

Martellotti and Wade lead PSU in Open

By Mike Still
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Of the 10 championship matches held at the Nittany Lion Open in Rec Hall on Sunday, eight featured Penn State wrestlers.

Though only half of those Nittany Lions won their championship matches, the presence of Cael Sanderson's squad late in the tournament sent a statement to the over 400 wrestlers from numerous schools at the Open — the No. 5 Lions are force to be reckoned with.

"We can wrestle with anybody," redshirt freshman David Taylor said. "There's no doubt about it and people are starting to figure that out now."

Taylor, who defeated unattached Jesse Dong of Virginia Tech in the 157-pound final, was one of four Lions to take first-place in their respective weight class.

True freshmen Frank Martellotti and Andrew Alton won the 125- and 141-pound finals, and junior Cameron Wade finished first in the heavyweights.

Now undefeated on the year at 10-0, Martellotti defeated Joseph Langel of Rutgers, 9-0 in his final match.

Having stepped into the starting spot at 125 in the absence of injured senior Brad Pataky, the freshman has been pleasantly surprising his teammates all season.

"He's unbelievable," redshirt freshman James Vollrath said of Martellotti. "We thought he was just gonna fill in, but he's been

awesome. He's more than just a fill-in for us."

Sunday's performance was the best he's wrestled in a really long time, Martellotti said.

A Pittsburgh native, Martellotti had plenty of family in attendance Sunday, which drove him to compete at his highest level.

"There's nothing better than winning in front of your family," Martellotti said.

"Having all these fans here is great, but winning in front of your family is kind of what you wrestle for."

At the other end of the weight spectrum, Wade cruised through the heavyweight bracket, finishing unattached Odie Delaney of the Citadel by way of technical fall in the first period.

Wade — who came into the

Open with a 3-2 record — won three of his matches by technical fall, picked up a pin in the quarter-finals and gave up just two points the whole day.

"I was just feeling on top of my game, and mentally and physically healthy," Wade said. "I just felt really good, everything was clicking."

Spending more time watching his younger wrestlers, Sanderson said he didn't even get to see Wade wrestle much on Sunday.

But the coach was confident the whole day that his heavyweight would be able to handle wrestling on his own without much attention from the coaches.

"He scored a lot of points, and that's what he wants to do because he's capable of that," Sanderson said. "He's good and

that's what he needs to do. He needs to go out in this tournament and dominate. And he did."

Though they didn't earn a victory as a team on Sunday, the Lions earned valuable experience wrestling for a full day against some of the country's top talent.

With just one more dual meet, a date with Lock Haven on Dec. 12 at home, before opening its Big Ten schedule on Dec. 19 against Ohio State, Penn State knows now is the time to work out the kinks and be ready when the season really matters.

"We just have to push forward," Wade said. "We'll put this one behind us, take what we did good and bad from this and keep moving on."

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Icers split weekend home series with Delaware

By Anthony Barton
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the Penn State Icers, Friday night's celebration after shutting out No. 3 Delaware was short lived.

The No. 11 Icers (12-5, 3-3-0 ESCHL) could not find the same spark, getting blown out Saturday, 7-2, by the Blue Hens (16-1-1, 5-1-1) at the Penn State Ice Pavilion.

"You have to give them credit," head coach Scott Balboni said. "They have a good squad and came out harder than us [Saturday]. We just couldn't get out of our own way [Saturday]."

The Icers started strong Saturday, with a goal midway through the first period by junior captain Marek Polidor.

After that, it was all Delaware. The Blue Hens responded with six straight goals, something senior assistant captain Tim O'Brien said deflated the team.

"We just didn't come out to play [Saturday]," O'Brien said. "Obviously you can see [Friday]

"We just didn't come out to play [Saturday]. Obviously you can see [Friday] night when we come out to play."

Tim O'Brien
senior forward

night when we come to play we can beat anybody. Hopefully we learned a lesson and it's not too late to turn the ship around."

The key to the Blue Hens' surge came early in the second period. With the score 2-1, Delaware scored three goals in a mere 35 seconds.

"It was a major mental lapse on our part, plus a bunch of bounces went their way," assistant captain Paul Daley said. "I don't think I've ever seen anything like that."

The three-goal surge knocked out freshman goalie Matt Madrazo, who was the first star from Friday's game. He was replaced by senior goalie Teddy Hume, who saved 14 of 16 shots the rest of the way.

Balboni announced Madrazo had taken hold of the starting goaltending job after he produced a shutout performance in the series' first game. Even after giving up five goals Saturday, the coach said that still holds true.

"I don't think [Madrazo] played bad at all [Saturday]," Balboni said. "Pulling him was just trying to provide us with some kind of spark."

A positive from the weekend was the return of multiple players from injury, most notably sophomore George Saad.

The forward showed why assistant coach Josh Hand called him the team's best player, tallying a goal and an assist in each game this weekend. He now has seven goals and four assists in seven games played this season.

Moving forward, the Icers have one game left before the winter break, a home tilt Friday against Niagara.

"We just have to put this one behind us," Daley said. "If we learn from our mistakes and work hard in practice, I think we'll finish up the semester strong against Niagara next weekend."

To e-mail reporter: acb5152@psu.edu Icers' coach Scott Balboni (right) addresses the team Saturday.



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