Lights get fourth in Missouri
By George Ferguson
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In their first-ever appearance at the prestigious Missouri Valley Invitational, the Montana State University-Northern Lights could certainly call their trip to Marshall, Missouri, a success. And if not for a couple of injuries, things would have been even better.

Friday and Saturday, the No. 3 Lights competed against the best of the best in the NAIA at the MVC Invitational, and they came away with a fourth-place finish with 109.5 points. Top-ranked Grand View was first with 179 points, followed by MVC and Maryville College.

Of course, the big story for Northern was senior Ethan Hinebauch, who went 5-0 and captured one of MSU-N's two championships in the tough tournament. Hinebauch won his first four matches by pin, then met up with one of his arch rivals in Menlo's Eric Lopez. The two have been two of the best 165-pounders in the country in the last several seasons, and in their meeting on Saturday afternoon, Hinebauch scored an outstanding 5-0 win, leaving no doubt about who the No. 1 165-pounder and favorite to capture the national title is.

But Northern had plenty of success stories in Missouri, and another was junior Toby Cheff. Cheff beat MVC’s Daniel Muller 11-6 to capture the heavyweight title Saturday. Cheff has missed much of the season with an injury, but this weekend, he showed he’s certainly rounding into form.

Overall, the Lights placed five individuals at the MVC Invite, and two of those weren’t two of their top wrestlers. Both Jared Miller (174) and Willie Miller (184) had to bow out of the tourney with injuries, and both would have certainly competed for individual titles over the course of the weekend.

Still, the Lights showed they have plenty of firepower. Freshman Brandon Weber, making his first appearance for the Lights, scored a third-place finish. His only loss came at the hands of Grand View’s Elijah Sullivan in the semifinals.

Sophomore Garrett DeMers suffered a couple of setbacks over the weekend at 197 pounds, but he still fought his way back to a fifth-place finish, while junior Riley Miller finished a sold seventh at 125 pounds. Tommy Cooper (157, 1-2), Justin Rodgers (133, 0-2) and Cesar Montes (141, 0-2) were also in action for the Lights.

Northern will go back out on the road this weekend to take part in the Tyler Plummer Classic at Dickinson State University.

125 - Riley Miller (3-2) placed 7th

Champ. Round 1 - Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 received a bye () (Bye); Champ. Round 2 - Tristan Bundy (Grand View) 5-1 won by decision over Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 (Dec 9-3); Cons. Round 2 - Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 received a bye () (Bye); Cons. Round 3 - Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 won by decision over JJ Dorrell (Truman State) 11-14 (Dec 9-7); Cons. Round 4 - Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 won by major decision over Jesse Marek (Doane) 1-2 (MD 14-6); Cons. Round 5 - Kristopher McKinley (Indiana Tech) 7-5 won by decision over Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 (Dec 6-4; 7th Place Match - Riley Miller (Montana State-Northern) 3-2 won by decision over Kyle Robison (Briar Cliff).
133 - Justin Rodgers (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Justin Rodgers (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye); Champ. Round 2 - Kodi Cole (Concordia) 5-5 won by fall over Justin Rodgers (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 (Fall 2:54); Cons. Round 2 - Brett Yarbrough (Indiana Tech) 15-5 won by decision over Justin Rodgers (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 (Dec 10-5).

141 - Cesar Montes (0-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Andrew Schulte (Concordia) 9-2 won by major decision over Cesar Montes (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 (MD 11-3); Cons. Round 1 - Cesar Montes (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 received a bye () (Bye); Cons. Round 2 - Greg Barrera (Menlo) 1-2 won by decision over Cesar Montes (Montana State-Northern) 0-2 (Dec 2-1).

149 - Brandon Weber (4-1)

Champ. Round 1 - Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 received a bye () (Bye); Champ. Round 2 - Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 won by fall over Thomas Garty (Indiana Tech) 15-9 (Fall 4:52); Quarterfinal - Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 won by major decision over Chase Krutzky (Missouri Valley) 8-6 (MD 11-2); Semifinal - Elijah Sullivan (Grand View) 3-1 won by decision over Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 (Dec 5-2); Cons. Semi - Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 won by decision over Jr Lule (Concordia) 9-3 (Dec 6-1); 3rd Place Match - Brandon Weber (Montana State-Northern) 4-1 won by fall over Christian Franks (Menlo) 3-2 (Fall 7:34).

