam Schroeder	Sophomore	1-4
197/285	--	Bryant Wilkinson	Freshman	0-4
	--	Charlie Cadell	Senior	0-5

NIU Probable Lineup				
Weight	Rank	Name	Year	Record

Weight	Rank	Name	Year	Record
125	--	Bryce West	R-Senior	2-2
133	--	Mikey Kaminski	Sophomore	1-2
141	--	Javion Jones	Junior	2-3
	--	Nathan Young	Sophomore	1-2
149	--	Anthony Cheloni	Senior	3-3
157	--	Anthony Gibson	R-Junior	4-2
	--	Alec Rees	Junior	0-2
165	18	Izzak Olejnik	R-Senior	4-1
174	28	Mason Kauffman	R-Senior	3-2
184	8	Brit Wilson	R-Senior	4-0
197	--	Tristan Guaman	Senior	1-3
285	--	Terrese Aaron	R-Junior	0-3

Purdue Probable Lineup				
Weight	Rank	Name	Year	Record
125	11	Devin Schroder	R-Senior	3-0
	--	Nate Cummings	R-Junior	0-0
133	26	Matt Ramos	R-Freshman	3-0
141	16	Parker Filius	R-Senior	3-0
	--	Michael Leveille	R-Sophomore	0-0
149	--	Trey Kruse	R-Sophomore	1-1
	--	Ethan Smiley	R-Junior	0-0
157	11	Kendall Coleman	R-Junior	1-1
	--	Brennan Doyle	Junior	1-2
165	--	Emil Soehnlén	R-Sophomore	1-2
	--	Hayden Lohrey	R-Sophomore	0-1
174	20	Gerrit Nijenhuis	Sophomore	2-1
184	23	Max Lyon	R-Senior	2-1
	--	Mitch Hutmacher	Sophomore	2-2
	--	Macartney Parkinson	Sophomore	0-1
197	14	Thomas Penola	R-Junior	3-0
285	--	Michael Woulfe	R-Senior	3-0
	--	Tristan Ruhlman	Freshman	4-0

To stay up to date with Blue Devils wrestling, follow the team on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook by searching "DukeWRES".

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