



# Sports

## Mavericks' freshman heavyweight wrestler displaying some early mettle on the mat

On the biggest stage of the dual-meet season, with victory over two of the top four teams in Division II within reach, Minnesota State heavyweight Brady Wilson didn't come through.

Granted, he was facing the No. 1- and No. 2-ranked wrestlers, but as the third-ranked heavyweight, Wilson thought he had a shot at the upset, which

would have propelled his team to victory and improved the Mavericks' national ranking.

It is the kind of scenario that could bury a freshman, shake his confidence down to nil, not only dealing with his loss but also the team's at a time when freshmen start to hit a wall.

But Wilson, who grew up in the wrestling hotbed of



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Minnesota State freshman wrestler Brady Wilson has compiled a 28-8 record this season.

Faribault, is not a typical freshman. He relishes those opportunities to decide the outcome of matches, even those times when he doesn't win.

"He was the underdog," Minnesota State coach Jim Makovsky said. "But he has an incredible amount of confidence. He thinks he can beat those guys. He's young, and he feels the team aspect (of the matches), but there's not one guy in our program that thinks (the losses) were his fault."

Whereas those matches were good tests of this young wrestler, how he responded is another measuring stick. Wilson has bounced back

from the loss at the National Duals to win two close matches last week.

"It felt good to get back on the mat and get two good matches," Wilson said.

Wilson has had a good freshman season, with an 28-8 record. Four of his losses have come against Division I opponents, and one came to the top-ranked heavyweight in Division III.

His victories include six against Division I wrestlers, and he's beaten the No. 4-

ranked wrestler in Division II twice.

But that's the past, and Wilson is focused on the rest of the season. He's the top-ranked heavyweight in this region, and there's a good chance he'll see those two wrestlers again at the national tournament. So he's spent time with Makovsky, reviewing film, trying to figure out what he needs to do differently next time.

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## COURRIER: Wilson not trying to put too much pressure on himself

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"Sometimes a little humbling is good, as long as you get the swagger back," Makovsky said. "He feels he needs to do some new things to beat those guys, but you really need to keep doing the things you do well first, then add new things."

Wilson is trying not to put too much pressure on himself, he wants to have fun when he's on the mat.

Makovsky said that Wilson is one of the most coachable kids on the team, yet too much thinking isn't always best.

"He's a freshman, going through this for the first

time," Makovsky said. "You almost have to be dumb and just go out and wrestle without any added pressure."

That's easy to say, but there's always going to be pressure on the heavyweight in tight matches, where personal success leads to team success.

And failure means letting

down your teammates as well as yourself.

"I have to keep working," Wilson said. "Anything can happen in those matches."

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