

2018-19 Big Ten Wrestling Opponents Announced

Michigan, Michigan State, Nebraska, Wisconsin all set to visit RAC next season

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (April 30, 2018) – The Big Ten finalized its 2018-19 conference schedule, announced Monday. Rutgers wrestling will host Michigan, Michigan State, Nebraska and Wisconsin at the RAC next season and take trips to Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota and Purdue.

Dates and times for all conference matches, as well as the rest of the Scarlet Knights' out-of-conference schedule, will be announced at a later date.

RU's conference slate once again proves to be a challenge, as it features six programs – No. 4 Michigan, No. 7 Iowa, No. 13 Nebraska, No. 18 Minnesota, No. 21 Purdue and No. 22 Wisconsin – that finished in the final USA Today/National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Division I Coaches Poll.

Last season, Rutgers faced 10 ranked foes, including No. 1 Penn State, No. 2 Ohio State, No. 7 Iowa, then-No. 21 Minnesota and No. 24 North Carolina at the RAC. The program wrestled 24 All-Americans, six Big Ten champions and five national champions at the RAC last season.

The Scarlet Knights averaged 4,680 fans for their seven matches this in 2017-18 and averaged 5,070 for their six home duals at the RAC. In total, 32,764 fans watched Rutgers wrestle in Piscataway, a program record. RU finished within the top-5 in home attendance for the third-straight season, with only Iowa (8,996), Penn State (7,693) and Ohio State (6,681) drawing more.

Rutgers returns three national qualifiers from this past season after the Scarlet Knights produced its best team finish at the NCAA Championships in 2018, finishing 11th with 42.5 points. The historic result also included the program's first national finalist in **Nick Suriano** as well as a sixth-place finisher in **Scott DelVecchio**, as the Scarlet Knights earned multiple All-Americans for the third consecutive year under head coach **Scott Goodale**.

Three-time All-American **Anthony Ashnault** also returns to the lineup in 2018-19 after he was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA last week. In total, six wrestlers with NCAA championships experience will be available for Goodale next season.

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