

## Former Pioneer Kostis Earns National All-Academic Honors

Written by Paul Blascovich  
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Appalachian State University wrestling has been honored by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) as a Division I All-Academic Team for the 2011-12 wrestling season. In addition, senior Savva Kostis (Boone, N.C./Watauga) was selected to the NWCA's Individual All-Academic team, as announced by the association on Tuesday. Mirroring the Mountaineers' finish in the 2012 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, Appalachian State's GPA ranked 21st in the nation (3.0678), five spots higher than national champion Penn State. ASU's selection to the national top 30 is its second in as many seasons and third overall, having taken its first honors in 1997.

The NWCA also released its Individual All-Academic team, in which Kostis joined 86 others recognized as the country's elite grapplers based on academic and athletic performance. Kostis becomes Appalachian's second All-Academic honoree, joining Dylan Temple, who was honored in 2009-10. For ranking purposes, the team GPA is comprised of 12 student-athletes, including the 10 wrestlers that were entries in the NCAA tournament conference qualifier.

To qualify for the Individual All-Academic team, a wrestler must have at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA and be an NCAA qualifier or win 60 percent of his total schedule. Wrestlers also qualify with a 3.0 GPA and NCAA all-America honors (top eight at the NCAA championship).

Davidson and Chattanooga also represented the Southern Conference in the team GPA rankings, while Kostis was one of only three SoCon grapplers to be represented individually, joining a pair of Mocs.

**Photo Courtesy: Savva Kostis, ASU Athletics**