



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

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Argo Wrestlers Move Up to Fifth Heading into Last Day

Cedar Rapids, Iowa – The University of Great Falls wrestling team moved into fifth place at the conclusion of the second day of the NAIA National Championships at the U.S. Cellular Center. The team was able to make the big jump thanks in part to the excellent performances during day two. All four wrestlers still alive in the championship brackets were victorious and advanced to the finals tomorrow.

“We wrestled well today,” said head coach Caleb Schaeffer. “The guys showed what we are made of and I am proud of their effort.”

Junior Anthony Varnell will take on Eddie McCray of Midland (Neb.) in the 141 pound championship. Varnell, who is 31-9, beat former 133 pound champion Tommy Pretty of Campbellsville (Ky.) in the semifinals 9-5.

Great Falls’ two 165 pound wrestlers, Noah Hatton and Ross Mosher, both advanced to meet each other in the championship. The meeting will be the first time two Argo wrestlers will face off for a national title. Both grapplers won tight semifinal matches, with Hatton’s coming in sudden-victory.

Arguably the Argos best wrestler, Michael French will take on Montana State University-Northern’s Evan Hinebauch in the 184 pound weight class final. Long time rivals, French holds a considerable advantage over Hinebauch going into the bout. The two wrestlers have been ranked one and two throughout the entire season.

With four wrestlers in the finals, coach Schaeffer’s squad set another benchmark as it is the most that Great Falls has ever had at one national championship event.

The only other team to have more wrestlers in the finals is Notre Dame (Ohio) with five (5).

In the consolation brackets, Akmal Adilov (125 pounds) is set to clash with Paulie Hansen of Missouri Valley College for seventh place. Sophomore Myles Mazurkiewicz advanced to the consolation semifinals at 141 pounds which is set to begin on Saturday morning. With a win, Mazurkiewicz would wrestle for third place in the proceeding match.

The final day of wrestling will begin at 10:00 am (CST) with consolation finals followed by championship bouts.