

Isaiah Martinez Drops Final X Series to Jordan Burroughs

LINCOLN, Neb. – Former Illinois wrestler Isaiah Martinez dropped the 74kg best-of-three Final X series to 2012 Olympic Champion and four-time World Champion Jordan Burroughs on Saturday night inside the Bob Devaney Center. Burroughs defeated Martinez by scores of 4-1 and 11-1.

The opening bout of the series saw all outscoring by way of step-outs, Burroughs earning four to Martinez's one. In the second match, Martinez drew first blood by forcing a Burroughs step out, but the defending World Champion countered with an 11-0 run to win by tech fall and clinch the series.

By winning the 74kg series, Burroughs will again represent the United States at World Championships. The 2018 World Championships will be held October 20-28 in Budapest, Hungary.

Martinez reached the Final X match-up with Burroughs with sweeps of both the U.S. Open and the World Team Trials Challenge Tournament. Martinez held his opponents scoreless through each of his five U.S. Open matches, outscoring them 49-0. As the winner of the U.S. Open, Martinez automatically advanced to the Challenge Tournament best-of-three final where he swept Nazar Kulchytsky with a pair of 13-2 victories.

The 2018 Illinois graduate finished his Illinois career as a two-time NCAA Champion and four-time NCAA Finalist. The 16th wrestler in the illustrious history of the Big Ten to win four Big Ten titles, Martinez leaves Illinois with the program's highest win percentage (.975) and tied for 10th on the Illinois all-time wins list with 116 victories.

Last week, Illinois head coach Jim Heffernan announced the addition of Martinez to his 2018-19 coaching staff as a volunteer assistant coach. While assisting Heffernan's squad, Martinez will continue to train and compete as part of the Illinois Regional Training Facility.

For complete coverage of Fighting Illini wrestling, go to FIGHTINILLINI.com and follow @IlliniWrestling on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

