

## Lights battled it out in Maroon/Gold Dual

George Ferguson

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It might have been an intra-squad dual, but things were very serious on the wrestling mat Thursday night at the MSU-Northern Fieldhouse.

Northern held its final Maroon/Gold Dual of the preseason Thursday night, and there was plenty at stake for several grapplers. The Gold team beat the Maroon squad 25-15 as defending national champion Evan Hinebauch, who is starting the season at 197 pounds, put a cap on the night with a quick pin of freshman heavyweight Keith Milkie. But it was matches at 125 pounds, 141 pounds and 184 pounds which really raised the intensity level up several notches.

Freshmen Duell Stadel and Riley Miller kicked things off with a rubber match at 125 pounds. The two split head-to-head matches in Ronan and Bozeman, but it was the former Havre Blue Pony, Stadel who pulled off a narrow 3-0 decision on Thursday night. Stadel's win, and the match showcased two of Northern's brightest young grapplers.

There was also a tight match at 141 pounds as freshmen Trevor Goss and Hunter Azure battled to the wire. Goss got Azure on his back early, and he had a commanding lead after one period. But Azure worked his way back into the match, tied it at 6-6 after two and scored a huge takedown to tie it again at 10-10 with just a few seconds left. However, Goss had built up riding time and he prevailed 11-10.

Things were equally as exciting at 184 as veteran Kody Reed took on true freshman Toby Cheff. Cheff built up an impressive 9-3 lead after two periods, but Reed, a national qualifier a year ago fought back with two take downs in the final minute. It wasn't enough however, as Cheff earned a 12-10 decision in one of the night's most exciting matches.

The dual was highly entertaining from start to finish and there were dominant performances.

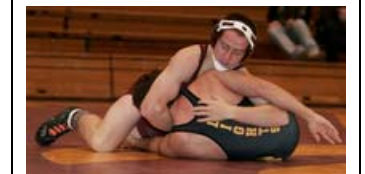
Former Havre High state champion Beau LaSalle earned an impressive 6-1 win over James Petersen at 149 pounds, while redshirt freshmen Mickey Cheff and Ethan Hinebauch earned pins at 157 and 165 pounds, respectively. Hinebauch pinned Andrew West in the first period and Cheff pinned Cole Gorder early in the second frame. Sophomore Jared Miller was equally impressive as he took apart former Chinook state champion Willie Miller, 13-2. Jared Miller and Max Payne will both wrestle at 174 pounds this season. Payne is recovering from minor knee surgery he had earlier this month and will be ready to go in two weeks.

"I thought we wrestled pretty well," Northern head coach Tyson Thivierge said. "We have done a really good job of fighting through this flu that's going through the team right now. I thought it was a really competitive dual."

And while the Lights wrestled at an aggressive and high level for this early in the season, the night was not without some misfortune. Sophomore Cameron Neiss was taken down hard in his matchup with Kaine Zetterberg, and he landed awkwardly on his arm. The injury appeared to be a dislocation of his elbow as Neiss, a 2011 NAIA All American had to be helped off the mat. He will likely miss a couple of weeks according to Northern head coach Thivierge.



*MSU-Northern 125-pounders Duell Stadel (top) and Riley Miller wrestle in Thursday night's Maroon/Gold Dual at the MSU-Northern Fieldhouse.*



*Northern's Trevor Goss (top) holds down teammate Hunter Azure in a 141-pound intra-squad match Thursday night in Havre.*

And now the regular season is here. After three spirited intra-squad duals and a bout with the Northern Alumni, the Lights will open the regular season on Wednesday with a dual against Western Wyoming at the MSU-Northern Fieldhouse.

**Maroon/Gold No. 3**

**Gold 25, Maroon 15**

- 125 – Duell Stadel, M dec. Riley Miller, G, 3-0;
- 133 – Kaine Zetterberg, G won by injury fft, Cameron Neiss, M;
- 141 – Trevor Goss, M dec. Hunter Azure, G, 11-10;
- 149 – Beau LaSalle, M dec. James Petersen, G, 6-1;
- 157 – Mickey Cheff, G pinned Cole Gorder, M, 3:19;
- 165 – Ethan Hinebauch, M pinned Andrew West, G, 2:27;
- 174 – Jared Miller, G maj. dec. Willy Miller, M, 13-2;
- 184 – Toby Cheff, G dec. Kody Reed, M, 12-10;
- 197/HWT – Evan Hinebauch, G pinned Keith Milkie, M, 1:58.