Written by Brandon McGinnis
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With a sixth place finish by sophomore Jesse Johnson at 174 pounds, Appalachian State University wrestling finished 15th out of a 27-team field at

the Tournament of Champions at the Reno Events Center on Sunday.

Johnson started his tournament run with four straight victories, highlighted by a technical fall over Southern Oregon's Jacob Abrams in the opening round. Johnson followed the first-round win with a 12-3 major decision over The Citadel's Jared Hemmings and back-to-back decisions against Missouri Valley College's Brett Bader and Clackamas' Dustin Johnson.

After rattling off four-straight victories, Johnson fell to two ranked opponents, as No. 2 ranked Ty Vinson of Oregon State and No. 4 ranked Kody Reed of Montana State-Northern both defeated the sophomore. In Johnson's fifth-place match, the Lexington, N.C. native could not find an answer, losing by fall at the 4:12 mark.

Redshirt sophomores Dominic Parisi (125 pounds) and Paul Weiss (197 pounds) claimed three victories on the day, while senior Brett Boston (133 pounds), junior Chris Johnson (141 pounds) and sophomore Joe Cummings (285 pounds) earned two wins.

The 15th place finish was two places higher than Southern Conference opponents, Campbell, as the Apps finished with 30.5 points. No. 11 ranked Oregon state captured the Tournament of Champions crown, closing the night with 145 points.

The Apps will take the next few weeks off and bring in 2013 with the Southern Scuffle on Jan. 1-2 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Currently, 22 teams are schedule for this season's tournament.

Photo Courtesy: JohnMark Bentley, ASU Athletics