



**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES 2018-19 PRESEASON WRESTLING RANKINGS
Missouri selected as the favorite in preseason rankings over Old Dominion and Ohio**

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Coming off another successful wrestling season that witnessed six All-Americans and 34 wrestlers seeded in the 2018 NCAA Wrestling Championship, the rise of MAC wrestling continues in preparation for the upcoming 2018-19 regular season schedule.

The Mid-American Conference wrestling coaches announced the 2018-19 preseason weight class individual rankings in conjunction with the league office today. Based on the individual rankings, six-time defending MAC Champion Missouri Tigers (27.0 points) were selected first in the Conference over second-place Old Dominion (17.5 points) and third-place Ohio (15.5 points).

The 2018-19 preseason ranking also witnessed Kent State (12.0 points) in fourth place and Central Michigan (9.0 points) in fifth place, followed by Buffalo, SIU-Edwardsville and Northern Illinois.

The MAC had six All-Americans in 2018 and will see five of these All-Americans returning this season, including senior Kyle Conel (Kent State, 197), junior Jaydin Eierman (Missouri, 141), senior Daniel Lewis (Missouri, 174), sophomore Grant Leeth (Missouri, 149) and junior Se'Derian Perry (Eastern Michigan, 141 and now enrolled at Old Dominion).

In addition, seven MAC wrestlers who won their respective weight class at the 2018 MAC Wrestling Championships will be returning this season as well: sophomore Michael McGee (Old Dominion, 125); senior John Erneste (Missouri, 133); junior Jaydin Eierman (Missouri, 141); sophomore Grant Leeth (Missouri, 149); junior Connor Flynn (Missouri, 165); senior Daniel Lewis (Missouri, 174) and sophomore Matt Stencil (Central Michigan, 285).

In the summer of 2017, the MAC announced the addition of SIU Edwardsville to begin as an affiliate member in wrestling for the 2018-19 season. The MAC will operate the 2018-19 season with eight members.

The rankings will be released each month throughout the season, with one additional ranking system (two total) in January and February. The 2018-19 preseason rankings, voted on by the league's head coaches in an open forum are as follows:

2018-19 MAC Weight Class Rankings:

125 – 1. Michael McGee (Old Dominion, Sophomore); 2. Shakur Laney (Ohio, Junior); 3. Brock Hudkins (Northern Illinois, Junior); 4. Kyle Akins (Buffalo, Senior).

133 – 1. John Erneste (Missouri, Senior); 2. Mario Guillen (Ohio, Sophomore); 3. Tim Rooney (Kent State, Junior); 4. Derek Spann (Buffalo, Sophomore).



141 – 1. Jaydin Eierman (Missouri, Junior); 2. Sa’Derian Perry (Old Dominion, Junior); 3. Bryan Lantry (Buffalo, Senior); 4. Cam Kelly (Ohio, Senior).

149 – 1. Grant Leeth (Missouri, Sophomore); 2. Tyshawn Williams (SIU-Edwardsville, Junior); 3. Alec Hagan (Ohio, R-Freshman); 4. Kenan Carter (Old Dominion, Junior).

157 – 1. Larry Early (Old Dominion, Junior); 2. Zac Carson (Ohio, Junior); 3. Logan Parks (Central Michigan, Junior); 4. Alex Smythe (Buffalo, Senior).

165 – 1. Connor Flynn (Missouri, Junior); 2. Seldon Wright (Old Dominion, Senior); 3. Nate Higgins (SIU-Edwardsville, Senior); 4. Isaac Bast (Kent State, Senior).

174 – 1. Daniel Lewis (Missouri, Senior); 2. Dylan Barreiro (Kent State, Sophomore); 3. Shane Jones (Old Dominion, Junior); 4. Quinton Rosser (Northern Illinois, Senior).

184 – 1. Canten Marriott (Missouri, Sophomore); 2. Jordan Atienza (Central Michigan, Senior); 3. Andrew McNally (Kent State, Sophomore); t-4. Antonio Agee (Old Dominion, Junior); t-4th Hunter Yeargan (Ohio, Junior).

197 – 1. Kyle Conel (Kent State, Senior); 2. Christian Dulaney (SIU-Edwardsville, Senior); 3. Wyatt Koelling (Missouri, Sophomore); 4. Aaron Naples (Ohio, Sophomore).

HWT – 1. Matt Stencil (Central Michigan, Sophomore); 2. Jake Gunning (Buffalo, Senior); 3. Zack Parker (Ohio, Senior); 4. Austin Myers (Missouri, Junior).

The preseason team rankings were also decided in the same forum. The eight schools were ranked based on the number of first through fourth-place votes that were earned in the individual voting system. A first-place vote was worth four team points; a second-place vote earned three team points; third-seeded votes were worth two team points, while a fourth-place tally earned one point in the team ranking system. The preseason team rankings for the MAC are as follows:

2018-19 MAC Preseason Poll

1. Missouri (27.0)
2. Old Dominion (17.5)
3. Ohio (15.5)
4. Kent State (12.0)
5. Central Michigan (9.0)
- t-6. Buffalo (8.0)
- t-6. SIU-Edwardsville (8.0)
8. Northern Illinois (3.0)



The 2018 MAC Wrestling Championships will be held March 8-9 and hosted by Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Last year, Missouri won its sixth consecutive MAC Championship with 177 points, followed by second-place Central Michigan (125 points) and third-place Eastern Michigan (120.5 points). Kent State (98.0 points) finished fourth, followed by Ohio (84.5 points), Buffalo (81.0 points), Old Dominion (80.0 points) and Northern Illinois (78.0 points).

The 2018-19 season opens on Thursday, Nov. 1 as Buffalo travels to Wisconsin.

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