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NBA, PAGE D2

Jefferson, Love not  
enough in Wolves loss

# Sports

## No. 3 Minnesota State ready for No. 1 UNO

On paper, the third-ranked Minnesota State University wrestling team doesn't have much of a chance of beating top-ranked Nebraska-Omaha Friday at Bresnan Arena. But there's paper, and then there's wrestling.

The 7 p.m. Battle of the Mavericks is the highlight meet of MSU's home schedule. UNO comes in with perhaps its strongest lineup in recent years, featuring nine ranked wrestlers, including one No. 1 and four No. 2's.



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Two of the wrestlers — Cody Garcia (133 pounds) and Todd Meneely (157) — are two-time defending national champions. As a team, UNO has won national championships in three of the last five seasons.

"There's no question about it, they're a very good team," MSU coach Jim Makovsky says. "But, at the same time, we're not shaking in our boots.

We're excited, we're not scared. We're ready for the challenge."

UNO's No. 1-ranked

wrestler is Meneely (17-0 at 157). Nebraska-Omaha's second-ranked wrestlers are Garcia (22-8 at 133), Mario Morgan (22-11 at 141), Aaron Denson (20-7 at 165), Ross Taplin (30-7 at 174) and Brent Pankoke (5-1 at 184).

If MSU is to pull out a win, it will have to have upsets at a couple of those weights.

The best chances could come at 141 and 157 where Minnesota State will likely send fourth-rated John Putman (12-5) and seventh-ranked Travis Elg (12-3) to the mat.

In addition to those two

bouts, the matches that figure to be the most competitive will be 149, 197 and heavyweight.

At 149, MSU's second-ranked Tommy Abbott (19-5) is slated to meet third-ranked Esai Dominguez (27-7); at 197, MSU's sixth-rated Pat Mahan (16-6) figures to match up against fifth-ranked Jacob Marrs (21-7); and at heavyweight, MSU's second-ranked Brady Wilson (21-3) will likely tangle with third-rated Tony Lewis (16-7).

MSU's only other ranked wrestler is Andy Forstner (20-10) who comes in eighth at 125 pounds.

UNO and MSU met once earlier this season at the NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals. Nebraska-Omaha won that meet handily, taking a 29-9 decision.

MSU's only winners were Forstner by 8-5 decision at 125, Abbott over Dominguez 7-0 at 149 and Wilson over Lewis 4-1 at heavyweight.

Regardless of which Maverick team emerges victorious Friday, the dual will feature many of the top small college wrestlers in the country.

If you're a wrestling fan at any level, it's a meet you probably want to attend.

### Mat notes

Coach Makovsky is encouraging all fans to wear black shirts to the meet. He's calling it a "Blackout" and says free black MSU T-shirts will be given away to select fans. ... Former three-time state champion Cody Adams of Mankato East has left the MSU wrestling team. Makovsky says the redshirt freshman is academically ineligible and is no longer with the program.

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