MEN’S WRESTLING TRAVELS TO JOE PARISI OPEN SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 23, 2013)- The No. 3 Missouri Valley College men’s wrestling team traveled to St. Charles, Mo., for the Joe Parisi Open at Lindenwood University. The Vikings had four medalists, led by Sophomore Gabi Musallam (San Diego, Calif.) in the 285 pound weight class where he took first place.

Wrestling in the Gold Division, for juniors and seniors:

Wrestling in the 141 pound weight class was No. 14 Junior Brian Bitney (Pullayup, Wash.). After receiving a first round bye, Bitney was defeated by Drew Vrbenc of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville in a 6-1 decision. Bitney then defeated Steven Ortiz of Bethany College in his first consolation match with a second period pin, but was eliminated one round later with a first round pin by Walter Garrison of Oklahoma State University.

In the 149 pound weight class No. 2 Sophomore Jake Ekster (Houston, Texas) received a first round bye then defeated Cullen Halpin of Lindenwood University 4-2 in a decision. Ekster was defeated by Kyle Williams of McKendree University in the quarterfinals and eliminated in the consolation round due to a medical forfeit.
In the 157 pound weight class Junior Jared Sterling (Tacoma, Wash.) was eliminated in his first two matches, losing to Alex Dieringer of Oklahoma State University in a first period pin, then defeated by Bobby Williams of Ouachita Baptist University in a technical fall.

No. 2 Senior Josh Manu (North Providence, R.I.) advanced in the 197 pound weight class with a first round bye and a second round win over Ryan Beltz of Maryville University in a 5-3 decision. Manu then knocked off Darnell Bortz of Oklahoma State University in a 9-6 decision, but lost to J'Den Cox of Missouri in the semifinals in a third period pin. In the consolation semifinals Manu was pinned by Willie Miklus of Missouri in the first period, but Manu finished in fifth place by defeated Bortz again, this time by major decision.

Rounding out the Gold Division wrestlers was No. 8 Junior Daniel Mueller (Collinsville, Ill.). He received a first round bye, then defeated Ethan Driver of Oklahoma State University in a 4-2 decision. Mueller lost in the quarterfinals to Devon Mellon of Missouri in a 6-3 decision, but earned a consolation fourth round pin of Zach Anderson of Bethany College in the second period. Mueller was eliminated one round later when Ross Janney of McKendree University defeated Mueller in a 3-2 decision.

Wrestling for MVC in the Black Division, for freshman and sophomores:

At 125 pounds No. 7 Ryan Stearns (Williston, Vt.) advanced with a first round win over Tim Nordan of Liberty University in a 5-3 decision, but lost his second round match to Brandon Walz of Waubansee Community College in a first period pin. Stearns then won three-straight consolation bracket matches, including one over
Alexander Fortuna of Baker University in a 4-1 decision, but lost to Walz again in the consolation fifth round in a 9-5 decision.

Freshman Dakota Napoli (Farmington, Mo.) advanced in the 133 pound weight class after a first period bye, but lost in round two to David Leach of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in a third period pin. After a first round consolation bracket bye, Napoli was defeated by Cody Castelline of McKendree University in a medical forfeit.

Also at 133 pounds Freshman Darren Trujillo (Albuquerque, N.M.) lost his first round match to Tim O’Connor of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M by a major decision and was eliminated by Eric Franklin of Ellsworth Community College by a 9-3 decision.

Freshman Daniel Rivera (Houston, Texas) advanced through the 141 pound weight class with a first round win over Caleb Shuck of Hannibal-LaGrange University in a first period pin, then won round two over Enoch McCottrell of Lincoln University in a 3-2 decision. Rivera lost in the quarterfinal to Colton Orlando of Lindenwood University in a 4-2 decision, but won two-straight consolation bracket matches, before eventually wrestling for fifth place. In that match, Rivera was defeated by Trevor Feagans of Lindenwood University in a second period pin to take sixth place.

In the 149 pound weight class Freshman Dalton Mudgett (Chewelah, Wash.) won his first round match over Nic Smith of Maryville University in a 9-3 decision, and won his second round match over Lawrence Krabbe of Lindenwood University in a 7-3 decision. In the quarterfinals Mudgett was defeated by Blake Pepper of Missouri in a major decision, and was eliminated by Lane Lassiter of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in a 9-6 decision.
In the 165 pound weight class Sophomore James Smith (Platte City, Mo.) won his first round match over Jeremiah Reed of Hannibal-LaGrange University in a 9-7 decision, but was defeated in round two by Jacob Andrews of Ouachita Baptist University in a major decision. Smith then won two-straight consolation bracket matches, including one over Gregory Schifflbein of Baker University in a 10-3 decision. Smith was eliminated in the consolation fourth round by Derrick Gates of Labette Community College in a first period pin.

No. 14 Sophomore Brett Bader (Farmington, Mo.) advanced through the 184 pound bracket with an 8-5 decision victory over James Nelson of Minnesota-Mankato. Bader then won over Matthew Reynolds of Liberty University in a 6-5 decision and advanced to the semifinals with a 6-5 decision over Dakota Downs of Libery University. In the semifinals, Bader was defeated by Matt Hurford of Ellsworth Community College in a 14-9 decision, and lost in the consolation semifinals to Scott VanDeLoo of Minnesota-Mankato in a first period pin. In the fifth place match, Bader lost to Tyler White of Labette Community College and placed sixth.

Also in the 184 pound bracket, Freshman William Owens (Columbia, Mo.) advanced with a first round bye and a second round win over Kyle Benz of McKendree University 24-8. In the quarterfinals, Owens was defeated by White in a second period pin, but earned a consolation victory over Tyler Sexton of Lindenwood University with a 5-3 decision. Owens was eliminated on round later by VanDeLoo in a 3-2 decision.

Wrestling in the 285 pound weight class Freshman Justin Smith (Corral Springs, Fla.) lost his opening match to Evan McGee of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M University by a 4-1 decision. Smith then won three-straight consolation bracket
matches before eventually falling to Jacoby Brown of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in the consolation fifth round with a 6-2 decision.

No. 10 Sophomore Gabi Musallam (San Diego, Calif.) advanced to the championship match of the 285 pound weight class with a first round bye then a second round win by first period pin of Dan Lovik of Minnesota-Mankato. In the quarterfinals Musalla defeated Jacob Borgmeyer of Lindenwood University with an 8-0 decision, and knocked off Mike Wright of Hannibal-LaGrange University in the semifinals with a first period pin. In the championship match, Musallam took the individual championship with a 10-4 decision victory over McGee.

The Vikings will next be in action Dec. 14 at the St. Cloud Open in St. Cloud, Minn.

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