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Oregon's Jarrett Clark beats Cal-Poly's Michael Contreras 7-2 in the the first round at the Pacific-10 Conference Wrestling Championships this weekend at McArthur Court.

Vidlak pins down championship

By Erick Studenicka

In a fitting conclusion to an extraordinary career, Oregon wrestler Dan Vidlak captured the 118-pound title and the Outstanding Wrestler Award in the Pacific-10 Conference Wrestling Championships this weekend at McArthur Court.

Vidlak steamrolled over his competition in the tournament, recording a technical fall and a pin on his way to the final. In the championship match against Mickey Nunez of Arizona State, Vidlak jumped out to a 16-6 advantage after two periods as he could take down Nunez at will.

In the third period, the only question became whether Vidlak would be able to gain the 15point advantage necessary for a technical fall. With Nunez barely able to stand because of fatigue, Vidlak recorded a final takedown in the last 10 seconds to register a 23-8 victory.

Vidlak's win raised his season record to 23-1 and enabled him to finish his career unbeaten at

I wasn't really thinking about my home unbeaten streak," he said. "Everything worked out well in this tournament.

In the team competition, Oregon State jumped out to an early lead and finished ahead of Arizona State by the comfortable margin of 124-95. Oregon finished in fourth with 84 points.

Other finalists for the Ducks included Pat Craig at 150 pounds and Scott Myers at 190 pounds. With three wrestlers in the finals, the Ducks trailed only Oregon State (6) and Arizona State (5) in championship round representation.

Craig, suffering from an injured shoulder and torn cartilage in his knee, gamely faced off against the only unbeaten wrestler in the conference, Nels Nelson of Boise State. Nelson recorded a takedown and escape to gain a three-point advantage going into the third period, but Craig cut the lead 3-1 with an escape of his own.

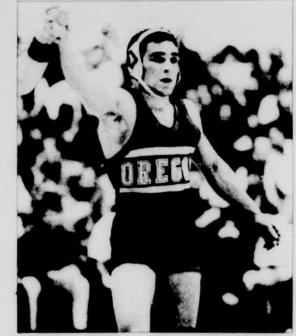
With time running out, Craig had Nelson in position for a takedown, but the referee ruled Nelson out of bounds, ending Craig's upset bid.

Myers battled Oregon State wrestler Jeff Monson for the 190-pound championship in what turned out to be the closest match of the evening. Monson, wearing a mask for protection, led Myers 3-1 after two periods.

Myers escaped and reduced the lead to 3-2, founding himself in the same position as Craig, needing a late takedown for the win. Although warned for stalling, Monson avoided Myers for the final two minutes and became the Beavers' third individual champion.

Other Ducks placing in the top three — and thereby advancing to the NCAA Championships March 18 in Oklahoma - include Jarrett Clark at 126 pounds and Darren Gustafson at 158 pounds. Gustafson earned his trip to Oklahoma with a 2-0 overtime win over Andy Leathers of Boise State.

Oregon State coach Mark Johnson was a bit surprised by the margin of victory in the Beavers' tri-



Dan Vidlak's arm is raised in victory for the last time at McArthur Court. Vidlak ends his career unbeaten in home-court matches

umph over favored Arizona State.

'What we had was a total team performance," Johnson said. "We had ten place winners, which is the way to win tournaments. All we wanted to do was win, we didn't care if it was by ten points or one point.

Oregon head coach Ron Finley wasn't surprised by the final results.

OSU has good overall depth," he said. "When Wayne McMinn (the Sun Devils' wrestler at 142 pounds who lost in the first round) was eliminated, the team race was over. For ASU to have had a chance, they needed all of their wrestlers to make the final.

Finley was pleased five Oregon wrestlers had qualified for the NCAA meet, and said the squad has a chance to improve on last year's 14th place NCAA tournament finish.

The most entertaining match was the 126pound final pitting Oregon State's Babak Mohammadi and Arizona State's Shawn Charles.

Resembling a barroom brawl at times, the two displayed non-stop offense. Charles, ranked fourth in the country, finally pulled away with two takedowns in the final period to finish off Mohammadi, 14-11.

Other individual champions included Lyndon Campbell (134 pounds) of Cal-State Fullerton, Ryan Sugai (142) of Oregon State, Ray Miller (158) of Arizona State, Trent Flack (167) of Oregon State, Eric Schwartz (177) of Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, and Mike Anderson (Heavyweight) of Arizona State.