

Mountaineers Place Three at Keystone Classic

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Monday, 19 November 2012 09:15

Appalachian State University wrestling captured some key victories and placed three, as the Mountaineers concluded the 2012 Keystone Classic on Sunday,

Nov. 18 at the Palestra, hosted by Pennsylvania University. With the three place-winners, the Apps finished in 12th place with 44 points, finishing above ACC opponent NC State and Southern Conference foe, VMI.

Redshirt sophomore Dominic Parisi continues to impress, coming off an injury-shortened 2011-12 season. Parisi captured third place at 125 pounds, becoming the highest-finishing Mountaineer in the field for the day. The Concord, N.C. native earned a pin in his first match of the afternoon, but later fell to No. 6 seed, Northwestern's Dominick Malone.

Parisi followed the loss with four-straight victories; including wins over No. 4-seeded William Watterson (Brown) and No. 5-seeded David Terao (American). The redshirt sophomore is 12-2 on the young season.

After falling to top-seeded Lee Munster (Northwestern) in his opening match at 174 pounds, sophomore Colin Hedash worked his way through the consolation bracket with three-straight wins. Hedash's highlighted the run with an 8-0 majority decision over eighth-seeded Giuseppi Lanzi (Brown).

Hedash clinched fifth place after winning by forfeit over fifth-seeded Keithen Cast (American). Redshirt sophomore Paul Weiss started his tournament run on a high note, capturing an 8-2 decision over Urayoan Garcia (VMI) at 197 pounds. Weiss followed the victory with a loss to second-seeded Conner Hartmann from Duke.

In the consolation bracket, Weiss rattled off two more victories, including an 8-2 decision over sixth-seeded Donald McNeil (Rider). Weiss fell in a 4-2 decision for fifth place to Duke's Brian Self.

One of the bigger wins of the day came from sophomore Jesse Johnson, who eliminated top-seeded Diego Bencomo (Duke) with a hard-fought 9-8 decision at 184 pounds. With the win, Johnson was given the nearly impossible task of trying to eliminate both top seeds, but came up short as second-seeded Ophir Bernstein of Brown knocked out Johnson in his next bout.

Redshirt freshman Zack Strickland (165 pounds) and sophomore Joe Cummings (heavyweight) each added two wins apiece, and Chris Johnson (141 pounds), Nick Vetell (174 pounds) and freshman Travis Morgan (heavyweight) all chipped in with a victory.

The Mountaineers take some time off and will be back in action on Tuesday, Dec. 4 when they Apps open Southern Conference play at home against Gardner-Webb. The dual match is set for 6:30 p.m. at Varsity Gym.