



**March 14, 2017**  
**Wrestling**

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## Wrestling Heads to St. Louis for NCAA Tournament

**BOONE, N.C.** — Four student-athletes will represent Appalachian State University wrestling on the biggest collegiate stage on Thursday when they battle in St. Louis for the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship.

The Mountaineers had three wrestlers qualify by winning their respective weight class in the 2017 Southern Conference tournament and one wrestler qualify as an at-large candidate.

Appalachian is represented by seniors **Denzel Dejournette** (Winston-Salem, N.C./R.J. Reynolds) at the heavyweight and **Vito Pasone** (Wilkes-Barre, Pa./E.L. Meyers) at the 125-pound division. The Black and Gold will also have sophomore **Matt Zovistoski** (Paramus, N.J./St. Joseph Regional) at 149 pounds and freshman 133-pounder **Colby Smith** (Wentzville, Mo./Holt)

Two-time SoCon Wrestler of the Year Dejournette went 23-5 to go along with both him and App State going undefeated in SoCon play at 6-0 and 7-0, respectively. 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. His 106 career victories rank him fifth all-time. 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.

Zovistoski finished the season with a 23-8 record, including eight bonus point victories before being the champion at 149 pounds in the SoCon Tournament. He began with a 12-0 major decision over Joby Armenta of Gardner-Webb before narrowly defeating Ben Barton of Campbell with a 2-1 decision. Zovistoski then faced SIUE's John Fahy for the first place battle where App State got the 6-5 decision victory.

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 88 career victories place him eighth all-time at Appalachian. Pasone fell to Campbell's Nathan Kraisser, 16-1, before he was able to battle back to blast Gardner-Webb's Landon LoAlbo with a 20-7 major decision before defeating Alonzo Allen in an 18-1 technical fall in the third place match.

Conference all-freshman selection Smith finished the regular season with an impressive 24 wins (14 bonus point victories) and only eight losses, going 13-3 in duals. He started off the conference tournament with a 9-1 major decision before getting another major decision when he defeated Jonathan Ryan of Campbell, 12-1, to get to the first place bout. The freshman would fall to Chattanooga's Chris Debian 7-4 in double overtime to finish second overall.

The NCAA Tournament begins Thursday, March 16 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, Mo.

### 2017 DI WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, March 16

Time - Event - Location

- 10 a.m. - Gates open - Scottrade Center
- 11 a.m. - Session I - Scottrade Center
- 2 - 6 p.m. - NCAA Fan Festival - St. Louis Union Station
- 4:30 p.m. - Gates Open - Scottrade Center
- 6 p.m. - Session II - Scottrade Center

#### Friday, March 17

Time - Event - Location

- 9 a.m. - Gates Open - Scottrade Center
- 10 a.m. - Session III - Scottrade Center
- 1 - 6:30 p.m. - NCAA Fan Festival - St. Louis Union Station
- 5:30 p.m. - Gates open - Scottrade Center
- 7 p.m. - Session IV - Scottrade Center

#### Saturday, March 18

Time - Event - Location

- 9 a.m. - Gates open - Scottrade Center
- 10 a.m. - Session V - Scottrade Center
- Noon - 6:30 p.m. - NCAA Fan Festival - St. Louis Union Station
- 5:30 p.m. - Gates open - Scottrade Center
- 6:35 - 6:50 p.m. - Parade of All-Americans Scottrade Center
- 7 p.m. - Session VI - Scottrade Center

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