

## Mocs hand UNCG first SoCon loss

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By Ward Gossett

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Even a substitute referee couldn't slow the express known as the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga wrestling team.

UTC moved into first place in the Southern Conference Saturday with a 24-18 win at UNC Greensboro, and the Mocs did it after the referee didn't show and had to be replaced with UNCG assistant coach C.C. Fisher.

"It wasn't a problem for me, UTC coach Chris Bono said. "I know the guy. He worked for a while at Iowa State when I was there and I trust him."

In handing UNCG its first conference loss of the season, the Mocs moved to 12-1 overall and 2-0 in the league.

"We really didn't wrestle very well," Bono said. "Everybody looked a little sluggish. I hope we can overcome it and wrestle a little better tomorrow."

The Mocs left Greensboro immediately after the meet and headed for Boone, N.C., where they will wrestle at 2 p.m. today against Appalachian State. Ryan Scott, a four-time state champion at McCallie, wrestles for the Mountaineers.

"I have learned that I have a tough group of wrestlers," Bono said. "We all should get a good night's rest and hopefully everybody will feel better."

Javier Maldonado's decision at 125 gave the Mocs a 3-0 lead and back-to-back pins from Aaron Martin (149) and Jake Yost (157) extended their advantage to 15-3. T.J. Sayers extended the advantage to 18-3. Lloyd Rogers was upset 9-7 by UNCG's Joe Lowe, but Josh Edmondson countered that with a decision at 184 pounds before the Spartans ended the meet with a pin from 197-pound Nick Clark and heavyweight Joe Sheffield's forfeit victory.

The Mocs made one major adjustment in their lineup against UNCG, subbing in redshirt freshman Cody Cleveland of McCallie for Michael Keefe, who has been hampered with several nagging injuries.

"Cody was up 12-7 in the third period and then got beat, and Lloyd Rogers didn't wrestle very well," Bono said.

The Mocs won six of the 10 bouts and might have gotten seven if not for a heavyweight forfeit. Matt Koz was suspended by the conference for one meet after getting disqualified at the Missouri Open.

He is expected to be in the lineup today but after that it is anybody's guess because Bono took several extra wrestlers including Josh Keefe (133), Cleveland, Joey Knox (157), Seth Garvin (165), Mike Marable (184) and Kyle McKee (197).

"We'll weigh in and see which guys are healthy," Bono said. "It's a conference match so I'm excited about that and I'm anxious to see if we improve on the second of back-to-back days."

The Mocs continue conference wrestling Wednesday with a 6 p.m. meet at Maclellan Gym against The Citadel (3-4, 0-0).

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