

McCovey an All-American: May wrestle for third place today

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VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. -- Two-time California heavyweight wrestling champion Roger McCovey has earned All-American honors at the 20th annual senior national wrestling tournament.

The Del Norte High School senior won his first four matches before losing in the semifinals. As a result, McCovey will finish as high as third place, and no lower than sixth place, in the competition which continue today at 6 a.m. PST.

The top eight finishers in each weight bracket automatically earn All-American honors. This year's 285-pound bracket is comprised of the top 64 United States high school senior heavyweights.

McCovey began his march through the field of 64 with a win over Christian Grimmert of Florida by a fall at 2:51.

He followed that with a 12-0 decision over Timothy Chambers of Connecticut, a 5-1 win over Josh Morosko of Ohio and a 6-1 defeat of John Ceccio of New Jersey.

In McCovey's fifth match -- a semifinal-- he lost a 3-1 decision to Eloheim Palma of North Carolina.

Palma will take on Michael McClure of Michigan in today's championship final at 4 p.m. EST.

McCovey will face an opponent who will emerge

from three consolation matches.

Three of his possible opponents are Jake Kettler of Minnesota, John Camp of Washington and Jose Lopez of California.

McCovey's fourth possible opponent -- Ken Altarac of New York -- presents the most intriguing matchup, or rematch, because it was Altarac who defeated McCovey 3-2 in last year's junior semifinal. McCovey finished third in the juniors.

If McCovey wins his match he will compete for third place in the seniors, possibly against Jeremy Johnson of Ohio who lost the other semifinal to McClure 4-2.

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