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Subject: Illini Wrestling: No. 11 Illinois Hosts No. 8 Nebraska in Sunday Afternoon Dual
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CHAMPAIGN, III. -- No. 11 Illinois is set to host No. 8 Nebraska for the final Big Ten dual of the season at 1pm on Sunday at the State Farm Center. The Illini are 5-2 on the season after coming off a dominant win over Northwestern in Evanston on February 7. Sunday afternoon's dual with the Huskers will be broadcasted by ESPNU, and live stats will be available on Trackwrestling, or follow along on Twitter @IlliniWrestling.

PROBABLE STARTERS

No. 11 Illinois			No. 8 Nebraska	
Wrestler	Record	Weight Class	Wrestler	Record
<u>Justin Cardani</u>	2-5	125 lbs.	Liam Cronin -OR- Jeremiah Reno	6-1; 0-2
<u>Lucas Byrd</u>	6-1	133 lbs.	Alex Thomsen -OR- Tucker Sjomeling	2-3; 3-2
<u>Dylan Duncan</u>	4-1	141 lbs.	Chad Red Jr.	7-1
<u>Mike Carr</u>	5-2	149 lbs.	Brock Hardy -OR- Ridge Lovett	4-3; 4-0
<u>Johnny Mologousis</u>	1-6	157 lbs.	Caleb Licking	2-4
<u>Danny Braunagel</u>	5-0	165 lbs.	Peyton Robb	6-2
<u>DJ Shannon</u> or <u>Trey Sizemore</u>	2-4; 2-2	174 lbs.	Mikey Labriola	7-0
<u>Zac Braunagel</u>	4-3	184 lbs.	Taylor Venz -OR- Nathan Haas	3-2; 2-2

<u>Matt Wroblewski</u>	5-2	197 lbs.	Brandon Van Tassell	2-2
<u>Luke Luffman</u>	5-2	HWT	Christian Lance	4-2

QUICK HITS

- No. 11 Illinois hosts No. 8 Nebraska in a Big Ten dual meet on Sunday.
- Illinois is 4-8 all time against the Huskers. The last matchup was in Lincoln in 2019 when the Illini fell to the Huskers, 30-9.
- The Illini are ranked No. 11 in the latest NWCA DI Coaches Poll.
- The Illini are 5-2 on the season with three top-25 wins.
- Illinois is coming off a dominant 31-6 win over Northwestern in Evanston.
- The Illini have outscored their opponents 147-111 through seven Big Ten duals this season.
- Eight Illini wrestlers are nationally ranked in the top 25 across multiple ranking websites. Their highest respective rankings are as follows: [Justin Cardani](#) (No. 17), [Lucas Byrd](#) (No. 11), [Dylan Duncan](#) (No. 12), [Mike Carr](#) (No. 6), [Danny Braunagel](#) (No. 6), [Zac Braunagel](#) (No. 11), [Matt Wroblewski](#) (No. 23), [Luke Luffman](#) (No. 9).
- [Danny Braunagel](#) is off to a 5-0 start in Big Ten dual matches. He is the only undefeated Illini wrestler.
- Illinois is ranked on all major ranking websites, with their highest ranking being No. 11 on NWCA Coaches Poll and FloWrestling team dual rankings.

NOTES

#11 Illinois vs. #8 Nebraska

The Fighting Illini host the No. 8 Huskers after picking up a win two weekend's ago over Northwestern in Evanston. The Illini won eight of the ten bouts on the evening and looked impressive en route to a dominant 31-6 victory over their in-state rival. The Illini are now 5-2 on the season with three ranked wins.

Nebraska is ranked No. 8 in the nation across multiple ranking websites. The 6-1 Huskers have notched five ranked wins during the 2021 campaign, with their only loss coming at the hands of the Hawkeyes in Iowa City.

Streaming and Live Stats

Sunday afternoon's dual against the Huskers will be broadcasted by ESPNU and will begin at 1 p.m. CT. Live stats and updates will be available on Trackwrestling, or follow along on Twitter [@IlliniWrestling](#).

Series history against Nebraska

Sunday will be the 9th overall meeting between Illinois and Nebraska, with the Huskers holding an 8-4-0 series advantage over the Fighting Illini. Nebraska currently rides a one-win streak over Illinois, with their last victory coming in Lincoln in 2019, 30-9.

Illini in the Rankings

Eight Illini wrestlers are nationally ranked in the top 25 across multiple ranking websites. Their highest respective rankings are as follows: [Justin Cardani](#) (No. 17), [Lucas Byrd](#) (No. 11), [Dylan Duncan](#) (No. 12), [Mike Carr](#) (No. 6), [Danny Braunagel](#) (No. 6), [Zac Braunagel](#) (No. 11), [Matt Wroblewski](#) (No. 23), [Luke Luffman](#) (No. 9). The team is ranked No. 11 in both the NWCA Coaches Poll and the FloWrestling team dual ranking.

freewrestling team dual ranking.

Staying Unbeaten

Illini redshirt sophomore [Danny Braunagel](#) has yet to lose a match this season, starting off 5-0 at 165-pounds. Braunagel got off to a strong start before missing two meets due to a hand injury. The Illinois native made his return to the lineup last weekend in Sunday's win over the Wildcats, picking up a 24-11 major decision victory over Northwestern's David Ferrante.

Illini to Watch

Illini sophomore [Lucas Byrd](#) continues his impressive 2021 campaign after picking up another match win over Northwestern in the Illini's last dual meet. Byrd is now 6-1 on the season with a team-high 26 dual points scored, 9 more than the next highest ([Dylan Duncan](#), 17). Byrd will wrestle at 133 on Sunday, going up against Nebraska's Alex Thomsen or Tucker Sjomeling.

Senior [Mike Carr](#) will be another grappler to watch on Sunday. After missing the 2019-20 season due to injury, Carr has been impressive through seven duals this season, racking up a 5-2 record and picking up several big wins along the way. Carr has scored 16 team dual points wrestling at 149-pounds for Illinois so far this season. The senior will match up against Nebraska's Brock Hardy or Ridge Lovett in Sunday afternoon's dual meet.

[Matt Wroblewski](#) is having an excellent season, racking up 5 wins at 197-pounds and looking impressive in all of his matches up to this point. The junior is coming off two straight wins, his most recent being an 8-0 major decision victory in Evanston last weekend. Wroblewski will square off with the Huskers' Brandon Van Tassell on Sunday afternoon in the 197-pound bout.

UP NEXT FOR THE ILLINI

No. 11 Illinois will have a near two-week break to prepare for the Big Ten Championships, which will be held in State College, Pennsylvania on March 6-7. The Illini will then have the following weekend off before heading to St. Louis for the 2021 D1 NCAA Championships, which take place on March 18-20.