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Subject: NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships: Full Television Coverage and 'Every Mat, Every Match' Digital Coverage Returns; All Prime-time Sessions Air on ESPN
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March 14, 2019



NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships: Full Television Coverage and 'Every Mat, Every Match' Digital Coverage Returns; All Prime-time Sessions Air on ESPN

- **Championship Saturday Night: ESPN Airs All Championship Matches; ESPN3 Offers Complementary Coverage in Addition to Pregame and Postgame Shows**
- **Icons Tim Johnson, Anthony Robles, Jim Gibbons, and Lee Kemp Return; Mike Couzens, Shawn Kenney and Quint Kessenich Anchor the Telecast; Billy Baldwin Back as Guest Analyst**

ESPN's unprecedented coverage of the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships returns this month, with the annual event's three prime-time sessions airing on ESPN, its early sessions on ESPNU and every one of the 640 matches available on ESPN3 via the ESPN App. The nearly 20 hours of competition from PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh begins Thursday, March 21, continues Friday, March 22, and concludes with the sport's final day on Saturday, March 23. This year, ESPN3 will add a postgame show to its previously existing pregame show and complementary Championship night coverage, serving fans with even more content on the sport's pinnacle night.

Penn State's Dynasty Headlines NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships Storylines

Penn State seeks its fourth consecutive national championship and its eighth since 2011, as the squad competes in its home state this year. During their championship run, the Nittany Lions have helped elevate the Big Ten, the conference which has won every national championship since 2006. Additional Championships storylines:

- **Three-Peat:** In addition to their team accomplishments, a trio of Nittany Lions are vying for their third individual national championships: Jason Nolf (157 pounds), Vincenzo Joseph (165 pounds), and Bo Nickal (197 pounds).
- **Head of the Class:** Five wrestlers are going for their second national championship: Iowa's Spencer Lee (125 pounds), Cornell's Yianni Diakomihalis (141 pounds) Penn State's Mark Hall (174 pounds), Arizona State's Zahid Valencia (174 pound), and Ohio State's Myles Martin (184 pounds).

pounds)

- **Return to the Steel City:** The NCAA Championships return to Pittsburgh for the first time in more than 60 years, as the city last held the event in 1957.

Championship Saturday Night to Offer Prime-time Coverage on ESPN; Pregame, Postgame and Complementary Live Coverage on ESPN3

ESPN's Championship Saturday night coverage will conclude the three-day event, with the network airing each national championship match beginning at 7 p.m. ET. Simultaneously, ESPN3 will offer *Off the Mat*, a special program providing a combination of live matches, highlights and interviews with newly crowned champions. *Off the Mat* programming will also surround Championship Saturday night, as ESPN3 debuts the program as a postgame show (approximately 10 p.m.), and the it returns as a pregame show (6:30 p.m.).

Earlier in the day, ESPN and ESPN3 will begin the final day of competition with coverage of the Medal Round at 11 a.m.

ESPN Airls Second Round and Semifinals in Prime Time; ESPNU Presents First Round and Quarterfinals

ESPN prime-time coverage begins with the Second Round on March 21, at 7 p.m., and continues with the Semifinals on March 22, at 8 p.m. On the same two days, ESPNU will air the First Round at noon and the Quarterfinals at 11 a.m.. As with all sessions, ESPN3 will offer individual feeds of each mat, including all eight mats for the first three sessions and all six mats for the semifinals.

Coverage Highlights Include:

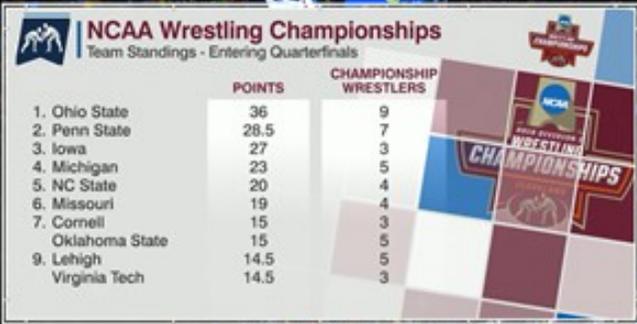
- **One Screen, Multiple Mats:** TV coverage will often show multiple mats at one time, with a scroll of both individual results and team standings continuously updating in real time:



- **Eye-Popping Graphics:** High-energy graphics for multiple wrestlers:



- **Stay Up-to-Date:** Standing updates will be provided throughout the telecasts and ESPN3 will have a standings streaming option for the most up-to-date scoring. Also, scoreboard updates will show which wrestlers are competing on which mats:



