

# Brackets, Seeding Released For 2017 NCAA Championships

## *141-pounder Anthony Ashnault receives No. 5 seed at 141 pounds*

**PISCATAWAY, N.J. (March 8, 2017)** – Brackets and seeding for the 2017 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships were released Wednesday, as three Scarlet Knights came away with seeded positions. 141-pounder **Anthony Ashnault**, the two-time Big Ten Champion, secured the highest seed for Rutgers at No. 5 in his class.

[NCAA Release](#) | [2017 NCAA Championships Brackets](#)

Also seeded were No. 14 **John Van Brill** at 157 pounds and No. 15 **Ken Theobald** at 149 pounds. Seeds are awarded to the top-16 wrestlers in each weight class. Three RU wrestlers – Van Brill, 174-pounder **Jordan Pagano** and 197-pounder **Matthew Correnti** – will make their NCAA Championships debut.

Among the first round matchups for the seven Scarlet Knight qualifiers are three rematches, highlighted by Pagano's bout. The unseeded grappler opens his first NCAA Championships against No. 6 Ryan Preisch (Lehigh), who Pagano upset, 10-4, during RU's NWCA Dual Championship Series match on Feb. 17 with the Mountain Hawks.

Van Brill also begins his first NCAA Championships with a rematch against unseeded Colt Shorts (Cal Poly). The Mullica, New Jersey, native defeated Shorts, 7-2, during Rutgers' opening weekend of the dual season.

Lastly, unseeded 184-pounder **Nicholas Gravina** gets another shot at No. 3 Sammy Brooks (Iowa). Gravina fell to Brooks, 8-4, when both squared against one another at the Midlands Championships back in December. Gravina is 0-2 lifetime against Brooks, also suffering a loss to the Hawkeye last season.

All other Scarlet Knights open the tournament against unfamiliar opponents.

Making his second NCAA Championships appearance, 133-pounder **Scott DelVecchio** will compete unseeded and face No. 3 Kaid Brock (Oklahoma State) in the first round. DelVecchio wrestled to a seventh-place finish at last weekend's Big Ten Championships, where he compiled a 3-2 record.

Ashnault and Theobald both make their third-career appearances at nationals, with Ashnault qualifying for his third straight. Ashnault competes against unseeded Mason Smith (Central Michigan). Theobald gets Sam Krivus (Virginia) to

begin his tournament.

Correnti is unseeded for his opening-round bout against No. 2 Brett Pfarr (Minnesota). The rookie also had an impressive Big Ten Championships appearance last weekend, where he compiled three wins en route to a sixth-place result.

The NCAA Championships will run from March 16-18 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, with the first session scheduled to begin at noon on March 16. The full championships schedule is available [here](#).

Tickets for the 2017 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships at the Scottrade Center are still available on the NCAA Ticket Exchange.

Rutgers had six placewinners and tallied 67.5 team points to tie Wisconsin for eighth place last weekend at the 2017 Big Ten Championships. Ashnault became the program's second wrestler in its history to secure multiple conference championships after he defeated Michigan State's Javier Gasca by major decision for his second consecutive Big Ten title.

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