



Keith Koumiz

Bulldog Wrestling begins new era with split in San Francisco

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SAN FRANCISCO - The return of Fresno State Wrestling to the Valley returned on Saturday with an emphatic 35-12 win over San Francisco State before the 'Dogs fell to Nebraska-Kearney 19-17 in the second dual at The Swamp on the campus of SFSU.

"It was a great first day and it is nice to get the season rolling," said Bulldog head coach [Troy Steiner](#). "We have a gauge of where we are at now and it is time to get back to work for Illinois this week, but we are excited to get going."

The 'Dogs got out to a blazing 35-0 lead over the Gators winning the first eight matches of the dual with seven of the wins coming by bonus points. Starting both duals at 141 pounds, freshman Chris De Loza got the new era of Bulldog wrestling started with an 11-0 major decision over Nick Valadez before Utah Valley transfer Khristian Olivas won 9-0 at 149 pounds to give the 'Dogs a 8-0 lead.

Fresno State kept it rolling at 157 pounds as Cal Baptist transfer Greg Gaxiola nearly had a technical fall winning by 14 points to put the 'Dogs up 12-0 before Drexel transfer and Clovis native Isaiah Hokit made it four straight major decisions at 165 pounds winning 16-7 to start the match to push the Bulldogs ahead 16-0.

At 174 pounds, sophomore Dominic Kincaid recorded the 'Dogs first pin of the season with a first period pin of Justin Pichedwatana in 2:27. Freshman and Lemoore native Angel Solis won by a narrow 3-2 margin at 184 pounds as he used a second period reversal to defeat Kevin Henry and put the 'Dogs up 25-0.

Freshman Richie Brandt made it two falls in three matches as he made quick work of Elias Rosales pinning him in 1:20 at 197 pounds which was followed by an 11-0 win by heavyweight AJ Nevills that made it 35-0.

The 'Dogs forfeited at 125 pounds and freshman Trevor Williams was pinned in the first period by Nate Cervantes to make the final score 35-12.

The afternoon's second dual was against Nebraska-Kearney, ranked No. 20 in the NCAA Division II polls, as the Lopers came out with a 9-4 win in the opening match as Jonathan Killingsworth edged De Loza. Fresno State responded with three straight wins as Olivas won a hard-fought match over Jacob Wasser, 4-2 using a third-period takedown to break a 2-2 tie. Gaxiola followed with a 8-1 win over Seth Harrington scoring seven points in the second period to break the match open and Hokit followed with a 16-7 major decision using four takedowns in the third period to win the match with ease.

With the 'Dogs holding a 10-3 lead in the dual, the Lopers responded with three straight wins of their own, including a major decision at 197 pounds, to take a 13-10 lead with three matches left.

Falling behind 8-1 quickly in the first period at heavyweight, Nevills fought back hard to cut the Lopers' Kevin Barrett, ranked No. 6 in Division II, lead to 9-7 after two periods. Still trailing by a point with under a minute in regulation, a takedown by Nevills with 35 seconds left turned out to be the clincher in the match as the Clovis native won 12-11 to tie the match at 13-13.

Another forfeit by the 'Dogs at 125 pounds gave UNK a 19-13 lead, but Williams came out strong in the final bout to win by a major decision, 15-7 over UNK's JD Rader to make the final score 19-17.

Up next

The Bulldogs return to Fresno next week to host Big 10 foe Illinois (0-1) in the home opener at the Save Mart Center on Friday, Nov. 17 at 7

p.m. Check out the top of the page for ticket information as wrestling returns home to the Valley.

Fresno State-San Francisco State Match-By-Match Results

141: Chris De Loza (FS) maj. dec. Nick Valadez (SFSU): 11-0 I FS 4, SFSU 0
149: Khristian Olivas (FS) maj. dec. Isiah Alva (SFSU): 9-0 I FS 8, ILL 0
157: Greg Gaxiola (FS) maj. dec. Mason Boutain (SFSU): 16-2 I FS 12, SFSU 0
165: Isaiah Hokit (FS) maj. dec. Romeo Medina (SFSU): 16-7 I FS 16, SFSU 0
174: Dominic Kincaid (FS) pinned Justin Pichedwatana (SFSU): Fall 2:27 I FS 22, SFSU 0
184: Angel Solis (FS) dec. Kevin Henry (SFSU): 3-2 I FS 25, SFSU 0
197: Richie Brandt (FS) pinned Elias Rosales (SFSU): Fall 1:20 I FS 31, SFSU 0
HWT: AJ Nevills (FS) maj. dec. Sam Alnassiri (SFSU): 11-0 I FS 35, SFSU 0
125: Christian Ramos (SFSU) wins by forfeit I FS 35, SFSU 6
133: Nate Cervantes (SFSU) pinned Trevor Williams (FS): Fall 1:58 I FS 35, SFSU 12

Fresno State-Nebraska-Kearney Match-By-Match Results

141: Jonathan Killingsworth (UNK) dec. Chris De Loza (FS): 9-4 I FS 0, UNK 3
149: Khristian Olivas (FS) dec. Jacob Wasser (UNK): 4-2 I FS 3, UNK 3
157: Greg Gaxiola (FS) dec. Seth Harrington (UNK): 8-1 I FS 6, UNK 3
165: Isaiah Hokit (FS) maj. dec. Nickalas Babock (UNK): 14-3 I FS 10, UNK 3
174: No. 5 (Division II) Zach Stodden (UNK) dec. Dominc Kincaid (FS): 8-4 I FS 10, UNK 6
184: Isaac Deaton (UNK) dec. Angel Solis (FS): 10-5 I FS 10, UNK 9
197: Trey Schlender (UNK) maj. dec. Richie Brandt (FS): 9-0 I FS 10, UNK 13
HWT: AJ Nevills (ILL) dec. No. 6 (Division II) Kevin Barrett (UNK): 12-11 I FS 13, UNK 13
125: Clayton Glendy (UNK) won by forfeit I FS 13, UNK 19
133: Trevor Williams (FS) maj. dec. JD Rader (UNK): 15-7 I FS 17, UNK 19

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