

Ervin Wins Conference Title, NCAA Bid in Double-Overtime Match of the Year
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ASU Sports Information

RALEIGH, N.C.—ASU junior Scott Ervin withstood all that Aaron Martin could muster in three periods and then some, finally prevailing to win a memorable conference championship 3-2 in double overtime. Ervin was able to make a one-point escape in the second overtime stand up for his first conference title.

With the win, Ervin (Weatherford, Okla./Weatherford) earns an automatic berth in the NCAA Championships in Detroit, Mich.

Ervin came into the match with a personal three-match losing streak against Chattanooga dating back to last season, when he was defeated in the 157-pound finals by the Mocs' Jake Yost. This year's opponent, Aaron Martin, while one weight class lighter, was no easier. The senior entered the match at 29-7 overall and undefeated in conference play in 2006-07. Martin was also responsible for Ervin's only conference loss this season, a 5-4 overtime decision on Jan. 28 in Boone. The two were ranked No. 7 (Martin) and No. 8 (Ervin) nationally in the Intermat/NWCA Coaches Poll entering the weekend.

With so much on the line, both wrestlers began the match conservatively. Neither athlete attempted many shots, and when they did, confined them to the edges of the mat. The first period ended as it began, 0-0.

Ervin began the second period in the top position, not allowing Martin to escape but also not scoring himself. After a restart at the center, Ervin appeared close to scoring a near-fall only to have Martin turn it into a reversal to go ahead 2-0. Off the next restart, Martin allowed Ervin to escape uncontested and the second period came to an end at 2-1.

In the third period, Ervin scored an escape to even the match at 2-2. Neither wrestler was able to gain an advantage as the seconds ticked down, and the match headed to sudden victory.

Ervin found himself in trouble near the end of the first overtime, hanging on heels-over-head on Martin's back, but fought to hold on until the clock expired.

Each wrestler would get 30 seconds to score starting from the bottom position, beginning with Martin. Not letting the senior from Chattanooga go, Ervin attempted to score back points, but Martin was able to wriggle away and the 30 seconds expired. Ervin was likewise unable to score from the bottom position, and the match went to a second overtime.

The decisive score came from Ervin's chance at the bottom position in the second overtime. The ASU ace found a way to break Martin's hold and scooted away for the 1-point advantage with less than ten seconds remaining as the Mountaineer faithful who made the trip to Raleigh cheered.

Martin wasn't finished yet, as the Moc still had his 30 seconds to escape. However, Ervin wouldn't relinquish his hold as the clock ran out on the match.

Ervin was the only finalist for ASU. Prior to the 149-pound match, Chattanooga had won every weight class in the finals (3-0).

The junior takes a 25-3 overall record into the NCAA Championships, March 15-17.