



Keith Kounitz

### **Fresno State Wrestling hosts CSU Bakersfield Friday, travel to No. 10 Minnesota Sunday**

12/6/2017 | Wrestling

**FRESNO, Calif.** - After making its return to the Valley on Nov. 17 in front of the third-largest crowd in program history, Fresno State Wrestling is back home on Friday to host CSU Bakersfield at the Save Mart Center at 7 p.m. before hitting the road for a contest at Big 10 opponent Minnesota on Sunday.

#### **CSU Bakersfield at Fresno State**

Dec. 8, 2017 7:00 P.M. Save Mart Center Fresno, Calif.

**Live Scoring:** [Trackwrestling](#)

**Video:** [FloWrestling](#)

**Twitter:** [@FresnoStateWRES](#)

**Series History:** CSUB leads 15-11

**Last Meeting:** Jan. 17, 2006 - L, 36-10 in Bakersfield, Calif.

#### **Promotions for Friday!**

- Social Media Madness Night!
- All fans who follow Fresno State Athletics on social media get in FREE!
- Follow along on Fresno State Athletics social media accounts for fun in game promotions!
- The Valley "V" Foam Finger Giveaway!
- Get loud for a shirt giveaway sponsored by Chevron
- Opportunity to pick up your Official Jr. Bulldog Kids Club Membership Badge

#### **Fresno State at No. 10 Minnesota**

Dec. 10, 2017 11:00 A.M. PT Maturi Pavilion Minneapolis, Minn.

**Live Scoring:** [Trackwrestling](#)

**Video:** [BTN Plus](#) & [FloWrestling](#)

**Twitter:** [@FresnoStateWRES](#)

**Series History:** Minnesota leads 4-2-1

#### **Scouting CSU Bakersfield**

The Roadrunners enter Friday evening's dual with a 2-4 overall mark in duals picking up wins in its first two duals of the season over Buffalo, 22-14, on Nov. 2 and Bucknell, 26-10, on Nov. 5. CSUB has dropped matches on the road to No. 18 Edinboro (34-9) and Stanford (18-16) while falling in close contests at home to No. 25 Pittsburgh (21-18) and No. 18 Wisconsin (22-18).

CSUB is coming off a third place finish at the 2017 Pac-12 Championships as current 133-pounder, redshirt junior Sean Nickell, won the 125-pound weight class, while redshirt senior 157-pounder Coleman Hammond redshirt sophomore 165-pounder Lorenzo De La Riva and redshirt senior 197-pounder Matt Williams each made the NCAA Championships a year ago.

All four NCAA Tournament qualifiers are expected to be in the lineup on Friday as each is ranked by at least one national poll while redshirt sophomore 141-pounder Russell Rohlfing gives the Roadrunners half of their lineup who are nationally-ranked.

CSUB is led by second-year head coach Manuel Rivera, a 2008 All-American at Minnesota, and he is assisted by Jeff Silveira and Sean Boyle.

#### **Projected Starting Lineups**

##### **Fresno State vs. CSU Bakersfield Probable Wrestlers**

**125** [Sean Williams](#) (0-4), Sr. vs. Sergio Mendez, RSr.

**133** [Trevor Williams](#) (3-6), Fr. vs. No. -/-/20/- Sean Nickell, R.Jr.

**141** [Chris De Loza](#) (5-5), Fr. vs. No. -/19/17/23 Russell Rohlfing, RSr.

**149** No. -/-/25 [Khristian Olivas](#) (7-1), Fr. vs. Kalani Tonge, So.

**157** [Greg Gaxiola](#) (8-2), Fr. vs. No. 20/14/14/12 Coleman Hammond, RSr.

**165** [Lorenzo De La Riva](#) (2-0), So. vs. No. 46/60/40/14/12 Matt Williams, RSr.

165 [Isaiah Hokit](#) (6-3), So. vs. No. -/18/20/19 Lorenzo De La Riva, RSo.  
174 [Dominic Kincaid](#) (6-5), So. vs. Bryan Battisto, RJr.  
184 [Angel Solis](#) (5-5), Fr. vs. Dominic Ducharme, RFr.  
197 [Richie Brandt](#) (5-6), So. vs. No. 14/12/12/12 Matt Williams, RSr.  
HWT [AJ Nevills](#) (9-2), Fr. vs. Mark Penyacsek, RSo.

*Rankings are listed in InterMat, FloWrestling, W.I.N. & TrackWrestling*

#### **Scouting No. 10 Minnesota**

The Golden Gophers host their second dual meet of the season on Sunday after topping fellow Big 12 opponent Air Force, 29-6, on Nov. 12. Minnesota enters with a 2-1 mark in dual meets as they also picked up a win at No. 12 South Dakota State, 20-12, on Nov. 17 while falling at No. 4 Oklahoma State, 30-3, on Nov. 19.

Minnesota is coming off a seventh-place finish at the 2017 NCAA Championships and return a pair of All-Americans in junior 125-pounder Ethan Lizak and junior 141-pounder Tommy Thorn. Lizak, currently 12-1 on the season, is the Gophers' highest-ranked wrestler as he checks in No. 3 in a pair of polls, while Thorn, sophomore 133-pounder Mitch McKee, senior 157-pounder Jake Short and senior 165-pounder Nick Wanzek are also in the national rankings.