NCAA Wrestling Championships
Team Standings - Entering Quarterfinals

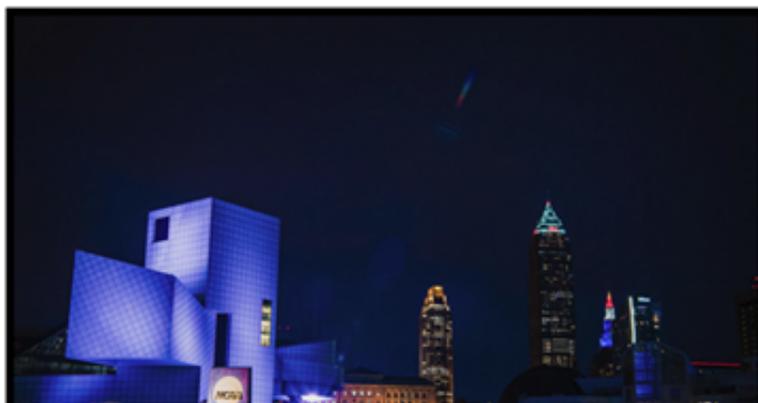
	POINTS	CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLERS
1. Ohio State	36	9
2. Penn State	28.5	7
3. Iowa	27	3
4. Michigan	23	5
5. NC State	20	4
6. Missouri	19	4
7. Cornell	15	3
Oklahoma State	15	5
9. Lehigh	14.5	5
Virginia Tech	14.5	3



NCAA Wrestling Championships
Thursday Morning Session

Mat	Wrestler (Team)	Points
Mat 1 - 150 lbs - Champ, Round 1	5 Rohskopf (NCST)	2
	Reese (OHIO)	0
Mat 2 - 150 lbs - Champ, Round 1	13 Wilson (STAN)	2
	Rhoads (IOWA)	0
Mat 3 - 150 lbs - Champ, Round 1	9 Weatherman (ISU)	5
	Juarez (EMU)	4

- **Spotlighting Pittsburgh:** ESPN will spotlight the Championships' return to Pittsburgh through both video teases and still photography throughout the telecasts, capturing the most iconic elements of the city.





Picture from 2018 Championships in Cleveland

- **Reporters at Every Mat:** ESPN3 will have a reporter stationed at each mat providing commentary for each specific feed to enhance the streaming experience:
- **Join the Conversation:** Fans can follow the action on Twitter through [@NCAAWrestling](https://twitter.com/NCAAWrestling) and join the conversation by tagging their tweets [#NCAAWrestling](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NCAAWrestling)

ESPN Analysts among Most Recognized Names in the Sport

- **Tim Johnson:** The “*voice of college wrestling*” returns once again to ESPN’s coverage, having been a part of it for more than a decade. Johnson was named the 2007 broadcaster of the year by the National Wrestling Media Association. His broadcasting and leadership roles in the sport of wrestling span more than 30 years, including being the director of wrestling for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame as the recipient of the prestigious Order of Merit award honoring a lifetime of contributions to the sport of wrestling.
- **Anthony Robles:** Now in his eighth year as an ESPN analyst, the Arizona State graduate is a three-time All-American and a 2011 NCAA National Champion. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012 and was a Medal of Courage honoree in 2012.
- **Jim Gibbons:** A former NCAA Wrestling Coach of the Year, he won an NCAA National Championship as the Cyclones head coach following a collegiate wrestling career where he was a three-time All-American and two-time Big Eight winner at Iowa State. He was inducted in the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2003.
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- **Lee Kemp:** Won three NCAA National Championships as a wrestler at Wisconsin and three gold medals in the World Championships. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1990.
- **Billy Baldwin:** The actor, a former standout wrestler at Binghamton University, will be a guest analyst throughout the three days for the third straight year. He was a leader in keeping the sport in the Olympic Games having joined USA Wrestling’s Committee to Preserve Olympic Wrestling.

For the third consecutive year, Mike Couzens will call the action at the wrestling championships, handling all the prime-time sessions, as well as Thursday’s opening round. Shawn Kenney returns to the coverage and will handle the play-by-play for the Quarterfinals and Medal Round. [Quint Kessenich](#) will be the reporter on all telecasts.

For more information on the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships: <http://www.ncaa.com/wrestling>

Date	Time (ET)	Session	Networks	Number of ESPN3 Mat Feeds
Thur, Mar 21	12 - 3:30 p.m.	First Round	ESPNU/ESPN3	Eight Mats
	7 – 10:30 p.m.	Second Round	ESPN/ESPN3	Eight Mats

Fri, Mar 22	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Quarterfinals	ESPNU/ESPN3	Eight Mats
	8 p.m. - 11 p.m.	Semifinals	ESPN/ESPN3	Six Mats
Sat, Mar 23	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Medal Round	ESPNU/ESPN3	Three Mats
	6:30 - 7 p.m.	<i>Off the Mat</i> Pregame Show	ESPN3	N/A
	7 - 10 p.m.	Championship	ESPN/ESPN3	One Mat
	Approximately 10 p.m.	<i>Off the Mat</i> Postgame Show	ESPN3	N/A

Please Note: ESPN app will have links for individual mat feeds throughout the Championship

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