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**Subject:** WR: No. 5 Buckeyes Conclude Big Ten Season vs. No. 8 Nebraska  
**Date:** February 8, 2023 at 9:30 AM  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients.;

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**Feb. 8, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **No. 5 Buckeyes Conclude Big Ten Season vs. No. 8 Nebraska**

*Ohio State celebrates seniors, alums Friday at Covelli*

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**No. 5 Ohio State vs. No. 8 Nebraska**

**Date:** Feb. 10, 2023

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Venues:** Covelli Center

**Watch:** BTN

**Live Updates:** Twitter ([@wrestlingbucks](#))

**Match Notes/Lineups:** [Ohio State](#) | [Nebraska](#)

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – No. 5 Ohio State (12-2, 6-1) concludes the Big Ten portion of the 2022-23 schedule Friday against No. 8 Nebraska (9-3, 5-1) at the Covelli Center. The Buckeyes will celebrate their seniors as well as welcome back Ohio State wrestling alumni at the final home contest of the season.

- Tickets for the 2023 Big Ten Championships March 4-5 at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, are currently on sale at [mgoblue.com](http://mgoblue.com).
- The Ohio State Wrestling program will recognize its seniors Friday prior to the match with the Cornhuskers. Malik Heinselman, Ethan Smith, Kaleb Romero and Tate Orndorff will be celebrated along with managers Jared Albert, Ryan Stewart, Lauren Sutherland and Chloe Bahna.
- Junior Issac Wilcox became the 14th Buckeye to earn "Black Shirt" status Feb. 7. Wilcox is the 10th Buckeye on the current roster to be so honored. He has stepped in when called upon in three weight classes this year (157, 165, 174) and earned wins at all three. He is 4-0 in Big Ten duals on the year with a pair of wins each at 165 and 174.
- Freshman Jesse Mendez, a 133-pounder from Crown Point, Indiana, was named Co-Big Ten Wrestler of the Week after a pair of ranked wins against league rivals Michigan and Michigan State. Mendez (12-2 overall, 6-1 vs. Big Ten foes) helped the Buckeyes sweep No. 7 Michigan 23-12 and Michigan State 36-3.
- Junior Isaac Wilcox, filling in at 174, won his match against the Terrapins 3-1 in sudden victory over Dominic Solis. Wilcox now has victories at 157, 165 and 174 this year. He won at 174 vs. Michigan State as well.
- Sammy Sasso won against a pair of ranked opponents last week, knocking off No. 13 Shayne Van Ness of Penn State and No. 4 Yahya Thomas at Northwestern. He is 33-0 in Big Ten duals heading into the match vs. Nebraska.
- Kaleb Romero defeated Chase Mielnik (UMD) for his 75th career victory. Romero won that match by technical fall, 22-7.
- Freshman Jesse Mendez entered the Top 10 in the Intermat rankings Jan. 16 and two days later he was named an Ohio State Black Shirt (1/18/23), the 14th Buckeye to be so honored. Following a vote of the other Buckeye Black Shirts and coaches, Mendez now will have the honor of wearing black at the Jennings Center. For more on the honor see the last two pages of these notes.

- Ohio State handled No. 19 Rutgers in the Big Ten Conference home opener 27-12 Jan. 15 behind a pin by Kaleb Romero (184), a technical fall win by Tate Orndorff (HWT) and a major decision victory by Sammy Sasso (149).
- The Buckeyes opened the 2023 Big Ten Conference season with a 26-13 win at Indiana. Sammy Sasso (149) and Kaleb Romero (184) both pinned their respective opponents to help secure the win. The Buckeyes improved to 52-34-2 all-time vs. the Hoosiers after winning for the 12th consecutive time in Bloomington.

**No. 5 Ohio State Buckeyes..... No. 8 Nebraska Cornhuskers**

**(InterMat Wrestling individual rankings used)**

No. 10 Malik Heinselman (Sr.) .....	125.....	No.5 Liam Cronin (GR) or Jacob Van Dee (Fr.)
No. 9 Jesse Mendez (Fr.).....	133.....	Kyle Burwick (r-Jr.)
No. 20 Dylan D'Emilio (r-Jr.).....	141.....	No. 5 Brock Hardy (r-So.)
No. 3 Sammy Sasso (r-Sr.).....	149.....	Dayne Morton (Sr.)
No. 25 Paddy Gallagher (r-Fr.) .....	157 .....	No. 1 Peyton Robb (Jr.) or Antrell Taylor (Fr.)
No. 12 Carson Kharchla (r-Jr.) .....	165 .....	Bubba Wilson (So.)
No. 6 Ethan Smith (r-Sr.).....	174.....	No. 2 Mikey Labriola (Sr.)
No. 5 Kaleb Romero (r-Sr.) .....	184.....	No. 15 Lenny Pinto (r-Fr.)
or Gavin Bell (r-So.)		
Luke Geog (Fr.).....	197.....	No. 10 Silas Allred (r-So.)
No. 18 Tate Orndorff (r-Sr.) .....	HWT.....	Cale Davidson (Sr.) or Harley Andrews (Fr.)

**UP NEXT**

The Buckeyes will travel to Tampa, Fla., Feb. 18 for the 2023 Spartan Classic to take on No. 4 Cornell (1 p.m.).

**#GoBucks**



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