

From: Eric W. Burdick eburdick@calpoly.edu

Subject: Cal Poly Wrestling to Host Oregon State, California Baptist for Double Dual on Thursday

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To: FCS fcsbigwest@visionsportsnews.com, D Frosty dfrosty@boxscorenews.com, Mark Patton mpatton@newspress.com, AP westdesk@ap.org, ESPN Data Info espndatainfo@espn.com, Jeremy West jwest@americangeneralmedia.com, Dan Watson dewatson@usc.edu, Mike Villamor mvillamor@bigwest.org, Gary Villa gvilla@cuesta.edu, KSBY TV sports@ksby.com, Los Angeles Times sports@latimes.com, Jack Sullivan jaxull@yahoo.com, Elliott Stern elliottstern@santamariatimes.com, SLO Chamber of Commerce news@slochamber.org, Kathy Signorelli kathy@americangeneralmedia.com, Randy Scovil rscovil@cuesta.edu, Kevin Roose kevroose@hotmail.com, Josh Friedman jfriedman@calcoastnews.com, Josh Friedman joshfriedman11@gmail.com, Olivia Phelps ophelps@bigwest.org, The Tribune sports@thetribunenews.com, Santa Barbara News-Press sports@newspress.com, Atascadero News sports@atascaderonews.com, Tyler Naso tylernaso@comcast.net, Mike Moreno bigscoop16@gmail.com, Eric McDowell mcdowe@union.edu, Ryan McAdams rmcadams@nmsu.edu, Andrew Masuda andrewtmasuda@gmail.com, Andrew Masuda andrew.masuda@hancockcollege.edu, Dick Mason slomason@gmail.com, Owen Main owen@fansmanship.com, Owen Main owenmain@gmail.com, Luke luke@fansmanship.com, LA Times spcolleges@latimes.com, SLO Sports sloSports@outlook.com, Advantage Link info@advantagelinksports.com, Jeff Kingman jkingman@americangeneralmedia.com, KEYT TV assignmentdesk@keyt.com, Wayne Jack jwaynejack@yahoo.com, DJ Foster fosterdj3@gmail.com, Mustang News mustangdailysports@gmail.com, Kenny Cress kcress@timespressrecorder.com, Kenny Cress kcress@santamariatimes.com, CPTV cptvnews@gmail.com, NCAA Content ncaa-content@turner.com, J Alexsam alexsamj@yahoo.com, Terry Clark tclark@smmud.org, Mike Chellsen mike@espnradio1280.com, Sports Capital s.e.thesportscapital@gmail.com, Terry Betterton terrybinmb@sbcglobal.net, Jack Beardwood j.beardwood@yahoo.com, Tom Barket tom@espnradio1280.com, Joe Bailey jbailey@santamariatimes.com, AP Los Angeles losangeles@ap.org, AlliedP alliedp@hotmail.com, Dave Alley davealley@kcoy.com, Tristan Aird tristanaird@hotmail.com, Donovan Aird donovanaird@gmail.com, Mike Wozniak wozzy20@aol.com, Travis Parrish tparrish@mustangssportsproperties.com, Paso Robles Press callen@atascaderonews.com, Mike Abrams mfa@espnradio1280.com, Cynthia Lambert cmlamber@calpoly.edu, Joe Callero jcallero@calpoly.edu, Paul Bittick pbittick@calpoly.edu, Scott Taylor staylor@americangeneralmedia.com, SLOPOC Sports II charles@slopocsports.com, SLOPOC Sports brian@brianstanleymedia.com, Mustang News sports@mustangnews.net, Rob Schiff rob.schiff@ksby.com, Julie St. Cyr jsticyr@bigwest.org, Chris Sylvester csylvesterpbp@gmail.com, CJ Silas cj@thejsilasshow.com, Heather Hellman hhellman@mustangssportsproperties.com, Jenna Garcia jgarcia08@calpoly.edu, Ashley Offermann aofferma@calpoly.edu, Connor Allen connor@colonymedia.us, Nick Wilson nwilson@thetribunenews.com, Joe Tarica jtarica@thetribunenews.com, Santa Maria Times II janderson@santamariatimes.com, Double G Sports gregg@inthezone.io, JP Hiraoka jphiraoka@gmail.com, Arizona State Mollie.Hanke@asu.edu, Daw Voice dawvoice3@gmail.com, InterMat news@intermatwrestle.com, USA Wrestling csesker@usawrestling.org, Wrestling Report closson@wrestlingreport.com, Flo Wrestling pressreleases@flowrestling.org, Northwestern preston.michelson@northwestern.edu, WIN Magazine martinkfleming@gmail.com, Northern Colorado matthew.kushar@unco.edu, American Wrestling News armando@americanwrestlingnews.com, Videoman svideoman@aol.com, Cal Grappler calgrappler@gmail.com, USA Wrestling rimmel@usawrestling.org, USA Wrestling tmiller@usawrestling.org, Ken Chertow kckc@kenchertow.com, Amateur Wrestling News rongood@coxinet.net, Wrestling USA ianny@wrestlingusa.com, WIN Magazine dfickel@msn.com, USA Wrestling gabbott@usawrestling.org, The Open Mat info@theopenmat.com, Data Magic datamagic@cox.net, Bryant Wrestling jason@bryantwrestling.com, Dan Fickel dfickel@netlink.net, The Open Mat viratas@theopenmat.com, Wrestling Editor wrestlingeditor@yahoo.com, The Open Mat eric@theopenmat.com, D1 College Wrestling earl@d1collegewrestling.net, Stanford rverleng@stanford.edu, CSU Bakersfield LGroce@csu.edu, Fresno State tblanshan@csufresno.edu, Oregon State Evan.Hooper@oregonstate.edu, Air Force daniel.whitaker@usafa.edu, Arkansas Little Rock rdchampion@ualr.edu, USA Wrestling mwillis@usawrestling.org, San Francisco State brandondavis@sfsu.edu, Buffalo jfuller3@buffalo.edu, California Baptist ashortall@calbaptist.edu, Pac-12 jhooker@pac-12.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 11, 2021

