

Cal Poly to Host Cal Baptist for First Dual Meet of 2018-19 Wrestling Season

— Cal Poly Wrestling —

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — Coming off a strong showing in the Menlo Open a week ago, the Cal Poly wrestling team opens the dual meet portion of its 2018-19 schedule Saturday with a non-conference matchup against Cal Baptist.

First bout in Mott Athletics Center begins at 1 p.m.

The Lancers are opening their season with Saturday's dual while Coach Jon Sioredas' Mustang wrestlers earned three first-place finishes, a trio of runners-up and a pair of thirds last Saturday inside Haynes-Prim Pavilion in Menlo-Atherton.

Ben Martinez placed first at 125 pounds, Yoshito Funakoshi (pictured above) took the 133-pound crown and Joshy Cortez won the 157-pound championship. Bernie Truax (149), Dylan Miracle (165) and Nathan Tausch (174) all finished second while Willem DeBoer (197) and Samuel Aguilar (285) placed third.

Cal Baptist is in its first season as an NCAA Division I member. Last year, the Lancers earned conference and regional championship en route to a third-place NCAA Division II finish.

Top returnees for Cal Baptist this season are Daxton Gordon, who won the 149-pound NCAA Division II Championship last year, and 184-pounder Garrett Strang, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year and NCAA qualifier.

Gordon posted a 25-2 record last year while Strang was 16-12.

Cal Poly owns a 3-2 advantage in its brief series against Cal Baptist. The two schools did not meet last season, but the Mustangs earned a 30-13 victory in a Nov. 12, 2016, dual meet in San Luis Obispo.

earned a 100% victory in a Nov. 12, 2018, dual meet in San Luis Obispo.

Headlining Cal Poly's roster this season is junior 197-pounder Tom Lane, who posted a 16-11 record a year ago en route to a spot in the NCAA Division I National Championship

Other top returnees include junior 184-pounder Matt Wilhelm (15-7 a year ago), senior 157-pounder Joshy Cortez (12-11) and 285-pound sophomore Nic Iversen (6-6).

Several wrestlers who redshirted last season and competed well in open tournaments dot the roster as well, including 165-pounder Brawley Lamer (11-5), 133-pounder Wyatt Cornelison (9-6), 157-pounder Joe La Rosa (6-5) and 285-pounders Samuel Aguilar (7-6) and Seville Hayes (7-4).

The matchup against Cal Baptist is the first of nine duals on the Mustangs' schedule this season. Seven of those matchups will be on the Cal Poly campus.

The Mustangs host Northern Colorado on Friday, Jan. 18, during Alumni Weekend and the first dual against Fresno State in 12 years is scheduled for Feb. 9 inside the Recreation Center.

Northwestern visits Cal Poly on Dec. 17 and, after the New Year, the Mustangs host CSU Bakersfield on Jan. 11, Oregon State on Feb. 2 and Air Force on Feb. 10.

The only dual meets on the road for the Mustangs are in February, Pac-12 matches at Stanford on Feb. 17 and at Arizona State on Feb. 22. The Sun Devils also will host the Pac-12 Championships on March 9.

Cal Poly will compete in six tournaments during the first two months of the season.

In addition to the Menlo Open last weekend and the Roadrunner Open on Nov. 18, the tournament schedule features the Black Knight Invitational on Nov. 18 at West Point, the Las Vegas Invitational on Nov. 30-Dec. 1, the Reno Tournament of Champions on Dec. 20 and the Midlands on Dec. 28-29.

"We designed our schedule to provide our student-athletes with significant opportunity to face ranked opponents," said Sioredas. "Between the Las Vegas Invitational, Midlands and duals against three programs that finished in the Top 25, we will be tested."

The 2019 NCAA Division I National Championships will be held March 21-23 in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Probable Lineup

125

CP — Benny Martinez (4-0), Freshman, Eastlake, CA
CB — Antonio Saldate (0-0), Freshman, Las Vegas, NV

133

CP — Yoshito Funakoshi (3-0), Senior, Torrance, CA
CB — Adam Velasquez (0-0), Sophomore, Modesto, CA

141

CP — Ryan Farina (2-2), Sophomore, Tempe, AZ
CB — Zander Silva (0-0), RS Freshman, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

149

CP — Wyatt Cornelison (0-0), RS Freshman, Clovis, CA
CB — Daxton Gordon (0-0), Junior, El Centro, CA

157

CP — Brawley Lamer (0-0), RS Freshman, Corvallis, OR
CB — Slater "John" Johnson (0-0), Sophomore, Amarillo, TX

165

CP — Dylan Miracle (2-1), Freshman, Madera, CA
CB — Bryce Buckley (0-0), Junior, Pasco, WA

174

CP — Nathan Tausch (3-1), Freshman, Poway, CA
CB — Jacob Cooper (0-0), Junior, Murrieta, CA

184

CP — Jack Huber (2-2), RS Freshman, Highlands Ranch, CO
CB — Garrett Strang (0-0), Sophomore, Temecula, CA

197

CP — Tom Lane (0-0), Junior, Garden City, NY
CB — Frank Wvshinski (0-0), Junior, Pennsville, NJ

285

CP — Sam Aguilar (4-1), RS Freshman, Apple Valley, CA

CB — Zach Schrader (0-0), Sophomore, Manhattan Beach, CA

Eric Burdick

Assistant Director of Athletics for Athletics 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

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