Sports Harter ends spectacular Oregon career at NCAA's

By Kevin Hiestand

Of the Emeral

Although the Oregon wrestling team did not fare too well in the Pacific-10 championships held March 2 in Pullman, Wash., senior Mike Harter captured the individual title at 177 pounds and now qualifies for the NCAA tournament Friday thru Sunday in Iowa City. Iowa

During his short two-year career at Oregon, Harter has been showered with accolades as much as the Willamette Valley has been showered with rain.

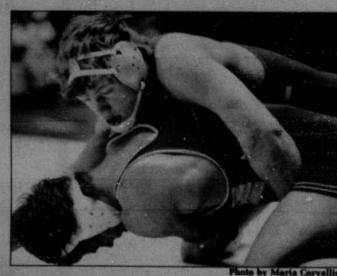
After compiling a school-record 40 wins last year and a second place finish in the Pac-10 tournament, Harter has continued his success on the mat this year with a 36-7-1 record.

"Mike is very durable and very competitive, and he never misses practice," Oregon coach and 1984 Olympic coach Ron Finley. Harter has won 22 of his last 25 matches, and if he.

wins two more matches at the national tournament, he will break into Oregon's top 10 on the career victory list with 78 victories. Quite an accomplishment consider-ing he has been here only two years.

The road to Oregon was a long one for Harter, who graduated from high school in New Orleans in 1981. Harter was selected as a member of the national high school "Dream Team" as selected by a poll of college coaches in his senior season.

From there, Harter went to Iowa State University, a perennial NCAA wrestling power. However, a poor relationship with the coach forced Harter to transfer to Iowa Central University. It was at ICU that Finley first saw Harter wrestle. After the 1984 Olympic trials,



Oregon senior Mike Harter (top) is on his way to the NCAA championship wrestling tournament this weekend in Iowa City, Iowa.

Finley convinced Harter to transfer to Oregon.

Since then, both men have learned to respect the other to the utmost degree.

"He is the best coach in the country - he's so con-cerned with the kids' lives outside of wrestling." Harter said of Finley.

If desire has much to do with competing well at the NCAA tournament, then Harter has had a lot going for him.

"I would like to win very much, it is very impor-

tant to me," Harter said. Last year he qualified and won his first match, but lost in the second round to the eventual runner-up in the 190-pound class.

This year Harter has trimmed down to become an effective 177-pound wrestler, and his coach likes his chances in the NCAA's.

'If Mike wrestles well, he could go far in the NCAA's," Finley said.

Once the tournament and the term end, Harter and his wife of six months, Stephanie, plan to stay in Eugene and work toward their respective degrees. Harter is majoring in therapeutic-recreation and hopes to find an internship in the Spring or Fall next year. Currently Harter is working as a peer adviser in the leisure studies department.

Another reason Harter would like to stay in Eugene after graduation is his respect for Finley, and a desire to get into coaching.

"You never know, (assistant coach) Dean Dixon might get offered another job, and I could help Coach Finley." Harter said. He also plans to start training for the United States World Cup team in Greco-Roman wrestling after graduation. "I'll have a better chance at making the team next

year (1987) because I will have has more time to train for that style (Greco-Roman) of wrestling," Harter said.

Greco-Roman is a style of wrestling used in the World Cup and Olympic games and relies on upper-body strength since no holds are allowed below the waist:

'Greco-Roman is best suited for Mike because of upper-body strength." Finley says.

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