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No. 19 Lehigh Heads To Central N.Y. For Duals With Binghamton, No. 12 Cornell

BETHLEHEM, Pa. - It's back to dual competition for No. 19 Lehigh as the Mountain Hawks head to central New York for a pair of duals. The Mountain Hawks will face Binghamton Saturday in EIWA action before making the trip to Cornell to face the 12th-ranked Big Red in the 102nd meeting of Lehigh's third most-contested dual series. Prior to the holiday break, Lehigh hosted the Sheridan Tournament at Stabler Arena with Mountain Hawk wrestlers winning titles in six weight classes with two other weights seeing Lehigh versus Lehigh finals bouts not contested. At the end of December Lehigh had five wrestlers compete at the Midlands Championships, just outside Chicago, with first-year Logan Rozynski leading the way with a fourth-place finish at 157. Lehigh is facing Binghamton and Cornell in dual action on the same weekend for the fourth consecutive season.

Lehigh Probable Starters (Rankings FloWrestling/InterMat 1/7/25)

125 No. 18/15 Sheldon Seymour (Jr., Troy, Pa.)

Logan Wadle (Fy., Pittstown, N.J.)

133 No. 1 /1 Ryan Crookham (So., Hellertown, Pa.)

141 Carter Bailey (Jr., Livermore, Calif.)

149 Malyke Hines (Sr., Kissimmee, Fla.)

157 Griffin Gonzalez (Fy., Lebanon, Pa.)

No. 28/29 Logan Rozynski (Fy., Sparta, N.J.)

165 Zeke Dubler (Fy., Irvona, Pa.)

Thayne Lawrence (Sr., Perryopolis, Pa.)

174 No. 31/NR Rylan Rogers (So., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)

184 Caden Rogers (So., Lancaster, Pa.)

197 No. 6/6 Michael Beard (Sr., Reading, Pa.)

285 No. 9/9 Owen Trephan (Gr., Summerville, S.C.)

Coming out of the final exam break, the Lehigh wrestling team enjoyed a strong showing Dec. 20 at the Sheridan Tournament at Stabler Arena. Twenty-one active Mountain Hawks took to the mats with Lehigh wrestlers claiming titles in five weight classes, plus two other Lehigh versus Lehigh finals bouts were not contested. In all, 13 of the 21 Mountain Hawks in action earned top four places. Lehigh's five individual champions Friday were sophomore Ryan Crookham (133), senior Malyke Hines (149), senior Max Brignola (165) competing unattached, sophomore Rylan Rogers (174) and junior JT Davis (197). Junior Sheldon Seymour and true first-year Mason Ziegler reached the finals at 125 but a bout was not contested. Similarly, there was a no contest at 157 between deferred first-year Griffin Gonzalez and true first-year Logan Rozynski. The newest Mountain Hawk, graduate student heavyweight Owen Trephan, competed unattached at 285 and went 3-0 to claim that title.

Lehigh sent a five-wrestler contingent to the Midlands Championships, Dec. 29-30 in Hoffman Estates, Ill. First-year Logan Rozynski led the way for the Mountain Hawks, going 4-2 on the way to a fourth place finish at 157. Rozynski split two bouts with Penn's Jude Swisher and reached the

semifinals in the championship bracket. Four of Lehigh's five entrants won at least one bout, with senior Malyke Hines going 2-2 at 149, First-year Griffin Gonzalez picking up a win by fall at 157 and first-year Dom Federici winning his first bout at 165.

Owen Trephan recently joined the Mountain Hawks as a graduate transfer for the spring semester to compete at heavyweight in place of injured EIWA Champion Nathan Taylor. Trephan comes to Lehigh from NC State where he posted a 64-17 record over the last four seasons. He won back-to-back ACC titles at 285 in 2023 and 2024 and is a two-time NCAA qualifier, going 3-4 over the last two seasons at the national tournament.

Eighteen Lehigh wrestlers attained a GPA of 3.0 or better in the fall semester, led by junior Jack Wilt, who posted a 4.0 in political science. Twenty Mountain Hawks own cumulative GPAs greater than 3.0 led by sophomore Dontae Hoose, who holds a 3.69 in mechanical engineering. Wilt holds a 3.60 cumulative GPA with sophomore Ryan Crookham right behind with a 3.59 in financial engineering. Crookham, Wilt, Kelvin Griffin and Luke Stanich all received EIWA Academic Achievement Awards last season, with Crookham, Griffin and Stanich also named to the NWCA All-Academic Team. Among probable starters this weekend, Crookham, Caden Rogers, Sheldon Seymour, Michael Beard and Carter Bailey were all over a 3.0 in the fall.

