

From: Peterson, John jrp10@illinois.edu 
Subject: ILLINI WRE: Illini Tavel to Lindenwood Open for Saturday Meet
Date: November 19, 2021 at 9:46 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients;



CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – No. 19-ranked Fighting Illini wrestling is set to hit the road again on Saturday, heading to the Lindenwood Open in St. Charles, Mo. Illinois is sending over 15 wrestlers, with eight student-athletes wrestling unattached. The Orange and Blue are back on the mat following a near two-week pause due to COVID-19 issues within the program.

Lindenwood Open

When Saturday, November 20 // 9:00 a.m. CT

Where St. Charles, Mo.

Live Results [Brackets/Live Results](#)

Social Media [@IlliniWrestling](#)  | [#Illini](#)  | [@Illinwrestling](#)  | [Facebook](#)  | [YouTube](#) 

NOTES

- [Justin Cardani](#) (125), [Lucas Byrd](#) (133), [Christian Kanzler](#) (149), and [Luke Luffman](#) (285) each took third place in their respective weight classes to begin the season at the MSU Open on Nov. 6.
- [Danny Braunagel](#) (165) and [Matt Wroblewski](#) (197) both took fourth place at the MSU Open in their respective weight classes, while [DJ Shannon](#) (174) took sixth.
- Freshmen [Dylan Connell](#) (184) and [Joey Braunagel](#) (197) both earned runner-up finishes in the freshman/sophomore division at the MSU Open, while [Caden Ernd](#) placed sixth.
- The Illini are currently ranked No. 19 in the NWCA Coaches Poll.
- Illinois returns 2021 All-Americans and fifth-place finishers [Lucas Byrd](#) (133 lbs) and [Dylan Duncan](#) (141 lbs).
- 2021 NCAA qualifiers [Lucas Byrd](#), [Dylan Duncan](#), [Danny Braunagel](#), [Zac Braunagel](#), and [Luke Luffman](#) are all returning for the Illini this season.
- Nine starters return to the expected starting lineup for the 2021-22 season. The Illini welcome in eight newcomers this season, including two transfers in [Anthony Federico](#) (Fresno State) and [Luke Rasmussen](#) (North Dakota State).
- Illinois is led by first year head coach [Mike Poeta](#), who previously spent five years as assistant coach of the Fighting Illini before taking over the head coaching job in April 2021.
- [Ed Ruth](#) enters his first year as an assistant coach with the Illini wrestling program. Ruth (Penn State '14) was a three-time NCAA champion and four-time Big Ten champion at 184-pounds.
- The Illini are slated to compete in five tournaments and one tri-meet prior to opening up Big Ten competition on January 14 at Rutgers.
- For all future home meets beginning in 2022, Illinois will compete at the State Farm Center after previously holding meets at Huff Hall.

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini Wrestling, visit [FightingIllini.com](#), follow the Illini on Twitter ([@illiniwrestling](#)) and Instagram ([illiniwrestling](#)) and like [Fighting Illini Wrestling](#) on Facebook.