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IHSA State Wrestling Championships Continue to Generate Significant Impact

Champaign, IL – High school wrestlers across the state will prepare for the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Wrestling Individual State Championships, February 20–22, 2025. Over 650 wrestlers from 250 high schools will compete this weekend at the State Farm Center, with hopes to make it under the spotlight for the championship match.

“Since 1967, IHSA State Wrestling has generated an economic boom for our community, alongside excitement from our local businesses,” states Jayne DeLuce, President and CEO of Experience Champaign-Urbana. “Welcoming athletes, coaches, officials, and the thousands of fans to the State Farm Center is a winter tradition that we look forward to each February. It is a rite of passage for wrestlers throughout the state.”

The matches, featuring fourteen weight classes across three divisions, kick off at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, and run through Saturday evening. “Wrestlers compete multiple times over the weekend, generating longer overnight stays for wrestlers and their families. This also drives traffic to our restaurants, shops, and attractions, supporting our hospitality workforce,” explains Mark Brown, Director of Event Services & Film for ECU.

With an estimated total attendance of nearly 36,000 and multiple room nights in local accommodations, ECU estimates a \$5.5 million economic impact to the area. “Continuing to host this event in our community is essential to our visitor economy,” explains DeLuce. “Hosting IHSA tournaments supports jobs and enhances the lives of our residents while also giving our community an opportunity to shine by providing our guests with a memorable, brilliant experience.”

Tickets to the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament range from \$10–12 per session or \$50–60 for an all-session ticket. Various weight classes from 1A, 2A and 3A schools begin at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, 8:30 a.m. on Friday, and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Tickets are available through the Illinois Ticket Office at statefarmcenter.com or by calling 1-866-ILLINI-1.

Experience Champaign-Urbana will be located in the West Grand Entrance, providing a warm welcome to guests with community information on activities and places to eat.

For more information on IHSA Wrestling, visit www.ihsa.org.

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