

## **NJCAA Wrestling Championship: 2014 Quarter Final Update**

By Johnnie Johnson ~ eWrestlingMedia

Spokane, Washington--- Coach Joe Renfro of NEO takes one step closer to history setting performance in the quarter finals of the NJCAA National Wrestling Championship in the Spokane Convention Center with his Golden Norse of Northeast Oklahoma.

During the preliminary rounds the race for the JUCO title was tight and looked to go along the lines of the team rankings, but Northeast Oklahoma A & M would start pulling away after the quarter-finals. Second ranked NEO was leading the team race heading into the quarter finals with 42 points and also has the most quarter finalists with eight. The top rated Cougars pushed seven wrestlers into the quarters and trailed NEO by 7.5 points with a total of 34.5 team points. Fourth rated Northwest College (WY) was close behind Clackamas with 6 quarter finalists and 32 teams points, and Iowa Central and Colby were tied for fourth with 24 points each, 28 points off the lead pace. However, The Tritons behind the guidance of Coach Luke Moffitt had 5 quarter finalists to Colby's four. Also with five quarter finalist is host school, 3<sup>rd</sup> rated NIC with 20 points.

Also after the prelims, tenth ranked Rochester CTC was in 7<sup>th</sup> with 3 quarter-finalists and 19 points. There was a three-way tie for 9<sup>th</sup> with Harper, Iowa Lakes, and Neosho. Both Iowa Lakes and Neosho have two quarter finalists, while Harper was unable to put a wrestler into the quarters. Look for Lincoln College and Muskegon Colleges to make a move into the top ten after being tied for thirteenth after the prelims. Both Lincoln and Muckegon had 15 team points and four wrestlers in the quarter finals.

Look for the top six teams to make a good surge after the quarter finals, which will be key for the top two teams in NOE and Clackamas as they would go head-to-head in three-of-ten quarter final matches. The tournament is far from over, but the three head-to-head match ups could go a long way in determining who will come away with the NJCAA crown. The Cougars and Golden Norse matched up at 141, 149, and 184. NEO and Clackamas already had a head-to-head match at 125-pounds during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the prelim's where Josh Walker (1) of NEO dec. (4) Stevan Knoblauch of Clackamas 4-3, while the rest of the 125# matches were either falls (5) or major decisions (2). NEO also went head-to-head with NW Wyoming and North Idaho in two other quarter finals this evening. No doubt, if NEO can answer the call in the quarters, the title could be in the grasp of the re-instated Golden Norse, and coach Joe Renfro could be looking at a three-peat with two different teams!!!

The Golden Norse and Cougars quarter final clashes began at 141# where #5 Michal Williams is coming off two tough wins against NIC and Naussa, and he met CCC's Robbie Rizzolino ranked 8<sup>th</sup>. Williams (NEO) would win by decision over Rizzolino by a score of 5-3.

At 149, second ranked Kenny Martin of Clackamas with two falls on the day matced up with #12 Zack Dobbins of NEO who had a 3-1 win in the second round. Lightning would strike as Dobbins pinned Martin with six second left in the match at 6:54.

Two falls have quided #5 Caleb Cotter of NEO to the quarters where he met top ranked CCC's 184-pounder Adrian Sales who beat Harpers Romanelli 7-1. Sales would also create a little lightning himself for CCC as he would pin NEO's Cotter in 4:48.

On paper, the nod would have to go to CCC in 2 of the three quarter-final matches, but as many wrestlers, coaches and fans know, you don't win matches on paper, you win them on the mat!! And win is what NEO did, the Golden Norse would take two of the three head-to-head matches with Clackamas during the quarters.

Other notable quarter final matches with team implications included NEO's top ranked 125# Josh Walker who took on the Yellowjacket of RCTC's Dakota Trom who is ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. The #1 rated Walker would get a major decision over Trom, 16-7.

Neosho and CCC 133-quarter final match pitted #1 vs #2 where top ranked CJ Palmer for the Cougars against Neosho's Lamuel Johnson who both reached the quarters with falls. The #1 would prevail again with a major decision as beat Johnson Johnson by a 12-2 score.

North Iowa's 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked Yoanse Mejias matched up with NEO's Mark Hobson's ranked 5<sup>th</sup>. Mejias would edge Hobson, 8-7. North Iowa would go two-for-three in the quarters as Nosomy Pozo (North Iowa) won by decision over Elijah Davis (NW Kansas Tech) 6-4, and NIACC top ranked Chakhein Chapman would lose to the Cougars second ranked Ihoghama Odighizuma of Clackamas at 197-pounds by fall in 6:54.

