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Lehigh Returns To Spooky Nook For Journeymen Collegiate Classic

BETHLEHEM, Pa. - After winning their fourth straight EIWA title last February at Spooky Nook Sports Complex, the Mountain Hawks return to the site of the 2021 EIWA Tournament on Sunday for the Journeymen Collegiate Classic. Lehigh opened its season by splitting two duals in Oregon last weekend. The Mountain Hawks rebounded from a loss to Campbell by beating host Oregon State 21-12. Junior Josh Humphreys went 2-0 in his return to action. The Journeymen Collegiate Classic will once again feature a tournament-style round-robin format. Wrestlers will compete in 6-8 man round robin brackets that will be followed by crossover matches. The event moves to Manheim, Pa. after previously being held in Troy, N.Y.

Lehigh Probable Entrants

- 125 No. 16 Jaret Lane (Jr., Catawissa, Pa.)
Carter Bailey (Fr., Livermore, Calif.)*
- 133 No.24 Malyke Hines (Fr., Kissimmee, Fla.)
Satoshi Abe (Jr., Putnam Valley, N.Y.)
- 141 Dan Moran (Jr., Bethlehem, Pa.)
Drew Munch (Fr., East Stroudsburg, Pa.)
- 149 Manzona Bryant IV (Fr., Columbus, Ohio)
No. 29 Jimmy Hoffman (Jr., Drums, Pa.)
Steven Storm (Fr., Stroudsburg, Pa.)
- 157 No. 7 Josh Humphreys (Jr., Parkersburg, W. Va.)
Luca Frinzi (Fr., Quakertown, Pa.)
- 165 Brian Meyer (So., Phillipsburg, N.J.)
Connor Herceg (Fr., Nazareth, Pa.)*
- 174 No. 33 Jake Logan (Fr., New Rochelle, N.Y.)
- 184 AJ Burkhart (So., Athens, Pa.)
Caden Wright (Fr., Macungie, Pa.)
Jack Wilt (Fr., Madison, N.J.)*
- 197 JT Davis (Fr., Middletown, Del.)
- 285 No. 10 Jordan Wood (Sr., Gilbertsville, Pa.)
Victor Lacombe (Jr., Whitehouse Station, N.J.)
Nathan Taylor (Fr., Brookville, Pa.)*

* - Competing Unattached

Lehigh opened its season by splitting a pair of duals Nov. 6 at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, Ore. The Mountain Hawks bounced back from a 22-11 loss to Campbell to take six bouts in a 21-12 victory over host Oregon State in the nightcap. Junior Josh Humphreys' return to the mat was successful as Humphreys posted a pair of bonus wins, including a key first period pin against the Beavers. Senior Jordan Wood also posted two victories Saturday evening. In its second dual of the day, Lehigh broke a 12-12 tie by claiming the final three bouts. Sophomore AJ Burkhart picked up his first win up at 184,

scoring four takedowns in a 10-4 decision over Mason Reiniche that gave Lehigh a lead it would not relinquish. Freshman JT Davis followed with a 6-1 win over JJ Dixon at 197 and Wood closed out the evening by rallying from a 3-2 deficit late with a takedown to defeat Gary Traub 4-3. In its dual with Campbell, Lehigh came up on the short end of all five bouts that were decided by one or two points.

Junior Josh Humphreys returned to the Lehigh lineup as one of two wrestlers to go 2-0 in the Mountain Hawks' two matches at Oregon State. Both of Humphreys' wins delivered bonus points. In his first match since the 2020 EIWA finals, Humphreys majored Campbell's Matt Dallara 8-0. He then came back against Oregon State to pin 15th-ranked Hunter Willits in the first period, tying the dual with the Beavers at 9-9 at the halfway point. The Parkersburg, W. Va., native has now won 16 of his last 17 bouts dating back to the 2019-20 season.

Tied 12-12 at Oregon State after seven bouts, sophomore AJ Burkhart started a 9-0 Lehigh run to end the dual with a 10-4 win over Mason Reiniche. Wrestlers often move up and down weight classes from season to season, but Burkhart opted to make a big jump, moving up to 184 after competing at 157 last season. Burkhart went 12-10 over the previous two seasons at 157 and started three duals last season.

Six Lehigh wrestlers appear in the latest InterMat rankings, led by junior Josh Humphreys who comes in at No. 7 at 157. Four Mountain Hawks are ranked by The Open Mat, while three appear in rankings by both FloWrestling and Amateur Wrestling News. Senior Jordan Wood joins Humphreys as Lehigh wrestlers ranked across all four outlets. Humphreys is ranked in the top 10 by all four outlets at 157, while Wood comes in between eight and 13 at 285. Returning EIWA champions Jaret Lane (125) and Malyke Hines (133) appear in three of the four rankings. Junior Jimmy Hoffman and freshman Jake Logan are ranked only by InterMat, which now ranks wrestlers 1-33.

What originated as the Journeymen Northeast Duals, Journeymen Wrestling changed the format to a round robin individual tournament in 2016 and this year will host duals on Saturday Nov. 13 and the Journeymen Collegiate Classic, which Lehigh will compete in for the fifth straight year, on Sunday Nov. 14. This year the event moves from Troy, N.Y. to the Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Manheim, Pa.

The Journeymen Collegiate Classic features 18 teams, including 13 Division I squads, competing in independent modified round robin brackets. Wrestlers will compete in 6-8 man round robin brackets that will be followed by crossover matches. Division I programs can bring a maximum of 15 wrestlers, while other teams can bring 13.

Competing Division I teams include: Army West Point, Bloomsburg, Buffalo, Central Michigan, Harvard, Hofstra, Lehigh, LIU, Lock Haven, Oregon State, Penn, Sacred Heart, and VMI. Participating non-Division I teams are The College of New Jersey, Davis & Elkins, Gannon, Millersville and Pitt-Johnstown.

Six of the 17 Mountain Hawks who competed at the 2019 Journeymen Collegiate Classic are expected to compete this year. Josh Humphreys is a returning Hammer Award winner at 157. Jordan Wood won a Hammer Award as a sophomore in 2018. Jimmy Hoffman, Victor Lacombe, Brian Meyer and AJ Burkhart are also expected to compete this weekend after competing in the 2019 Classic.

The Journeymen Collegiate Classic begins at 9 a.m. Sunday from Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Manheim, Pa. Streaming video will be available on FloWrestling.org.

Lehigh its home scheduled next Sunday as the Mountain Hawks welcome No. 15 Pitt to Leeman-Turner Arena at Grace Hall. Pat Santoro squares off against his alma mater as the Mountain Hawks look to snap a two-match losing streak against the Panthers. Match time is set for 2 p.m.

The 2021-22 Lehigh wrestling season is presented by the Historic Hotel Bethlehem.

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