Sikora Wins First Match At Nationals

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EWING, NJ - UW-Eau Claire's Derek Sikora won his first match in the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships today. The two-day nationals are being hosted here by the College of New Jersey.

Sikora, the reigning Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion, is the No. 1 seed at 165 pounds. He beat Steve Martell of Johnson and Wales University (RI), 8-0, in the first round today.

The win was Sikora's 15th straight this season and improved his overall record to 28-2.

There are four wrestlers that Sikora has faced among the 14 competitors at his weight class. Two of them, second-seeded Ryan Valek of Augsburg and sixth-seeded Scott Dorn of UW-La Crosse, both advanced to the quarterfinal round in the opposite bracket from Sikora. Dorn beat Dubuque's Cole Williams, who is the only Division III wrestler to beat Sikora this year. Williams posted a 3-2 overtime decision over Sikora in his third match of the season.

Sikora is scheduled to meet eighth-seeded Dustin Bliven of Wartburg in tonight's championship quarterfinals. Bliven beat Augustana's Brian Daly, 3-1, in the first round. Sikora beat Daly earlier this season by a 3-2 margin.

Sikora finished third at the NCAA Nationals in 2004 and was fifth in 2005. The best Blugold finish at nationals was a second by Blugold Hall of Famer Bob Wozniak in 1990. The only other Blugold to finish third in a national meet, besides Sikora, was Mark Janicki in 1969.

Tournament Web Site

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