

From: Dow, Nicholas nicholas_dow@brown.edu
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To: Nicholas Dow Nicholas_dow@brown.edu



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Brown Wrestling's Quartet of NCAA Qualifiers Learn of NCAA Bracket Placements

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Seniors **Christian LaBrie**, **Jon Viruet**, **CJ LaFragola**, and **Ian Butterbrodt** have learned of their placement in the NCAA brackets after earning berths into the 2019 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, the NCAA announced on Wednesday night.

Making his debut at the NCAA Championships, LaBrie (Exeter, R.I.) – the No. 30 seed behind a 17-18 record – will face No. 3 seed Ryan Deakin (29-4) of Northwestern in the round of 32 at 157 pounds on Thursday morning.

Competing at NCAAs for the second straight year, Viruet (Springfield, Mass.) – the No. 17 seed with a 31-8 mark – will meet No. 16 seed Thomas Bullard (20-8) of NC State in the round of 32 at 165 pounds on Thursday morning.

Appearing in the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive season, LaFragola (Little Egg Harbor, N.J.) – the No. 27 seed behind a 24-9 record – will square off with No. 6 seed Drew Foster (23-5) of Northern Iowa in the round of 32 at 184 pounds on Thursday morning.

In his first appearance at NCAAs, Butterbrodt (North Andover, Mass.) – the No. 27 seed with an 18-6 mark – will meet No. 6 seed Amar Dhesi (10-1) of Oregon State in the round of 32 at 285 pounds on Thursday morning.

Brown totaled four NCAA qualifiers for the first time since 2002.

LaBrie captured All-Ivy plaudits for the first time this winter after placing fifth at 157 pounds at EIWAs and gaining his first berth in the NCAA Championships. At EIWAs, he finished the tournament with a 4-2 record, and, as part of his run to fifth place, he defeated No. 4 seed Dan Reed of Columbia twice as well as No. 8 seed Kizhan Clarke of American.

Viruet – who earned First Team All-Ivy this winter -- has 31 wins on the year and leads the Bears in wins (31), dual wins (13), dual EIWA wins (11), falls (five), major decisions (eight), dual points (54), and dual pins (four). He came in sixth at 165 pounds at the 2019 EIWA Championships, placing at EIWAs for the third time.

A three-time Second Team All-Ivy selection, LaFragola punched his ticket to the NCAA Championships for the third straight year with a fifth-place finish at 184 pounds at EIWAs. He tallied his third consecutive 20-win campaign and ranks second on the team in wins (24), dual wins (12), dual EIWA wins (nine), major decisions (six), and dual points (42).

Butterbrodt captured All-Ivy for the second straight year, taking home first team honors for the first time. He placed second at 285 pounds at EIWAs, earning a spot in the NCAA Championships for the first time, marking the Bears' highest finish at EIWAs since 2012, and becoming just the second Brown wrestler to reach an EIWA final since 2004. Butterbrodt completed an undefeated dual campaign, finishing 11-0, including 8-0 in EIWA duals, and won the three bouts in which he contested at EIWAs, giving him a 14-match win streak.

The NCAA Championships will take place from Thursday, March 21 to Saturday, March 23 at PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Nick Dow
Athletic Communications Assistant
Brown University
Email: nicholas_dow@brown.edu
Office: 401-863-6069
Cell: 781-812-7991