Five Lehigh wrestlers appear in the latest rankings from InterMat and WrestleStat, while six are ranked by FloWrestling. Four Mountain Hawks are ranked by Amateur Wrestling News and The Open Mat. Sophomore Ryan Crookham remains the consensus No. 1 at 133. Senior Michael Beard (197), junior Sheldon Seymour (125) and graduate student newcomer Owen Trephan (285) are ranked across the board. Trephan is ranked in the top 10 by four of the five outlets.

A 2-1 showing last weekend at the Journeymen Wrestling Armbar lifted Binghamton to a 3-5 dual mark. The Bearcats will host Hofstra on Thursday before Lehigh visits Saturday evening. Last time out, Binghamton picked up wins over Maryland and Columbia, while dropping its dual against Lock Haven. The Bearcats also own an EIWA dual win over LIU on Dec. 15. Binghamton's lineup features three ranked wrestlers at the final four weights. Brevin Cassella is ranked 14th at 174, two-time EIWA Wrestler of the Week Will Ebert is 23rd at 184 and heavyweight Cory Day is ranked 18th. Kyle Borshoff is in his eighth season as Binghamton's head coach.

Lehigh has won all eight previous meetings with Binghamton, most recently a 29-12 triumph at Leeman-Turner Arena at Grace Hall last January. The first two duals in the series came at the Journeymen Collegiate Duals in Troy, N.Y. Pat Santoro owns seven of Lehigh's eight wins versus Binghamton. These teams are meeting for the sixth consecutive season.

No. 12 Cornell hosts Lehigh Sunday coming off a 26-12 win at No. 19 Missouri on Jan. 3. The Big Red won seven bouts to improve to 2-1 on the dual season. Cornell shut out Buffalo in November and closed out 2024 with a 20-18 loss to NC State. The Big Red feature nationally-ranked wrestlers at the first nine weight classes, led by sophomore Meyer Shapiro (No. 2 at 157) and senior Julian Ramirez (No. 5 at 165). Senior Chris Foca (No. 8 at 184) is the third Cornell wrestler in the top 10. At the two lightest weight classes, nationally-ranked Greg Diakomihalis and Brett Ungar have missed Cornell's last two duals. Mike Grey is in his fourth season as head coach at his alma mater.

Cornell serves as Lehigh's oldest dual opponent as the Brown and White wrestled its first ever dual against the Big Red in 1910. In terms of number of duals, Cornell ranks third behind Penn State and Navy for Lehigh, with Sunday's dual set to be No. 102 in the series. Lehigh leads 64-34-3. Lehigh has won four of the last five duals in the series.

Saturday's Binghamton match begins at 5:30 p.m. from Events Center in Vestal, N.Y. The Sunday match with Cornell will begin at noon from Newman Arena in Ithaca, N.Y. Both duals will be broadcast on ESPN+. There will be no Lehigh radio coverage for either match.

Lehigh will close out a three-match road swing next weekend when the Mountain Hawks visit Navy in the 105th meeting in Lehigh's second most-contested dual series. The Mountain Hawks have won

the last three duals in the series. The match is set for a 7:30 p.m. start on Friday, Jan. 17 from Alumni Hall in Annapolis, Md.

The 2024-25 Lehigh wrestling season is presented by the Historic Hotel Bethlehem.

Date: January 11, 2025
Opponent: Binghamton Bearcats

First match: 5:35 p.m.

Arena: Events Center

Location: Vestal, N.Y.

Lehigh's record: 1-2 overall, 1-0 EIWA
Binghamton's record: 3-5 overall, 1-0 EIWA
Series: Lehigh leads 8-0

Television/Video: ESPN+ Radio/Audio: None

Date: January 12, 2025

Opponent: No. 12 Cornell Big Red

First match: 12:05 p.m.

Arena: Newman Arena
Location: Ithaca, N.Y.

Lehigh's record: 1-2 overall, 1-0 EIWA

Cornell's record: 2-1 overall, 0-0 lvy League **Series:** Lehigh leads 64-34-3

Television/Video: ESPN+

Radio/Audio: None

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