

Maverick wrestlers remain second in national rankings

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The Minnesota State Mankato wrestling team again is ranked second in the latest Division II wrestling poll, released Feb. 8 by the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches' Association. The Mavericks have been ranked No. 2 throughout the season.

Two-time defending champion Nebraska-Omaha stayed the unanimous pick and received all eight first-place votes. Seven of the Maverick's 10 wrestlers are in the individual rankings, including two ranked No. 1: junior Travis Krinkie (Blue Earth, Minn.) And senior John Koons (Crosby, Minn.). Koons' ranking marks the first time this season he was ranked No. 1 in his class.

Other ranked Mavericks include sophomore Nick Smith (Yankton, S.D.), No. 8 at 125; senior Zach Stevens (Erwinna, Pa.), No. 7 at 141; senior Mathias Bitz (Bismarck, N.D.), No. 3 at 157; sophomore Andy Pickar (Brainerd, Minn.), No. 4 at 165; and senior Tim Kraemer (Cold Spring, Minn.), who makes his debut in the individual rankings at No. 8 in the 285 pound division.

The Mavericks (11-1, 1-0 NCC) will get their second-shot at No. 1 UNO (8-0, 1-0 NCC) this Friday when they travel to Omaha for a North Central Conference dual. The two teams met earlier this in the finals of the NWCA National Duals. UNO won the dual and the tournament with a 20-10 win over the Mavericks. The dual is slated for a 7 p.m. Start.

Top 20 Poll:

1. Nebraska-Omaha
2. Minnesota State
3. Central Oklahoma
4. Nebraska-Kearney
5. Pittsburgh-Johnstown
6. Augustana
7. Shippensburg
8. Ashland
9. Fort Hays State
10. Mercyhurst
11. Western State
12. Wisconsin-Parkside
13. Adams State
14. Truman State
15. MSU Moorhead
16. Central Missouri State
17. Upper Iowa
18. West Liberty State
19. Findlay
20. Gannon