

Saint John's Wrestling Posts 37-10 Win Over Ridgewater

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. – Saint John's wrestling recorded bonus-point wins in four of the six matches for a 37-10 victory over Ridgewater on Friday night, Feb. 9, in Sexton Arena.

Sophomore Zachariah Hunter (Stillwater, Minn./Stillwater Area) started the dual at 197 pounds with a second-period pin in 3:44 to improve his season record to 14-6.

Freshman Cody Kwak (Ridgeland, Wis./Menomonie) followed with a pin of his own at heavyweight, but in comeback fashion. Following a scoreless first period, Ridgewater's Tucker Hugg deferred and Kwak chose down to start the second. Hugg turned the advantage into a four-point near fall and escaped with 1:48 left in the third period to build a 5-0 lead. Kwak, however, scored a takedown and secured a pin with 1:05 remaining. The fall was the team-leading 14th for Kwak, who is now 18-9 on the season.

Freshman Erick Solano (Katy, Texas/Paetow) followed the double-forfeit at 125 pounds with a forfeit win at 133. Another freshman, Connor Krueger (Superior, Wis.), accrued a 9-2 lead in the first period en route to a 13-2 victory – his team-leading 20th of the season (20-8 record) – at 141.

Sophomore Andy Johnson (St. Cloud, Minn./Tech) edged his former high-school teammate – the Warriors' Cody Brott – with a 4-2 decision at 174 pounds before Ben Gilbertson (Sauk Rapids, Minn./Sauk Rapids-Rice) put an exclamation point on Senior Night with a pin at 184. The Johnnies' lone senior found himself down 4-3 due to a last-second takedown by Ridgewater's Ross Meskimen at the end of the first period. Meskimen was down to start the second and Gilbertson squeezed him way to a fall 50 seconds later to even his record at 8-8.

The Johnnies return to the mat for the NCAA Upper Midwest Regional on Friday-Saturday, March 1-2, in Stevens Point, Wis.

Saint John's (SJU) 37, Ridgewater (RWC) 10

125: Open

133: Erick Solano (SJU) won by forfeit [18-0]

141: Connor Krueger (SJU) major dec. Cole Holien, 13-2 [22-0]

149: Brady Holien (RWC) won by forfeit [22-6]

157: Taedon Nichols (RWC) major dec. Kris Castro, 14-2 [22-10]

165: Noah Whitfield-Lopez (SJU) won by forfeit [28-10]

174: Andy Johnson (SJU) dec. Cody Brott, 4-2 [31-10]

184: Ben Gilbertson (SJU) pinned Ross Meskimen, 4:10 [37-10]

197: Zachariah Hunter (SJU) pinned Terrell Renne, 3:44 [6-0]

285: Cody Kwak (SJU) pinned Tucker Hugg, 5:55 [12-0]

*the dual started at 197 pounds

Exhibition

285: Austin Schlangen (RWC) pinned Thomas Allen, 1:48