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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920  
217/581-5981

LS-Hts

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (March 17, 1987)--Two of Eastern Illinois University's wrestlers will attempt to achieve the highest honor of all collegiate athletes when they travel to College Park, MD to compete in the NCAA Division I National Championship, beginning Thursday (March 19).

All-American honors are at stake when Eastern's CRAIG STERR (JOLIET-WEST) and DEMETRIUS HARPER (CHICAGO HEIGHTS-RICH CENTRAL HS/LINCOLN JC) join the best wrestlers in the nation at the three-day meet. The top six placers in each weight class receive All-American status.

"Their chances are as good as anyone else's," said coach Ralph McCausland. "This is the national tournament, and anything can happen."

Sterr, a 118-pounder, will be making his first appearance in the prestigious tournament. He will carry a 27-7 record into tournament after sweeping through the Western Regional with three victories and a championship. Sterr defeated Dan Huffman of Northern Iowa 5-0 in overtime of the title match to advance to the national meet.

Harper, a heavyweight, is making his second appearance in the tournament. Last year, he was eliminated in the first round. Harper has a 30-4 record this season and was runner-up at the Western Regional. His only loss came against fifth-ranked Joel Greenlee of Northern Iowa in the championship bout.

"Both of these guys have the capability to place," said McCausland. "Demetrius knows the atmosphere of the national tournament because he's been there. But I don't think it will affect Craig because he doesn't let the crowd bother him in any meet.

"There are a lot of things that come into play at the national tournament. Mental preparation is the most important, but the way the seeds go and who you draw in the first round also has an impact on the wrestlers."