

Watters of OCU takes World Team berth

ROCHESTER, Minn. – Oklahoma City University’s Rachel Watters made the USA Wrestling Under-23 World Team after winning her final series in the World Trials at the Mayo Civic Center on Saturday. Watters was one of three women’s freestyle wrestlers to win their final series in two straight matches. Oklahoma City’s Yvonne Galindo, Mariah Lomas, and Monica Mendoza all had fourth-place finishes in the trials.

Watters, a sophomore from Ankeny, Iowa, earned the 165-pound crown (75-kilogram) title by sweeping Mariah Harris of Campbellsville (Ky.) 8-0 and 3-1. A two-time Junior World Team member, Watters will compete in the U23 World Championships set for Bydgoszcz, Poland on Nov. 21-26. OCU assistant coach Briana Delgado will join Team USA's coaching staff for the World Championships.

“She’s wrestling really well right now,” OCU coach Matt Stevens said. “We’re really excited about how the season could turn out. She is ready to roll.”

In her previous two outings, she posted top-10 finishes, taking fifth in 2015 in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, and ninth in 2016. Watters owns a 2016 Bill Farrell International silver medal. She also competed at the Senior World Team Trials in April, where she was just one win shy of making the Senior National Team at 152 lbs. (69 kg) in April.

In 2016-17, Watters took seventh place to become a 170-pound all-American in the Women's College Wrestling Association Championships on Feb. 10-11 at Abe Lemons Arena. She finished the season 25-10.

Galindo, a senior from El Paso, Texas, lost by technical fall in the 69-kilogram semifinals, but recovered with a win by fall in the consolation semifinal 28 seconds in. Lomas, a freshman from Amarillo, Texas, lost in championship round one and won her next two matches by fall in the consolation round at 59 kg. Mendoza, a freshman from Des Plaines, Ill., lost in the semifinal, but won her next match by fall in 2:11 in the 55-kilogram class.

OCU opens the college season Saturday at the Emmanuel Open in Franklin Springs, Ga., and in the Midland Lady Warrior Open in Fremont, Neb.