

CLEVELAND STATE VIKINGS ATHLETICS

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For Immediate Release

The Viking Report. . .

A Look At What Is Happening In Cleveland State Athletics

Volleyball Heads To Penn State For NCAA Championships. . .

Basketball, Swimming & Wrestling Also In Action

In a week in which all seven winter sports will compete, volleyball, the lone fall sport still in action, will take center stage when the Vikings participate in the NCAA Championship for the first time.

Winners of the Horizon League Tournament, CSU will take on Albany on Friday, Nov. 30 at 5:00 p.m. in Penn State University's Rec Hall in State College, Pa. A win would send CSU to a second round meeting with the winner of Friday's Penn State vs. Siena matchup on Saturday (Dec. 1) beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The men's basketball team will put its modest three-game win streak on the line when the Vikings host Cal State Northridge on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7:00 p.m. CSU will also host Geneva College on Saturday (Dec. 1) at 7:00 p.m. Both matches will be played in the Wolstein Center.

Fresh off a third place showing last week at the Great Alaska Shootout, the women's basketball team makes a brief stop in Cleveland to host Ohio on Monday, Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wolstein Center before embarking on a five-game road trek that will take CSU into the holiday break. The Vikings start the road swing on Saturday, Dec. 1 with a 2:00 p.m. contest at Miami (OH).

The wrestling team will also be in State College, Pa., taking part in the Penn State Open on Sunday (Dec. 2). It will be the fourth open tournament of the year for CSU as the Vikings continue to prepare for the Eastern Wrestling League season.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams will be in Oxford, Ohio this week to take part in the Miami (OH) Invitational. The three-day meet begins on Thursday (Nov. 29) and runs through Saturday (Dec. 1).

After almost a month off from competition, the fencing teams will be at home this week to host Case Western Reserve and Oberlin on Saturday (Dec. 1) beginning at 12:00 noon in Woodling Gym.

Volleyball To Meet Albany In NCAA Championship. . .

Vikings Assigned To Penn State Sub-Regional For Program's First NCAA Appearance

Cleveland State (23-8) will play in its first-ever NCAA Championship this week when they Vikings take on Albany in an opening round match on Friday, Nov. 30, at 5:00 p.m. at Penn State. Should the Vikings win, they would advance to the second round and play the winner of Friday's other match between top-ranked Penn State and Siena.

Albany will enter the match at 23-9 overall and won the America East Tournament Championship with a 3-2 victory over

The Schedule Ahead For The Vikings

Nov. 26	Monday	Women's Basketball hosts Ohio	Wolstein Center	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 28	Wednesday	Men's Basketball hosts Cal State Northridge	Wolstein Center	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 29	Thursday	Swimming at Miami (OH) Invitational	Oxford, OH	All Day
Nov. 30	Friday	Volleyball vs. Albany (NCAA Championship)	State College, PA	5:00 p.m.
		Swimming at Miami (OH) Invitational	Oxford, OH	All Day
Dec. 1	Saturday	Fencing Hosts CWRU & Oberlin	Woodling Gym	12:00 Noon
		Women's Basketball at Miami (OH)	Miami, OH	2:00 p.m.
		Men's Basketball hosts Geneva	Wolstein Center	7:00 p.m.
		Volleyball vs. Penn State/Siena (NCAA Champ.)	State College, PA	7:00 p.m.
		Swimming at Miami (OH) Invitational	Oxford, OH	All Day
Dec. 2	Sunday	Wrestling at Penn State Open	State College, PA	TBA

Stony Brook on Nov. 18. Friday's match will be the first all-time meeting between CSU and Albany.

"This is a very exciting time for our program and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to play against another outstanding opponent in the NCAA tournament," head coach Chuck Voss said. "We are going to work hard in practice this week and go represent Cleveland State as best we can."

The Vikings earned the Horizon League's automatic berth to the NCAA Championship by winning the league tournament title on Nov. 18 with a 3-1 triumph over Valparaiso. CSU had defeated Youngstown State (3-0) in the quarterfinals and Wright State (3-1) in the semifinals.

Amy Benz was selected as the tournament MVP and was joined on the all-tournament team by Alexis Korovich and Jenni Ramminger.

Men's Basketball To Host Cal State Northridge & Geneva. . .

Vikings Improve To 4-2 After Win Over John Carroll

The men's basketball team continues its extended December home stand when the Vikings host a pair of games in the Wolstein Center this week. CSU starts the week against Cal State Northridge on Wednesday, Nov. 28 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and then hosts Geneva College on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7:00 p.m.

The Vikings (4-2) enter the week with a three-game win streak, having strung together consecutive wins over Florida State, Florida Atlantic and John Carroll to come within a game of matching last year's longest win streak.

The Cal State Northridge contest is the return game for last year's ESPNU BracketBusters matchup that saw the Vikings defeat the Matadors, 85-76, in Northridge. CSU has won four straight games in the BracketBusters series, claiming a pair of meetings with Delaware, the return game against Central Michigan and last year's win at Cal State Northridge.

"This is an important time in our schedule," head coach Gary Waters said. "We were able to weather the first five games on the road and do about as well as could be expected. With a bunch of home games scheduled this month, it is important that we continue the process of giving ourselves an advantage when we play on our home court. We want to create an environment where opponent's do not want to play us at home."

In their only game last week, the Vikings were never seriously threatened in a 67-57 win over John Carroll. Cedric Jackson led the team in scoring for the fourth time this season, scoring 12 points.

Women's Basketball Hosts Ohio, Travels To Miami (OH). . .

Vikings Are Coming Off Third Place Finish At Great Alaska Shootout

Cleveland State (2-2) returns to action for a pair of games this week, beginning with a 7:00 p.m. contest against Ohio University on Monday, Nov. 26, in the Wolstein Center. CSU will then begin a stretch of five straight road games, beginning with a 2:00 p.m. contest at Miami (OH) on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2:00 p.m.

