

Blevins Named SoCon Wrestler of Week

Written by Paul Blascovich
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After a 2-0 week, Appalachian State senior Kyle Blevins (Sapulpa, Okla./Sapulpa) has been honored as the Southern Conference Wrestler of the Week for all competitions from February 8-14. On Friday,

the 165-pounder defeated VMI's Jonathan Jones to improve to 5-0 in SoCon action this season. Blevins' 15-2 major decision opened the scoring for the Mountaineers, who clinched a share of the 2011-12 Southern Conference championship with their 37-9 victory.

On Saturday, the 15th-ranked Blevins faced No. 16 Nick Sulzer of Virginia for the second time this season, following a 3-1 win over the Cavalier at the Southern Scuffle. In the rematch, the ASU senior scored a second-period escape and broke open the match with a near-fall in the third to earn a 4-0 decision. Blevins is now 4-2 against ranked opponents on the season.

The selection is the third of Blevins' career after he received weekly honors in each of the two previous seasons. On the year, Appalachian State has taken four Wrestler of the Week nods, including two by fellow senior Austin Trotman (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor) and one by classmate Chip Powell (Greensboro, N.C./S.W. Guilford).

Other nominees for the award included Nick Rex (Campbell), Josh Tuck (The Citadel), Anthony Elias (Davidson), Alex Medved (Gardner-Webb), Brendan Murphy (SIUE) and Manny Ramirez (Chattanooga).

Blevins looks lead his team to success in the final weekend of the regular season. The Mountaineers host Duke on Saturday at 6 p.m. and will take on Davidson on Sunday at 2 p.m. for a chance to secure the outright SoCon Championship. Both matches will be held at Varsity Gymnasium.

The SoCon schedule concludes at the 2012 SoCon Tournament in Chattanooga on March 3, and the season culminates at the 2012 NCAA Championships in St. Louis, March 15-17.

Photo Courtesy: Kyle Blevins, ASU Athletics