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## **Atlantic Coast Conference Announces Wrestlers of the Week** *Pitt's Phillippi, Virginia Tech's Lewis recognized*

**GREENSBORO, N.C. (theACC.com)** – The Atlantic Coast Conference has recognized Pitt's Micky Phillippi (133 pounds) and Virginia Tech's Mekhi Lewis (165) as the ACC Co-Wrestlers of the Week for December 4.

Each redshirt freshman wrestler posted a runner-up finish in his respective weight class at last weekend's Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational. Both wrestlers defeated three nationally-ranked opponents, including a pair each ranked among the top 10.

Phillippi, ranked 13th nationally and seeded sixth in his weight class, opened with a 16-6 major decision over Yoshito Funakoshi of Cal Poly. The Derry, Pennsylvania, native's route to the finals continued with wins over No. 19 Cam Syrkora of North Dakota State, No. 7 Ethan Lizak of Minnesota and No. 5 Luke Pletcher of Ohio State. In Lizak, Phillippi faced the No. 3 seed in the 133-pound field, while Pletcher held the No. 2 seed. Phillippi and Pletcher are long-time friends and opponents from nearby hometowns in Pennsylvania.

Phillippi's bid for the Cliff Keen title finally fell short in the final versus top-seeded and third-ranked Nick Suriano, a returning NCAA finalist and All-American. Phillippi is now 6-1 on the year with wins over four ranked opponents.

Ranked 14th nationally entering the tournament, Virginia Tech's Lewis opened with a 19-4 technical fall over Central Michigan's Bret Fedewa. He followed with decisions over No. 17 Jonathan Viruet of Brown, No. 6 Branson Ashworth of Wyoming, and No. 9 Bryce Steiert of Northern Iowa.

Lewis then put up a game battle in the 165-pound final before dropping a 2-0 decision to No. 10 Isaiah White of Nebraska. Lewis, who hails from Bound Brook, New Jersey, now stands 9-2 on the season.





Atlantic Coast Conference | 4512 Weybridge Lane, Greensboro, NC 27407

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