157 - Tommy Cooper (1-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Roark Whittington (Truman State) 17-13 won by decision over Tommy Cooper (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 (Dec 6-5); Cons. Round 1 - Tommy Cooper (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 won by major decision over Cooper Self (Midland) 0-2 (MD 17-5); Cons. Round 2 - Eric Bowman (Missouri Baptist) 5-3 won by major decision over Tommy Cooper (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 (MD 12-0).

165 - Ethan Hinebauch (5-0) placed 1st

Champ. Round 1 - Ethan Hinebauch (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Elias Parenti (Ottawa) 0-7 (Fall 1:08); Champ. Round 2 - Ethan Hinebauch (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Steven Schaffer (Briar Cliff) 8-13 (Fall 4:13); Quarterfinal - Ethan Hinebauch (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Sean Black (Lindenwood-Belleville) 20-11 (Fall 0:45); Semifinal - Ethan Hinebauch (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Jacob Johnson (Indiana Tech) 19-7 (Fall 5:43); 1st Place Match - Ethan Hinebauch (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by decision over Eric Lopez (Menlo) 4-1 (Dec 5-3).

174 - Jared Miller (2-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Jared Miller (Montana State-Northern) 2-2 won by fall over Antonio Rodriguez (Indiana Tech) 11-11 (Fall 1:23); Champ. Round 2 - Jared Miller (Montana State-Northern) 2-2 won by fall over Austin Fehlhafer (Concordia) 5-7 (Fall 6:20); Quarterfinal - Travis Lang (Maryville) 21-9 won by injury default over Jared Miller (Montana State-Northern) 2-2 (Inj. 0:00); Cons. Round 4 - Jared Bass (Oklahoma City) 21-17 won by medical forfeit over Jared Miller (Montana State-Northern) 2-2 (M. For.).

184 - Willie Miller (1-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Willie Miller (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 won by fall over Connor Kenyon (Benedictine) 1-2 (Fall 1:45); Champ. Round 2 - Dakota Concepcion (Missouri Valley) 3-3 won by injury default over Willie Miller (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 (Inj. 0:00); Cons. Round 2 - Nick Stasio (Graceland) 1-3 won by medical forfeit over Willie Miller (Montana State-Northern) 1-2 (M. For.).

197 - Garrett DeMers (5-2)

Champ. Round 1 - Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 won by fall over Kasey Crump (Ottawa) 20-5 (Fall 6:41); Champ. Round 2 - Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 won by fall over William Leone (Baker) 15-9 (Fall 3:20); Quarterfinal - Ken Burkhardt Jr (Concordia) 22-14 won by decision over Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 (Dec 3-2); Cons. Round 4 - Garrett DeMers (Montana State-
Northern) 5-2 won by fall over Justin Whitten (Missouri Valley) 1-2 (Fall 2:36); Cons. Round 5 - Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 won by fall over Kasey Crump (Ottawa) 20-5 (Fall 0:00); Cons. Semi - Ryan Beltz (Maryville) 19-7 won by decision over Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 (Dec 7-4); 5th Place Match - Garrett DeMers (Montana State-Northern) 5-2 won by fall over Kyle Soderblom (William Penn) 18-11 (Fall 1:05).

285 - Toby Cheff (5-0) placed 1st

Champ. Round 1 - Toby Cheff (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Jacob LaRue (Benedictine) 0-2 (Fall 1:08); Champ. Round 2 - Toby Cheff (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over George Portillo (Northwestern) 1-5 (Fall 5:00); Quarterfinal - Toby Cheff (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by decision over Jacob Laden (Grand View) 6-1 (Dec 2-1); Semifinal - Toby Cheff (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by fall over Gabi Musallam (Missouri Valley) 7-2 (Fall 5:120) 1st Place Match - Toby Cheff (Montana State-Northern) 5-0 won by decision over Daniel Mueller (Missouri Valley) 11-6 (Dec 3-1).

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