

Two ASU Wrestlers Place at Reno Tournament

Written by Paul Blascovich
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Appalachian's ranked seniors of Austin Trotman (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor) and Kyle Blevins (Sapulpa, Okla./Sapulpa) led the Mountaineers to a 13th-place

showing at the Reno Tournament of Champions held at the Reno Events Center on Sunday. No. 11 Trotman picked up back-to-back wins to open the day, including a 5-0 decision over No. 17 Matt Ryan of West Virginia. After 14-straight wins to begin the season, Trotman first loss of the year was a 10-2 major decision, to No. 3 Joe LeBlanc of Wyoming in the semifinals. The Mountaineer closed out the day by defeating Arizona State's Jake Meredith, 6-1, and Binghamton's Nate Schiedel, 4-1, to capture third place.

No. 13 Blevins rolled through his first opponent with a 18-5 major decision. In the second round, the senior earned his 100th career win with a 17-0 (7:00) tech. fall of Southern Oregon's (NAIA) Brian Lemmon. In the semifinal, Oklahoma State's No. 20 Dallas Bailey surprised the Mountaineer with a 1:17 pin, and Blevins was edged 4-3 in the wrestleback semifinal. After a 9-2 win in his final bout, Blevins secured fifth to place at the Reno event for the second-straight year.

Senior Mike Kessler (Bay City, Mich./Western) also had a solid day for the Mountaineers, as he advanced to the championship quarterfinal on back-to-back decisions before falling 5-1 to No. 4 Boris Navachkov of Cal Poly.

Appalachian matched its 13th-place showing from last year, while No. 2 Oklahoma State easily won in the overall standings.

Appalachian State has a few weeks of rest before its next competition. The Mountaineers head to Chattanooga, Tenn. on January 1-2 to join the nation's top teams at this season's Southern Scuffle.

Photo Courtesy: Austin Trotman, ASU Athletics