Cal Poly to Host Oregon State, California Baptist for Double Dual on Thursday
— Cal Poly Wrestling —

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. -- Coming off a successful weekend in its own Cal Poly Tri-Meet, the Mustang wrestling program will host its first two dual meets on the 2020-21 schedule on Thursday, hosting California Baptist and Oregon State.

First bout inside Mott Athletics Center begins at 10 a.m. with California Baptist and Oregon State wrestling against each other. Cal Poly takes the mat for its dual versus California Baptist at noon and the Mustangs and Beavers square off at 2 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fans will not be allowed inside Mott Athletics Center. Live stats and a video stream, however, will be available, with links on the wrestling schedule page at www.GoPoly.com.

California Baptist is 0-2 in dual meets thus far, falling to Utah Valley 25-16 and Northern Colorado 35-3, both matches on Jan. 8 in Orem, Utah.

Cal Poly owns a 4-3 advantage in its series against the Lancers, who began their transition to Division I in the fall of 2018 and are members of the Western Athletic Conference for most sports.

Last year, the Mustangs edged the Lancers 19-16 in Riverside as Bernie Truax and Tom Lane both won by technical fall. Cal Poly won four consecutive matches from 141 through 165 pounds for a 14-7 lead and Lane's 17-2 triumph at 197 clinched the victory.

Oregon State is off to a 2-4 start, wrestling three dual meets each on Jan. 3 in Fargo, N.D., and Jan. 10 in Stillwater, Okla.

The Beavers fell to North Dakota State 19-15, South Dakota State 20-12 and Missouri 43-0 on Jan. 3, then defeated Arkansas-Little Rock 33-9 before falling to Oklahoma State 29-8. Oregon State ended the day with a 39-6 win against Chattanooga.

