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ACC Weekly Release

<http://theacc.co/ACCWrestling2021>

Takedowns

- Virginia Tech wrapped up an unbeaten dual-meet slate with the Feb. 12 win over Pitt in the teams' regular-season finale. The Hokies (9-0, 5-0 ACC) finished atop the conference standings for the first time since doing so three straight years from 2015-17.
- Five league teams are ranked among the nation's top 20 as they turn their attention to the 2021 ACC Wrestling Championships, slated for Sunday, Feb. 28, at NC State. Virginia Tech moved up to No. 3 in this week's NWCA poll, followed by No. 7 NC State, No. 14 North Carolina, No. 16 Pitt and No. 20 Virginia.
- This marks the third consecutive week in which five ACC teams have been ranked among the nation's top 25. At least four conference teams have been ranked every week of the 2021 season.
- The ACC has been allotted 33 automatic qualifying spots in the NCAA Wrestling Championships, which are set for March 18-20 at the Enterprise Center in St. Louis. The ACC earned 38 total NCAA spots in the 2020 NCAA Championships, which were ultimately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ACC sent a league record 41 wrestlers to the NAAs in both 2018 and 2019.
- The Open Mat ranked ACC co-wrestler of the Week Jake Keating of Virginia's come-from-behind win over North Carolina's Kennedy Monday at 165 pounds as the third-best performance nationally for the weekend of Feb. 12-14. The injury-default win by Pitt's Jake Wentzel over Virginia Tech's top-ranked and 2019 165-pound NCAA champion Mekhi Lewis ranked seventh.
- ACC teams finished the regular season 11-0 versus non-league opponents in dual matches, including four road wins and two victories over nationally-ranked teams.
- Thirty-two ACC wrestlers are ranked among the nation's top 20 in their respective weight classes by Intermat, including 17 among the top 10 and seven among the top five.
- North Carolina junior Austin O'Connor still holds the nation's No. 1 ranking at 149 pound, and Virginia Tech junior Hunter Bolen took over the top spot this week at 184. NC State senior Hayden Hidlay (157 pounds) continues to hold steady at No. 2 in his weight class.
- Dating back over the last six seasons, NC State has been listed among the top 10 teams in 81 straight NWCA coaches' national rankings.



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