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Wrestling

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## Four Wrestlers Named to NWCA All-Academic Team

**BOONE, N.C.** – Appalachian State University wrestling had four student-athletes named to the 2017 NWCA All-Academic individual team, the association announced on Tuesday.

The NWCA All-Academic team annually recognizes the top 30 teams in the country with the highest team grade point averages. The Mountaineers as a team finished No. 29 with a 3.107 overall GPA.

“I’m proud of our team and staff for a continual commitment to academics,” head coach **JohnMark Bentley** said. “These four Academic All-Americans represent our program well both on and off the mat. The 2016-17 season has been a tremendous success in all facets for our program.”

Redshirt senior and mainstay 125-pounder **Vito Pasone** (Wilkes-Barre, Pa./E.L. Meyers) made the list as he continues his education at Appalachian, getting a master’s degree in teaching. SoCon all-conference selection Pasone went 14-7 on the season and 10-3 in duals – undefeated in league action. This year, the senior has seven bonus point victories, including a string of three straight over a group that included nationally ranked opponents. His 89 career victories place him eighth all-time at Appalachian. Pasone was able to take third place at the SoCon Tournament after battling back from an early loss to down Gardner-Webb and getting a technical fall in the final match.

Sophomore **Matt Zovistoski** (Paramus, N.J./St. Joseph Regional) made the list as a staunch 149-pounder while he works toward a degree in biology. Zovistoski battled for two huge victories in the NCAA Tournament against NC State’s Sam Speno and Oregon State’s Joey Delgado after finishing the season with a 23-8 record, including eight bonus point victories before being crowned champion at 149 pounds in the SoCon Tournament.

Redshirt junior 165-pounder **Forrest Przybysz** (Jefferson, Ga./Jefferson) continues to excel both on and off the mat as he works toward a degree in economics, getting his name on the NWCA All-Academic list for the second-straight year. Przybysz finished the regular season 22-12 overall and with an ever-dominant 11-5 duals record and 11 bonus point victories on the season. Continuing the end streak, he made quick work of SIUE’s Clayton Bass to start the 165-pound weight class before getting the narrow 1-0 decision win over Chattanooga’s Justin Lampe to proceed to the first place match. Facing Campbell’s Quentin Perez, Przybysz fell 8-4 to garner second place honors.

Redshirt senior **Denzel Dejournette** (Winston-Salem, N.C./R.J. Reynolds) made the list for the third consecutive year while finishing eighth in the nation in the heavyweight division, working toward a master’s degree in exercise science. The two-time SoCon Wrestler of the Year entered the tournament with a 23-5 overall record to go along with an undefeated in SoCon action at 6-0. Dejournette had 10 bonus point victories and two seven-match win streaks on the season. The senior was also named SoCon Wrestler of the Year this year. In the conference tournament, he made quick work of his opponents, getting a 30-second pin to start things off before a 20-4 technical fall put him in the championship match where he won 7-4.

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