

Wrestling Mocs host Division II, NAIA foes



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By Ward Gossett Assistant Sports Editor

There will be some tired wrestlers on the mat today when the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga hosts Anderson (S.C.) University and Cumberland University.

The Mocs had grueling workouts Friday morning and afternoon as they continue preparations for the Cliff Keen Invitational in Las Vegas next weekend.

"We'll probably be a little tired tomorrow, but the guys will have to fight through it," Mocs coach Chris Bono said Friday.

The Mocs (2-0) will wrestle NCAA Division II member Anderson at 1 p.m. and NAIA member Cumberland at 3 in their last home meets until a Jan. 12 battle with American University.

"I know very little about either team," Bono said. "We have been concentrating on ourselves, and if we do the things we have been practicing, then we'll find a way to win."

Former Tennessee state champion Ryan Fuller from Soddy-Daisy is a Cumberland freshman and is expected to weigh in at 141 pounds. UTC wrestled in the Missouri Open last weekend and came away with a champion in Matt Keller (133) and runners-up in Javier Maldonado (125) and Aaron Martin (149). Josh Keefe (133) placed third and Michael Keefe (141) was fifth.

There will be an extra individual contest this afternoon, a challenge match between Nick Davis and Seth Garvin to determine who will be making the trip to Las Vegas as UTC's 165-pounder. Each will then wrestle one of the varsity matches.

The Mocs are still without Shawn Cordell (125), Josh Edmondson (184) and Matt Koz (197/285). The three will not be eligible until the second semester. Even when eligible, Koz will sit out the Mocs' first post-January conference meet. He was disqualified in the Missouri Open after reaching the championship semifinals while wrestling unattached.

"We're cracking down," Bono said. "You don't have to like losing, but you don't leave your emotions out there. This is a sport and we are going to conduct ourselves as sportsmen."