

Finesilver Duo Brings Home Hokie Open Titles

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Results

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ROANOKE, Va. – Duke redshirt senior Mitch Finesilver and sophomore Matt Finesilver both brought home Hokie Open titles to kick off the 2018-19 wrestling season. Mitch took the top spot at 149, while Matt captured gold at 174.

Josh Finesilver finished fifth at 141 pounds, while Kaden Russell advanced to the consolation semifinal round.

Mitch, coming off of a hard-fought match against top-ranked Matthew Kolodzik at the NWCA All-Star Classic, rebounded in outstanding fashion after a cross-country flight. He cruised through his first two matches with a pair of technical falls over Chattanooga's Zach Shareef and Tejon Anthony of George Mason.

In the semifinals, the three-time NCAA qualifier edged UNC's Austin O'Connor 3-2. An escape early in the second period proved to be the difference as O'Connor couldn't score on Mitch in the third. The title match pitted the Blue Devil 149-pounder against another ACC foe. This time Mitch controlled the entire match, scoring a pair of takedowns on Virginia Tech's Ryan Blee. The Hokie got on the board in the third with an escape, but it was all Mitch in the 6-1 victory for the crown.

At 174 pounds, Matt was looking for his second consecutive Hokie Open championship after winning the freshman and sophomore division a year ago. His path wasn't quite as easy as Mitch's, but the title was never in doubt as he only gave up three points in his three victories. Matt scored a first-period pin to open the action and then used consecutive decisions, including the tournament-winning one over Devin Kane of North Carolina.

Josh Finesilver was dominant in first two bouts at his new 141-pound weight. He needed only 6:19 to get past his first pair of opponents with falls. His biggest challenge came next in Rustam Ampar of Virginia. Ampar turned the tables on Josh, getting the first-period pin to send the sophomore into the consolation bracket. He returned his pinning ways en route to the fifth-place match where he cruised to a 20-11 major decision over AJ Leitten of NC State.

Sophomore Kaden Russell, competing at 184 pounds, had a solid start to the season with a 2-2 record. He won his opening bout with ease before falling to host Zack Zavatsky. The Cleveland, Ohio native bounced back with a victory, but couldn't get further in the consolation bracket as UNC's Chasen Blair ended his day.

The Blue Devils return to the mat Nov. 18 at the Keystone Classic in Philadelphia.