"I was pleased with our overall effort in Alaska," head coach Kate Peterson Abiad said. "We had a chance to win our first round game, but had two defensive breakdowns that cost us and once we got into overtime, Alaska Anchorage hit some shots and made their free throws. But I was very happy with how we bounced back against Bradley and we were finally able to get some balanced scoring with four players in double figures."

CSU opened the Carrs/Great Alaska Shootout on Tuesday (Nov. 20) by playing host Alaska Anchorage. The Vikings led by four with under a minute to play, but the Seawolves hit consecutive buckets to send the game into overtime. In the extra session, CSU scored the first two points, but UAA went on a 12-1 run to ice the game. The Vikings rebounded the following night to defeat Bradley, 82-61, in the consolation game as Shawnita Garland posted career-highs in points (19), rebounds (8), assists (5) and steals (5).

Kailey Klein was named to the all-tournament team after totaling 51 points, including a career-high tying 33 against Alaska Anchorage.

Wrestling Heads To Penn State Open. . .

The Viking wrestling team will continue its rugged early season schedule when CSU competes in its fourth open tournament this weekend. CSU will be in action on Sunday, Dec. 2 when as many as 20 Vikings take part in the Penn State Open.

"This is the best tournament field that we will see all season," head coach Jack Effner said. "Anybody who places this week will earn a national ranking and that will be a great accomplishment. Still, we are right on track to where we want to be. We

Last Week's Results

Nov. 20	Men's Swimming at Ohio State	Columbus, OH	L, 82-147
Nov. 20.	Wrestling hosts John Carroll	Woodling Gym	W, 34-3
Nov. 20	Women's Basketball at Alaska Anchorage	Anchorage, AK	L, 72-80 (OT)
Nov. 21	WBK vs. Bradley	Anchorage, AK	W, 82-61
Nov. 24	MBK hosts John Carroll	Wolstein Center	W, 67-57

keep getting some great experience against quality wrestler in the open tournaments. It will really prepare us for our league schedule.”s

Cleveland State opened the dual portion of its schedule last week when the Vikings routed cross-town rival John Carroll, 34-3 on Tuesday (Nov. 20) in Woodling Gym. CSU won nine of the 10 bouts, including back-to-back pins from Ryan Hurley (149) and Rob Michaels (157).

As evidenced by the win over John Carroll, the Vikings feature quality and depth in their lineup this season. Juniors Marcus Effner (9-2) and JT Miller (9-5, 4 pins) have been outstanding at 165 and 174, respectively, but it has been the freshmen trio of Michaels (13-2 at 157), Alek Hughes (8-4 with 5 pins at 197) and Heavyweight Eric Schwartz (8-3 with 5 pins) that has given CSU some quality results early in the season.

Men’s Swimming Competes At Miami (OH) Invitational. . .

Cleveland State (5-3) is back in action this weekend when the Vikings compete at the Miami (OH) Invitational from Nov. 29 – Dec. 1 in Oxford, Ohio.

“We are going through the most difficult part of our schedule right now,” head coach Wally Morton said. “The team has been working very hard in practice and that has translated into success during the meets with some great swims.”

CSU had two duals last week, beginning with a meet at Notre Dame on Tuesday (Nov. 16). CSU won five events, but fell to the Irish, 174-121. Jakub Dobies led CSU’s charge as he claimed wins in the 100 breast (56.90) and 200 breast (2:06.60). He was also the leadoff of CSU’s winning 200 freestyle relay team, which included Todd Winchell, Mike Marsico and Stephen Grove.

Four days later, the Vikings dropped a 147-82 decision at Ohio State. Dobies was the lone Viking to claim a win as he won the 100 breaststroke with a time of 56.45.

Miami (OH) Invitational Next For Women’s Swimming. . .

The Vikings, who were out of action last week for the Thanksgiving holiday, will compete at the Miami (OH) Invitational from Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

“We have been getting good swims from everybody on the roster,” head coach Wally Morton said. “We had been performing at such a high level and the short break we had could not have come at a better time as we were able to get some rest and get healthy.”

CSU (2-5) was last in action on Nov. 13 when it hosted the City College Meet in Busbey Natatorium and posted a 2-1 record. The Vikings defeated Baldwin-Wallace, 153-79, and Notre Dame (OH), 150-73, but fell to Gannon, 123-107.

Lesley Jones and Katie Bellew led the Vikings as each tallied two wins at the meet. Jones won the 50 (25.18) and 100 free (54.44), while Bellew captured the 100 butterfly (1:00.42) and 100 breaststroke (1:10.60).

Fencing Hosts Case Western Reserve & Oberlin. . .

The Cleveland State fencing teams are back in action on Saturday, Dec. 1, when they host Case Western Reserve and Oberlin in Woodling Gym for Alumni Day. Action is slated to begin at 12:00 p.m.

The teams have been out of action since competing at the Ohio State Invitational on Oct. 27. The men’s squad went 9-1, while the women were 5-5.

“The men’s squad got off to one of the fastest starts in school-history, while the women’s team was solid when we competed at Ohio State,” head coach Jim Sager said. “We have been working hard in practice over the last month and that should show in the results in the coming year. I am extremely proud of how both teams have been working this season.”

Viking High Fives

Volleyball: The squad will make its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Championship when it plays Albany on Friday, Nov. 30, at 5:00 p.m. at Penn State.

Kailey Klein: The sophomore guard was named to the Carrs/Great Alaska Shootout after tying her career-high with 33 points against Alaska Anchorage.

Rob Michaels: The junior wrestler improved to 13-2 this season with a pin against John Carroll last week.