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Subject: WRESTLING | Demetrius Romero is UVU's first Big 12 Champion
Date: March 10, 2019 at 8:13 PM
To: lanny@wrestlingusa.com



Demetrius Romero is UVU's first Big 12 Champion
3/10/2019 | Wrestling

TULSA, Okla. - Demetrius Romero became Utah Valley University's first Big 12 Champion with a sudden-victory win in the 165-pound championship match on Sunday night at the BOK Center.

Romero came from behind, as he did all weekend, to stand atop the podium following an 8-6 (SV-1) win over North Dakota State's Andrew Fogarty.

"We're all so proud of him. He's earned this. He works so hard and has amazing, amazing heart," said UVU head coach [Greg Williams](#). "Demetrius is a difficult guy to wrestle. He's so tenacious and he's such a competitor."

"I feel like we're overlooked as a school and that just shows that you can't overlook us because you can't count any of us out," Romero said. "It's good to be the first one to do it but there's going to be more to come. It's going to be fun to celebrate this achievement with my teammates, my coaches and my family."

The Wolverine junior trailed 5-1 late in the second period after Fogarty scored two takedowns in the first. Romero chipped away with a takedown with 26 seconds to go in the second and rode Fogarty to keep the match at 5-3 entering the final period.

An escape got Romero within a point and a takedown gave him a 6-5 lead with 38 seconds left, but Fogarty was able to escape to force overtime. It didn't take Romero long to earn the sudden victory, taking Fogarty down 13 seconds into the extra minute.

In earning the Big 12 Championship, Romero also moved Utah Valley into its best team placing since joining the Big 12, finishing in sixth place with 59 points. UVU was just one-half point behind Fresno State for fifth and were just in front of Wyoming (58 points) and North Dakota State (53.5 points). Oklahoma State captured its seventh straight team championship.

Romero's route to the title also included a 12-8 decision over Joe Smith of Oklahoma State and a 3-2 victory over Northern Iowa's Bryce Steiert in the semifinal.

Five Utah Valley wrestlers placed, with all five earning automatic berths to the NCAA Championships in Pittsburgh in two weeks.

Tate Orndorff (285 lbs) finished in third place and will make his first NCAA Championship appearance as a redshirt-freshman while senior Will Sumner (184 lbs) will make his NCAA debut after a fourth-place finish. Kimball Bastian (174 lbs) also took fourth and will compete at his second NCAA Championship and Tanner Orndorff (197 lbs) placed sixth and rounds out the automatic berths for UVU. Orndorff will make his third straight trip to the NCAA Championships.

The five wrestlers to advance to the NCAA Championships matches a school record, set in 2018. Utah Valley could have a sixth competitor in Matt Findlay when the at-large wrestlers are announced on Tuesday.

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