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Sports Information



Five Wildcats Place Third at Southern Conference Wrestling Championships

For Immediate Release

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RALEIGH, N.C. — Davidson College had five wrestlers place third at the Southern Conference Championships on Saturday, helping the Wildcats earn 34.5 points. The grapplers earn third-place distinction for Davidson were Ben Altman (125), Jim Avola (141), Trebor Clavette (165), Sam O’Hair (184) and Mike Waters (197).

Chatanooaga won the tournament going away with 117.5 points, winning seven of the 10 weight classes. Although the Wildcats placed sixth in the six-team league, they were just 6.5 points out of third place.

Altman, a freshman from Wilmington, Del., was seeded third at his 125-pound weight class and started the tournament off with a 13-8 decision over Appalachian State’s Dustin Smith. Second-seeded Jeff Hedges of UNC Greensboro sent Altman to the consolation bracket in the semifinals in 15-4 major decision. He rebounded nicely in the wrestlebacks, scoring a technical fall against VMI’s Jonathan Pope, then beating Tyler Sim of The Citadel, 11-4, in the third-place bout.

A native of Montague, N.J., third-seeded Avola won an 8-3 decision in his opening bout at 141 against the sixth seed, Matthew Bullwinkel of The Citadel. Like Altman, the senior ran up against a UNCG wrestler seeded second, Chris Bencivenga, and lost by a major decision as well. Avola took out his frustration from losing out on Appalachian State’s Clinton Swango, whom he pinned in just 1:10. Needing one more victory for third place, Avola got it with another pin, this time in 1:47, against Brandon Franklin of VMI.

Clavette had a similar fate to the lighter Wildcats. A product of A.C. Reynolds High School, he was seeded third at 165, won a major decision in his first bout (19-7 over sixth-seeded Zachary Filter of The Citadel), then succumbed to a second-seeded Spartan wrestler, 10-5. And like the other two Wildcats, the junior from Fletcher, N.C., responded by winning both of his matches in the wrestlebacks, first a 15-4 major decision followed by a 4-0 decision to take third.

Fourth-seeded O’Hair took a slightly different route to his third-place finish, faltering in the opening round to a fifth-seeded UNCG wrestler, 11-3. But the sophomore from Alexandria, Va., recovered to top VMI 184-pounder Dustin McCabe, 4-0, and third-seeded Daniel Carrasco of Appalachian State, 7-3.

As the second seed, Waters had a first-round bye at 197. Unfortunately, he also had to square off against a UNCG grappler in the semifinals, and came up short in a 3-0 loss. Those would be the only points the freshman from Centreville, Va., would surrender as he posted a 7-0 decision versus ASU’s Aaron Barnette and an 8-0 major decision over Chattanooga’s Nick Lorenzano to take third.

Southern Conference Wrestling Championships

Points	Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
117.5	Chattanooga	7	2	0	1
75.0	UNC Greensboro	1	5	1	1
41.0	VMI	1	1	2	1
38.5	The Citadel	0	2	0	4
36.5	Appalachian State	1	0	2	3
34.5	<i>Davidson</i>	0	0	5	0

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