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# Sports

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East/Loyola ready to  
break into state tourn



## Smith, Bitz lead MSU at Kaufman/Brand Open

**OMAHA, NEB.** — Nick Smith and Mathias Bitz turned in sixth-place performances Saturday as the Minnesota State University wrestling team competed at the Kaufman/Brand Open.

The meet featured more than 700 wrestlers from 41 teams from around the nation, including Division I schools Iowa, Iowa State and the University of Minnesota.

Smith, a sophomore and Bitz, a senior, collected four wins apiece. Smith finished with a 4-3 record, making it to the fifth-

place match before falling to the Gophers' Travis Lang by a 12-4 major decision.

Bitz won his first two matches by decision and made it to the fifth-place match where he lost to UNO's Patrick Allbone 1-0.

MSU senior John Koons picked up wins in his first two matches, but fell to the Gophers' Roger Kish 11-1 to drop to the loser's bracket.

The Mavericks are back on the mat Dec. 1 for their home opener against Northern State. The dual begins at 7 p.m. at Bresnan Arena.



MSU sophomore Nick Smith (left) and Maverick senior Mathias Bitz each earned sixth-place finishes Sunday at the Kaufman/Brand Open in Omaha, Neb.