



RUTGERS ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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Richie Lewis Claims 70kg U23 World Team Trials Title Redshirt senior earns spot on U23 team

ROCHESTER, Minn. (Oct. 8, 2017) – Redshirt senior **Richie Lewis** captured the 70kg title at the U23 World Team Trials Sunday night in Rochester, Minnesota. Lewis defeated 2017 All-American Tyler Berger (Nebraska), 2-0, in the best-of-three series to claim the championship and roster spot on the U23 World roster.

Lewis cruised in the second bout with Berger, collecting six points in the opening period. The Toms River, New Jersey, native added another point in period two for the 7-1 final decision, claiming his spot on the U23 World team that competes Nov. 21-26 in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Lewis was also victorious in his first match with Berger, prevailing 6-2 in the opening round.

The 70kg title capped an impressive tournament run for Lewis, who defeated Anthony Collica (Oklahoma State) in the semifinals, 10-3. Collica was a former four-time NCAA qualifier and an All-American in 2016 for the Cowboys. Lewis also defeated Lavion Mayes (Missouri) by major decision, 10-1, to advance out of the quarterfinals. Mayes finished as the 2017 NCAA runner-up at 149 pounds and is a three-time All-American for the Tigers. Lewis opened his tournament with a 11-0 TF over Grant Zamin.

Redshirt freshman **Alex Mackall** also competed Sunday at 57kg, as he finished his tournament with a 2-2 record. After a first-round loss to eventual champion Daton Fix (Oklahoma State), Mackall bounced back with a 14-2 TF over Gage Curry (American) in the wrestlebacks. Mackall followed that win with a 9-5 decision over Dack Punke before bowing out of the tournament.

With six individuals ranked in the FloWrestling Top 20 in their respective weight classes, Rutgers opens its 2017-18 dual season Nov. 4 against Maryland at Yankee Stadium, part of the "Battle in the Bronx" doubleheader with the football team. RU returns eight NCAA qualifiers from a year ago after it finished 12-5 and ranked tied for 12th nationally in the final USA Today/NWCA Coaches poll.

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