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Sports

Schaefer, East/Loyola
opens season Thursday



Minnesota State's Andy Pikar (left) took fifth place at the predominantly Division I-level competition Northern Iowa Open Sunday in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Brady Wilson finished sixth.

Pikar, Wilson lead Mavericks at UNI Open

Free Press staff

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA — Andy Pikar and Brady Wilson were the only place-winners for Minnesota State University wrestling team Sunday as the Mavericks competed at the University of Northern Iowa Open against mostly NCAA Division I competition.

Pikar placed fifth at 165 pounds. He downed Kody Koster of Buena Vista 6-3 in the first round, decisioned Nate Matousek of the University of Minnesota 5-0 in Round 2 and advanced by forfeit over Cole Paper of Iowa in the third round.

In the semifinals, Pikar was pinned by No. 1 seed Eric Luedtke of Iowa in 5:23. The loss dropped him to the losers bracket where he fell to Ross Taplin of Nebraska-Omaha 7-3.

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MSU: Wilson won six straight at wrestlebacks

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In the fifth-place match, Pikar decisioned Mark Lukaszewski of Illinois 6-4.

Wilson finished sixth for MSU at 285 pounds and he did it the hard way. Wilson dropped his opening match 7-2 to Jon May of Nebraska and then won five straight matches in wrestlebacks.

His trek through the bottom bracket included a 7-0 shutout of Travis Fulton (unattached), a win by default over Kyle Bailey (SW Minn. State), a 5-2 victory against Michael Bucklin (Iowa), a 3-1 decision over Dave Zabriskie (Iowa State) and a win by default over Ryan Fuller (Iowa).

In the wrestleback semifinals, Wilson fell to Tyler Rondes (UNI) 4-2. That put him in the fifth-place match where he dropped a 3-1 decision to Ben Zulauf (Illinois).

MSU returns to action Saturday at the St. Cloud State Invitational.