Competing in the toughest conference in Division I wrestling, the Gophers finished in the top five at the Big Ten Tournament for the 20th time in the last 21 seasons in 2017 with a fifth-place finish as they qualified nine wrestlers for the NCAA Championships. Seven of those wrestlers return this year with Lizak, McKee, Thorn, Short, Wanzek, Pfarr and Stevenson giving the Gophers a deep lineup.

Minnesota, who owns NCAA titles in 2001, 2002 & 2007, has claimed 12 Big Ten titles in program history and is led by second-year head coach Brandon Eggum and he is assisted by Luke Becker, Dustin Schlatter and Zach Sanders. Combined the Gophers four coaches claim 14 All-American honors, six Big 10 titles, two NCAA individual titles and a combined .846 winning percentage (489-89) while Becker was on two (2001 & 2002) NCAA National Championship teams and Schlatter was a member of the 2007 NCAA title team.

#### **Fresno State vs. No. 10/13/11/14 Minnesota Probable Starters**

125 [Sean Williams](#) (0-4), Sr. vs. No. 5/3/5/3 Ethan Lizak, Jr.  
133 [Trevor Williams](#) (3-6), Fr. vs. No. 8/8/5/8 Mitch McKee, So.  
141 [Chris De Loza](#) (5-5), Fr. vs. No. 10/10/10/12 Tommy Thorn, Jr.  
149 No. -/1-/25 [Khristian Olivas](#) (7-1), Fr. vs. Hunter Marko, So.  
157 [Greg Gaxiola](#) (8-2), Fr. vs. No. 13/12/20/23 Jake Short, Sr.  
165 [Isaiah Hokit](#) (6-3), So. vs. No. 9/9/9/12- Nick Wanzek, Sr.  
174 [Dominic Kincaid](#) (6-5), So. vs. Chris Pfarr, Sr.  
184 [Angel Solis](#) (5-5), Fr. vs. Owen Webster, So.  
197 [Richie Brandt](#) (5-6), So. vs. Bobby Stevenson, So.  
HWT [AJ Nevills](#) (9-2), Fr. vs. Rylee Streifel, So.

*Rankings are listed in InterMat, FloWrestling, W.I.N. & TrackWrestling*

#### **'Dogs coming off competition at tough Cliff Keen Invite**

Freshman heavyweight [AJ Nevills](#) improved to 9-2 on the season with a pair of victories winning his first two matches of the individual tournament topping a pair of Big 12 opponents with a 7-2 win over Dan Stibral of North Dakota State and followed it up with a 3-1 win in overtime over Northern Iowa's Carter Isley securing a takedown 30 seconds into the extra period.

Sophomore 174-pounder [Dominic Kincaid](#) picked up the 'Dogs other win with a 10-7 victory over Anthony Lamardo of Binghamton in the consolation bracket.

#### **Olivas in the national rankings**

Freshman 149-pounder [Khristian Olivas](#), who did not wrestle in Vegas due to injury, is the lone 'Dog in the national rankings this week as he checks in No. 25 by TrackWrestling. The Clovis native is 7-1 on the season with a pair of pins, a technical fall and two major decisions.

#### **Battle on the Midway**

On Nov. 21, Fresno State competed in its first-ever dual as members of the Big 12 Conference falling 24-12 to Air Force in the inaugural Battle on the Midway. Aboard the USS Midway, the 'Dogs dropped a pair of hard-fought one-point matches at 125 and 133 pounds, only to rebound at 149 and 157 pounds as Olivas and Gaxiola won by technical fall and major decision, respectively, to close the dual score to 12-9 before Air Force went on to win the next four weight classes each by decisions.

### **Fresno State Wrestling returns to the Valley**

On Nov. 17, in front of 6,840 Red Wave supporters, the third-largest dual in program history, Fresno State Wrestling returned to the Valley as the 'Dogs battled Big 10 foe Illinois at the Save Mart Center.

The 'Dogs, who fell in the dual 33-10, came out with three dual wins as Olivas got Fresno State on the board with a 10-2 major decision at 149 pounds over nationally-ranked Eric Barone while [Gaxiola](#) followed it up with a 9-5 win at 157 pounds over another nationally-ranked foe in Eric Langenderfer.

The final win for the Bulldogs came at heavyweight as [Nevills](#) topped Duece Rachal, 7-5 with a late takedown in the third period.

### **Up next**

The Bulldogs wrap up the first half of the season on Sun., Dec. 17 heading to the Reno Tournament of Champions where the 'Dogs will see tough competition in the individual tournament from the likes of Cal Poly, Missouri, North Carolina State, North Dakota State, Oklahoma State, Stanford and Wyoming. Action will begin at 9 a.m. in Reno, Nev.

**"Just the Ticket to Build Our Community"** - The Bulldog Scholarship Fund gives Bulldog alumni, fans and friends the opportunity to support Fresno State Athletics and the student-athletes who inspire them. For information about how you can support the Bulldog Scholarship Fund, please visit [www.bulldogscholarshipfund.com](http://www.bulldogscholarshipfund.com) or call 559-278-7160.

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