Truax, who posted a 2-1 mark in the Cal Poly Tri-Meet on Jan. 3, losing only to No. 6 Demetrius Romero of Utah Valley on a takedown in overtime, is ranked No. 18 by The Open Mat.

Mustang 149-pounder Legend Lamer and 285-pounder Samuel Aguilar both earned individual titles in the Cal Poly Tri-Meet against Utah Valley and Fresno State.

Lamer went 4-0 with two decisions followed by a pair of falls. Aguilar won both of his heavyweight bouts by decision.

Finishing second for the Mustangs were Logan Gioffre at 157, Nathan Tausch at 165 and Truax and Jarad Priest at 174.

As many as five Mustang starters were held out of the season-opening tournament.

Brawley Lamer at 157 pounds, Antonio Lorenzo at 125 and Trent Tracy at 184 were sidelined with injuries. Both Lamer and Lorenzo are expected to return to the lineup Thursday.

In addition, Fresno State transfers Lawrence Saenz at 141 and Adam Kemp at 165 are expected to make their Mustang debuts Thursday after their final transcripts were posted last week.

Saenz is ranked No. 29 by The Open Mat while WrestleStat.com ranks Legend Lamer No. 49 at 149, Lorenzo No. 50 at 125, Brawley Lamer No. 65 at 157 and Kemp No. 48 at 165.

Lennie Zalesky was named head coach at California Baptist in June 2011 after nine seasons at head coach at UC Davis. In nine-plus seasons with the Lancers, Zalesky has compiled a 67-59-1 overall record. He was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2016, and was also named Division II Coach of the Year in 2017. He has coached his wrestlers to a total of 35 All-American awards and seven individual national championships, including three at the NCAA level.

Zalesky was a three-time NCAA All-American and a former assistant coach at Iowa and has extensive coaching experience at both the prep and collegiate levels as well as international experience as an athlete. He helped the Hawkeyes to four straight national championships and notched a record of 73-2-1 in his last two seasons. Zalesky was twice the national runner-up at 142 pounds and won three Big Ten titles.

Oregon State opened the season with three wrestlers in the top 25 -- No. 7 Devan Turner at 133 pounds, No. 18 Grant Willits at 141 and No. 20 Hunter Willits at 157. All three are two-time NCAA qualifiers.

Grant Willits was the Pac-12 champion at 141 pounds in 2019 while twin brother Hunter Willits owns a pair of second-place Pac-12 finishes. Turner claimed the Pac-12 title at 133 last year and placed third in 2019 and fourth in 2018.

Brandon Kaylor, Ryan Reyes and Grant Willits all went 2-1 in the Fargo duals while Hunter Willits and Jason Shaner both went 3-0 in the three duals at Oklahoma State.

In his first season as head coach at Oregon State, Chris Pendleton was an assistant coach at Arizona State for six years. The Sun Devils have won three of the last four Pac-12 titles and finished the shortened 2020 season ranked No. 6 in the country, defeating seven top 20 teams, including snapping No. 1 Penn State's 60-match win streak.

Pendleton was a two-time NCAA champion and three-time All-American at 174 pounds at Oklahoma State. He led the Cowboys to three straight NCAA Team Championships in 2003, 2004 and 2005, accumulating an overall collegiate record of 118-12. Pendleton was also the Big 12 champion in his weight class in both 2003 and 2005.

Oregon State was a 24-15 winner over Cal Poly a year ago in Corvallis. Brawley Lamer returned to his home state and earned a fall while Truax, Lane and Joshy Cortez won their matches by decision.

The Beavers lead Cal Poly 41-10 in their all-time series.

Cal Poly has one more home date on its schedule before hitting the road. The Mustangs host Fresno State, North Dakota State, Arkansas-Little Rock and California Baptist on Jan. 24.

