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## MSU wrestlers win National Duals

### Event featured 16 of the top teams from Division II

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**CEDAR FALLS, IOWA** — Brady Wilson won an overtime decision in the heavy-weight match to lift fourth-ranked Minnesota State to a 19-17 victory over Nebraska-Omaha in the championship match of the National Duals, held at Northern Iowa.

It's the first championship at the National Duals for the

Mavericks, who have placed second twice and fourth last year. The National Duals, which attracted more than 15,000 fans for over two days, is an invitation-only event featuring 16 of the top teams in Division II. There were also tournaments for Division I and III, as well as NAIA and junior college.

"When you look at our team, I think we're a better tournament team than a dual-

meet team," Makovsky said. "I think (Wednesday's 19-19 tie against Western State) was an eye-opener, and we got our act together this weekend. It was a total team effort. A couple of guys got upset, and other guys picked it up."

Minnesota State won the first three matches to take a 13-0 lead. Nick Smith won a 9-3 decision at 125 pounds, followed by John Putman's 10-2 major decision at 133.

Travis Elg, ranked seventh, won by pin in 4:04 against fifth-ranked Yasjim Bribieseca to make it 13-0.

"That was huge," Makovsky said. "Elg hurt something in his chest Wednesday night against Western State, and Saturday morning, we weren't sure he'd be able to wrestle (this weekend). The Putman match was huge, too; he wrestled the best match of his career."



Brady Wilson



Travis Elg

Nebraska-Omaha, seeded No. 2, won five of the next six matches to go ahead 17-16 to set up the final match

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## MSU: Mavericks improve record to 10-0-1, return to action Friday at Bresnan Arena

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between second-ranked Wilson and seventh-ranked Tony Lewis. The match was tied at 1 after three periods, and Wilson earned a takedown in the overtime period to propel the Mavericks to the championship.

Last year at the National Duals, the Mavericks lost twice after coming down to Wilson's matches.

"He felt pretty bad about that, so it was nice to see him come back," Makovsky said. (Sunday's match) wasn't typical of how Brady wrestles. I think he was trying to be mistake-free and didn't go after it, but he got the job done."

Earlier Sunday, the Mavericks

defeated top-seeded Nebraska-Kearney 25-15. Nick Smith had a pin to start the match, and Ben Becker record another fall in the 184-pound match. Tom Block won by major decision at 197.

On Saturday, the Mavericks defeated sixth-ranked Pittsburgh-Johnstown 24-13 and 12th-rated Chadron State 34-9.

Minnesota State (10-0-1) has its next dual at 7 p.m. Friday against University of Mary at Bresnan Arena.

**Minnesota State 19, Nebraska-Omaha 17**  
125—Nick Smith (MSU) dec. Matt Rein, 9-3; 133—John Putman (MSU) major dec. Mario Morgan, 10-2; 141—Travis Elg (MSU) pinned Yasjim Bribieseca, 4:04; 149—Todd Meneely (UNO) major dec. Tommy Abbott, 21-8; 157—Jason Rhoten (MSU) dec. Henry Wahle, 3-2; 165—Aaron Denson (UNO) dec. Andy Pickar, 6-5; 174—Ross Taplin (UNO) dec. Tim Mattheson, 5-2; 184—Brent Pankoke (UNO) dec. Ben Becker, 7-0; 197—Jacob Marrs (UNO) major dec. Tom Block, 12-1; 285—Brady Wilson (MSU) dec. Tony Lewis, 3-1.