5:25 minutes of work at 165-pound have put un-ranked Casey Powell of NEO in the quarters with Diorian Coleman of NW (WY) who needed OT to pin Guillaume of Ellsworth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Diorian Coleman would beat Powell, 3-0. The Golden Norse put another top ranked wrestler, Payne Hatter (174) into the quarters where he faced NIC's seventh ranked Derrick Booth. Hatter would put NEO back into the win column with a 3-0 decision over Booth.

Top ranked Peter Stewart from Iowa Western tangled with 7<sup>th</sup> ranked Matt Gay of SW Oregon at 141#. Gay would shock the Reaver as he won in tie breaker - 1 over Stewart, TB-1, 8-7

157# featured another top ranked wrestler, Eleazar DeLuca of Clackamas who wrestled Harper's Greg Jacquez who had two falls in 4:05 minutes of work to reach the quarters. DeLuca (would win by fall over Jacquez in 4:32. Finally, 285 saw another top two match-up as #1 ranked Dequence Goodman of Lincoln College tussled with Niagara's second ranked El Shada VanHoesen. #1 would beat #2 again as Goodman decisioned VanHoesen by a score of 4-2.

After the end of the quarter final matches NEO had scored 89.5 points and only dropped three quarter final matches putting five Golden Norse into the semi-finals. NEO won two of three head-to-head matches with the top ranked Cougars. Clackamas won four of their seven quarter-final matches with 75.5, Northwest went three-and-three and totaled 61.5 points, Colby went three-and-one (53.5), North Idaho three-and-two (51), Neosho two-and-one (46.5), Iowa Central two-and-three (42), RCTC two-and-one (39.5), and Lincoln went three-and-one in the quarters (39).

After the completion of the consolation round that followed the quarter-finals, NEO had increased their point total to 111 points to Clackamas's 88 points, for a 23 point lead. Northwest continues in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 77.5 points, Colby in 4<sup>th</sup> with 60.5, Neosho 5<sup>th</sup> with 60 points, North Idaho 6<sup>th</sup> with 54 points, 7<sup>th</sup> is Iowa Central with 51, SW Oregon in 8<sup>th</sup> with 43 points, Ellsworth in 9<sup>th</sup> with 42, 10<sup>th</sup> is Harper with 41.5, Muskegon 11<sup>th</sup> with 40 points, Rochester CTC and Iowa Western are tied for 12<sup>th</sup> with 39.5, and Lincoln in 14<sup>th</sup> with 39 points. Rounding out the top 15 is Darton with 38.5 points.

Coach Luke Moffitt of Iowa Central has won five titles in a row, but no coach has three-peated and done it with two different teams. Rex Branum was the first coach to win titles at two different colleges, Lincoln and Lassen, but not back-to-back. However, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Coach Renfro who shared the NJCAA title with NIC last year while coaching at Labette, could also win his third straight title, two with Labette and the third with his new team at NEO. The semi-finals will start at 10:30 a.m., medalrounds are at 2:00 p.m., and the finals start at 6:45 p.m. All time are Pacific time. The finals will be streamed live at <http://www.njcaatv.com/njcaatv/>

#### Quarter final match results:

##### **125 Quarterfinals**

#8 Alfredo Rodriguez (Iowa Lakes) won by fall over #3 Cody Vichi (Northwest) (Fall 2:12)

#5 Da`Wayne Robertson (Ellsworth) won by decision over #12 Eric Velez (Niagara) 2-1 (Dec 8-5)  
Josh Walker (NEO) won by major decision over Dakota Trom (Rochester CTC) (MD 16-7)  
Matthew Nguyen (SW Oregon) won by decision over Nate Smith (Iowa Central ) 26-19 (Dec 13-11)

#### 133 Quarterfinals

John Dillon (Mercyhurst) won by decision over Zachary Cooper (Muskegon) (Dec 9-5)  
Davion Caston (Darton College) won by major decision over Ben Jorgensen (Northwest) (MD 13-3)  
Cary J Palmer (Clackamas) won by major decision over Lemuel Johnson (Neosho) (MD 12-2)  
Jake Nicholson (Jamestown) won by tech fall over Jameel Carter (Triton) (TF-1.5 7:00 (15-0)

#### 141 Quarterfinals

Michael Williams (NEO) won by decision over Robbie Rizzolino (Clackamas) (Dec 5-3)  
Matt Gay (SW Oregon) won in tie breaker - 1 over Peter Stewart (Iowa Western) (TB-1 8-7)  
Zac Loveless (Northwest College) won by major decision over Zach Wright (Darton College) (MD 13-3)  
Joe Munos (Rochester CTC) won by major decision over Ronald Wells (Colby) (MD 10-0)

#### 149 Quarterfinal -

Tyler Stenberg (Muskegon) won by decision over Daniel Pak (Gloucester) (Dec 6-4)  
Nosomy Pozo (North Iowa) won by decision over Elijah Davis (NW Kansas Tech) (Dec 6-4)  
Tyler Nation (Iowa Western) won by decision over Blake Santi (Harper) (Dec 8-2)  
Zack Dobbins (NEO) won by fall over Kenny Martin (Clackamas) (Fall 6:54)