The road meets are Feb. 3 at CSU Bakersfield, Feb. 9 at Stanford and Feb. 11 at Arizona State. Oregon State will host the Pac-12 Championships on Feb. 27, with the 2021 NCAA Division I National Championships slated for March 18-20 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Probable lineups:

Cal Poly (0-0)

125 — Antonio Lorenzo (0-0), Redshirt Freshman, Antelope, CA

133 — Adam Jacob (0-3), Freshman, Camp Hill, PA

141 — Lawrence Saenz (0-0), Redshirt Sophomore, Vacaville, CA or Wyatt Cornelison (1-3), Redshirt Junior, Clovis, CA

149 — Legend Lamer (4-0), Redshirt Freshman, Corvallis, OR or Logan Gioffre (2-2), Freshman, Clovis, CA

157 — Brawley Lamer (0-0), Redshirt Junior, Corvallis, OR or Max Anderson (1-1), Redshirt Freshman, Clovis, CA

165 — Adam Kemp (0-0), Redshirt Sophomore, Palatine, IL or Nathan Tausch (2-1), Junior, Poway, CA

174 — No. 23 Bernie Truax (2-1), Redshirt Sophomore, Oceanside, CA
184 — William Kloster (0-3), Freshman, Hanford, CA or Dylan Miracle (0-0), Redshirt Sophomore, Madera, CA
197 — Trevor Tinker (0-1), Freshman, Marina, CA or Josh Harkey (0-1), Freshman, Laguna Niguel, CA
285 — Samuel Aguilar (2-0), Redshirt Junior, Apple Valley, CA

California Baptist (0-2)

125 -- Dilan Ajtun (0-2), Redshirt Sophomore, Downey, CA or Antonio Saldate (0-0), Redshirt Sophomore, Las Vegas, NV
133 -- Brandon Paulson (0-2), Redshirt Freshman, Clovis, CA
141 -- Chaz Hallmark (1-1), Redshirt Freshman, San Diego, CA
149 -- AJ Raya (0-2), Redshirt Junior, Yucaipa, CA
157 -- Zach Rowe (0-2), Sophomore, Steilacoom, WA or Max Hammond (0-0), Redshirt Freshman, Sparrows Point, MD
165 -- Josh Grant (1-1), Redshirt Sophomore, Hillsboro, OR
174 -- Johann Steinforth (0-0), Freshman, Magdeburg, Germany
184 -- Caden Gerlach (1-1), Redshirt Freshman, Glenallen, Alaska
197 -- Evan Bockman (1-1), Redshirt Sophomore, Anchorage, Alaska
285 -- Zach Schrader (1-1), Redshirt Senior, Manhattan Beach, CA

Oregon State (2-4)

125 -- Brandon Kaylor (4-2), Redshirt Sophomore, Bonney Lake, WA
133 -- No. 19 Devan Turner (1-3), Redshirt Senior, Dixon, CA or Jason Shaner (3-0), Redshirt Junior, Hood River, OR
141 -- No. 18 Grant Willits (4-2), Redshirt Junior, Pueblo, CO
149 -- Lane Stigall (2-4), Redshirt Junior, Aurora, OR
157 -- No. 19 Hunter Willits (4-2), Redshirt Junior, Pueblo, CO
165 -- Aaron Olmos (1-2), Redshirt Senior, Imperial Beach, CA
174 -- Colton Beisley (2-4), Redshirt Junior, St. Helens, OR
184 -- Jackson McKinney (2-0), Redshirt Sophomore, Vancouver, WA or No. 33 Ryan Reyes (2-3), Sophomore, Fresno, CA
197 -- No. 29 J.J. Dixon (3-3), Redshirt Sophomore, Tacoma, WA
285 -- Brian Barnes (1-4), Redshirt Junior, McMinnville, OR

Eric Burdick

Associate Director of Athletics for Communications

Cal Poly

Mott Athletics Center (Room 201)

1 Grand Avenue

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0388

Work — (805) 756-6550

Cell — (805) 550-3427

www.gopoly.com

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