



2015 Virginia Duals - National College Division - What to Watch

Ranked teams

Six of the twelve teams are ranked in the latest USA Today/NWCA/AWN Division I Coaches Poll. The ranked teams are: No. 6 Virginia Tech, No. 10 Edinboro, No. 16 Virginia, No. 17 Rider, No. 22 Old Dominion and No. 25 Bucknell. Rounding out the field are: Arizona State, Chattanooga, Kent State, Nebraska-Kearney, The Citadel and West Virginia.

New format in National College Division

This year's event has taken on a different format with a reduced 12-team field. There are four different three-team pools where round-robin competition will take place Friday. First-place finishers in each pool move on to Saturday's four-team Gold bracket and will be alive for the team title. Second-place finishers in their pool will wrestle in Saturday's Silver bracket, while third-place finishers will compete in the Bronze bracket on Saturday. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of four matches.

Virginia Tech (Hampton River pool), Edinboro (James River pool), Virginia (Poquoson River pool), and Old Dominion (York River pool) are expected to advance from their respective pools to the Gold pool on Saturday.

Friday dual preview: Kent State vs Virginia Tech

Kent State and No. 6 Virginia Tech will knock heads on Friday at 11AM on Mat 2. Don't let Kent State's lack of a ranking fool you, as the Flashes will be a tough, scrappy squad, led by Ian Miller at 157 lbs. Miller is an exciting wrestler to watch, who is known to take risks from the neutral position in upper body ties and will look to hit an inside trip from virtually anywhere. Kent State sophomore heavyweight Mimmo Lytle is 7-1 in dual meets this season, but will have his hands full with the Hokies' Ty Walz. In order to pull off the upset, Kent State will need bonus points from Tyler Buckwalter at 165, who will face a Hokie backup in Chris Moon's absence due to injury. At 133 lbs, Mark McGuire (Kent State) and Kevin Norstrem (VT) are both coming off strong performances, with McGuire placing sixth at the Southern Scuffle and Norstrem placing fifth at Midlands.

Virginia schools' recent success in the National College Division

UVA, Virginia Tech and ODU will look to make Virginia Duals history and keep the National College Division title inside the state of Virginia for another year. Kevin Dresser and the Virginia Tech Hokies took the title in 2013 while Steve Garland and his UVA Cavalier squad return as the defending champions. No. 24 Old Dominion and head coach Steve Martin would love to take home the title and the 2014-15 Monarch team is considered by many to be their most complete team in many years. The Monarchs are led by Jack Dechow at 184 lbs., who recently won the prestigious Midlands tournament in convincing fashion.

Live Video and Live Scoring

Live video of the entire tournament can be seen with a subscription to FloWrestling. Live scoring can be followed on TrackWrestling.

VAVA Coverage

We will be providing updates throughout the weekend at www.virginiawrestling.com, on Twitter @VAVAwrestling, and on Instagram @VAVawrestling.