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◆ **PROFILE** ◆

VIDLAK

Continued from Page 1B

Feeling sufficiently trained, it was time for the mini-grudge match. Weighing about 20 (OK, 25) pounds more than Vidlak, the first thing I did was reassure him that I wouldn't hurt him. He didn't appear too concerned.

We were to wrestle for two one-minute periods. Each of us would start in the "up" position for one period. Vidlak reminded me once again the walls were inbound, so I couldn't keep running outside of the wrestling circle to stall for time.

Being in the up position to start the match, I figured a simple strategy would be to sprawl on top of Dan for the first minute and keep him down. I would come away with a 0-0 tie and some accumulated riding time, in good shape for the second period.

I started well and got a good grip around his waist, but he unfairly distracted me by saying I had an illegal grip. I loosened my grip for a second, and in an instant I found myself on my stomach with my right elbow in the vicinity of my left ear.

The first period ended none too soon. Scott Seymour, Dan's teammate, yelled that the score was 6-0, Vidlak. OK, I figured, I gave him some near-fall points, but I had the second period to catch up. If I could just get a hold of the little jellyfish, maybe I could even put him on his back.

It was now my turn to be in the "down position." Before we began, I turned to Dan and asked if he would allow me to escape and gain a sympathy point. He thought about it for two seconds, replied "not" and proceeded to toss me around the mat like a demonstration dummy.

I couldn't say where one move began and another ended, but Seymour told me that in the span of less than a minute I had experienced firsthand the "Bowling Ball," the "Body Scissors," the "Boston Lobster," the "Banana Split," and a variety of other moves I had only seen on late-night TV.

The move that finally did me in was the "Gullotine." With my pelvis seemingly detaching from my spine and my mind thinking, "Gee, those ceiling lights are bright," Vidlak pinned me fair and square. Official time of the fall: 38 seconds into the second period.

As I caught my breath, Vidlak ran back into the sauna.

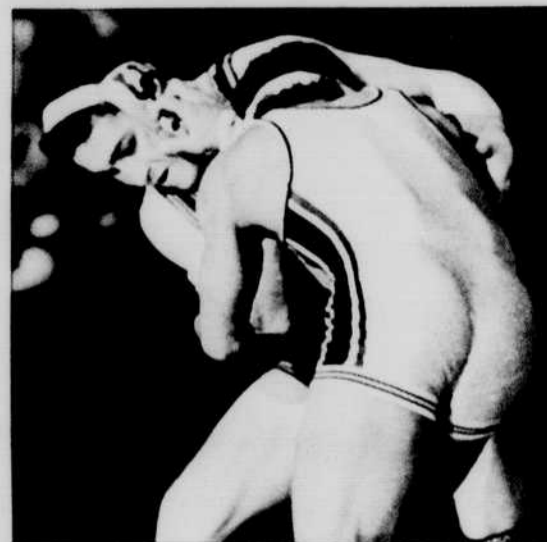


Photo by Sean Poston
Oregon wrestler Dan Vidlak, the nation's second-best at 118 pounds, is a takedown specialist.

"Thanks for coming," he said. "Now I have three career pins."

After experiencing Vidlak's abilities firsthand, I definitely can relate to the opponents Vidlak has humiliated and frustrated over his career. I can appreciate why he is one of the top wrestlers in the country. He is a superb technician and an excellently conditioned athlete who has been blessed with extraordinary speed and coordination.

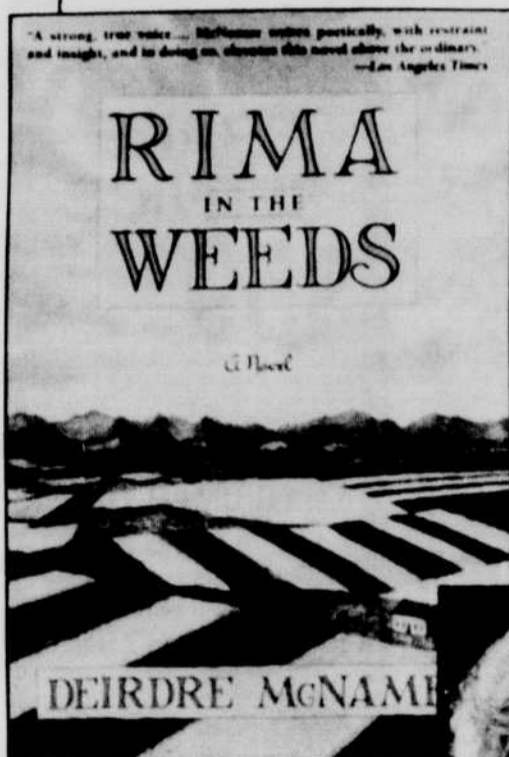
As coach Finley says, for anyone to even have a chance to beat Vidlak, they would have to wrestle a perfect, all-out seven-minute match.

Finley speaks so highly of Vidlak that he often compares Dan to the legendary Oregon track star, Steve Prefontaine.

"Prefontaine was able to run his opponents into the ground. They would just give up," he said. "Dan has the similar ability to make others quit. He is always able to raise his wrestling a notch above his opponent's."

After the NCAA season, Vidlak will try out for the Olympic team. He believes his best shot to make the team will be in the 105-pound weight category.

"I'm not worried about making the weight," he said. "I'll just have to spend a few extra hours in the sauna."



DEIRDRE McNAMER

Paperback \$10.00

A native of Montana, Deirdre McNamer grew up in Conrad and Cut Bank, on the Hi-Line. She lives in Missoula, Montana.

RIMA IN THE WEEDS

Rima In The Weeds...is a refreshing look at the far west from a woman's point of view. Deirdre McNamer is a new and talented female voice, an asset to the literary tradition of the American West. This, her first novel, offers an insightful but unsentimental portrait of women growing up in a land of limited opportunity and bonechilling loneliness, who have first to imagine a life for themselves and then create it.

Rima In The Weeds is set in the imaginary town of Madrid, Montana, in 1963, the year between the Cuban Missile Crisis and JFK's assassination. McNamer paints a classic picture of small-town life with her characters' dreams of going away, their peculiar fixations, a resident madwoman, and a fledgling restaurant called the Bull's Eye serving as the town's social hub and heartbeat.



"A beautifully moving tale... This first novel has everything to be hoped for in a book — a compelling story, a mastery of dialogue and character, the satisfying sense of a pilgrimage undertaken and completed." *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A splendid novel... Nothing that happens is quite what you'd expect, just as no one is quite what they seem on the surface. Everything packs a secret punch." *Chicago Tribune*

"Ms. McNamer's best character, Margaret Greensfield, is an achievement; she imbues this moody and portentous young woman with all the odd, bittersweet angles of adolescence." *New York Times Book Review*

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