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ESU Men's Wrestling Ranked 17th in The Open Mat's Division II Preseason Top 25 Poll

November 17, 2020

EAST STROUDSBURG – The East Stroudsburg University men's wrestling team ranked seventeenth in the 2020-21 NCAA Division II Preseason Top 25 Poll, which was recently released by The Open Mat.

The Warriors are one of five PSAC schools that appear in the initial poll from The Open Mat. ESU had two wrestlers earn NWCA All-America status in 2020 despite the cancellation of the NCAA DII Wrestling Championships.

Gannon is ranked seventh overall with 33.5 tournament points, while Kutztown comes in at No. 11 with 30.5 points. Pitt-Johnstown sits just ahead of ESU at No. 16 with 20.5 points, while Mercyhurst comes in at No. 23 with 14.5 tournament points.

Raccioppi and Riddick were both DII National Qualifiers last year for ESU, earning sixth and third seeds, respectively. Both garnered PSAC All-Conference first-team honors after finishing in the top two of their respective weight classes at the Super Region 1 Tournament.

The duo helped ESU record its best finish as a team at the NCAA Super Region 1 Tournament since finishing sixth out of 12 teams in 2013-14. The pair also helped give ESU its first set of multiple All-America selections in the same season since Ed Ebewo and Braden Turner in 2012.

Riddick qualified for his first DII Wrestling Championships at 184 pounds after defeating the defending 174-pound national champion in Connor Craig, while Raccioppi qualified for his second straight DII Wrestling Championships at 174 pounds after finishing second to Pitt-Johnstown's Brock Biddle at the Super Region 1 Tournament.

Raccioppi became the first ESU wrestler to accomplish the feat of earning multiple All-America laurels since ESU reclassified to DII in 2010 and first since Hall of Fame member

Gary Kessel in 1975-76. Riddick became the 24th wrestler in program history to earn All-America status and the first 184-pounder to do so for the Warriors since Shane Mallory in 2010.

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