#### 157 Quarterfinals

Yoanse Mejias (North Iowa) won by decision over Mark Hobson (NEO) (Dec 8-7)  
Eleazar DeLuca (Clackamas) won by fall over Greg Jacquez (Harper College) (Fall 4:32)  
Richie Lewis (Iowa Central) 19-5 won by decision over Kyle Wade (Nassau) 16-6 (Dec 3-2)  
Konnor Kriss (Colby) 4-1 won by decision over Dixon Richins (Western Wyoming) 4-2 (Dec 6-4)

#### 165 Quarterfinals

O'shea Smith-Traylor (Neosho) 23-6 won by decision over Tyler McLean (North Idaho) (Dec 7-3)  
Calvin Ochs (Colby) won by fall over Ryan Niven (Iowa Central) 21-12 (Fall 4:00)  
Dorian Coleman (Northwest ) won by decision over Casey Powell (NEO) (Dec 3-0)  
David Frazier (Lincoln College) 3-0 won by decision over Kyle Bateman (Clackamas) (Dec 8-7)

#### 174 Quarterfinals

Garrett Miller (Rochester CTC) won by fall over Cody Carson (Pratt) 5-2 (Fall 1:53)  
Jared Johnson (Colby) won by fall over Joseph Sika (Muskegon) 2-1 (Fall 4:54)  
Payne Hatter (NEO) won by decision over Derrick Booth (North Idaho ) (Dec 3-0)  
Brandon Sorenson (Iowa Lakes) won by decision over Archie Williams (Lincoln College) (Dec 7-6)

#### 184 Quarterfinals

Austin Warren (Neosho) won in sudden victory - 1 over Brandon Riggins (Springfield Tech) 2-1 (SV-1 4-3)  
Adrian Salas (Clackamas) won by fall over Caleb Cotter (Northeastern) (Fall 4:48)  
Matt Hurford (Ellsworth) won by fall over Jonathen Dennis (North Idaho) (Fall 2:48)  
Tyler White (Labette) won by fall over Miles Nixon (Northwest) (Fall 2:59)

#### 197 Quarterfinal -

Vj Giulio (North Idaho) won by fall over Bryce Fisher (Iowa Central) (Fall 2:23)  
Stephon Rudicil (Lincoln College) won by decision over Tyler Cormier (Highline) (Dec 10-4)  
Ihoghama Odighizuwa (Clackamas) won by fall over Shakheim Chapman (North Iowa) (Fall 6:54)  
Jonathan Wixom (Northwest) won by decision over Donovan Fouchey (Muskegon) (Dec 6-5)

#### 285 Quarterfinals

Evan McGee (NEO) won by decision over John Griswold (Spartanburg Methodist) (Dec 5-3)  
 Malcolm Allen (Iowa Central) won by decision over Michael Henry (Highline) (Dec 3-1)  
 Dequence Goodman (Lincoln) won by decision over El Shadai VanHoesen (Niagara) (Dec 4-2)  
 Taylor Kornoely (North Idaho College) 32-10 won by fall over Alex Yeager (Itasca) (Fall 6:58)

**Team Scores after Quarter finals and Consolations**

1. Northeastern Oklahoma A & M	111.0
2. Clackamas Community College	88.0
3. Northwest College	77.5
4. Colby Community College	60.5
5. Neosho County Community College	60.0
6. North Idaho College	54.5
7. Iowa Central Community College	51.0
8. Southwestern Oregon Community College	43.0
9. Ellsworth Community College	42.0
10. Harper College	41.5
11. Muskegon College	40.0
12. Iowa Western	39.5
12. Rochester Community & Technical College	39.5
14. Lincoln College	39.0
15. Darton College	38.5
16. Iowa Lakes Community College	37.0
16. North Iowa Area Community College	37.0
18. Labette Community College	24.0
18. Niagara County Community College	24.0
20. Jamestown Community College	22.5
21. Northwest Kansas Tech	22.0
22. Ridgewater College	19.5
23. Mercyhurst	18.5
23. Spartanburg Methodist College	18.5
25. Gloucester Community College	15.0
26. Northland Community & Technical College	14.0
27. Highline Community College	12.5
27. Nassau Community College	12.5
29. Itasca Community College	11.5
30. Waubensee College	10.5
31. Western Wyoming College	9.0
32. Springfield Tech Community College	8.5
33. Bergen Community College	7.5
33. Triton College	7.5
35. Pratt Community College	6.5
36. Middlesex Community College	6.0
37. SUNY Sullivan	5.0
38. Minnesota West Community & Technical College	0.0
38. Wentworth Junior College	0.0