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## 01/29/1987 - EIU Wrestling Team

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# Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston, IL 61920  
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23

CHARLESTON, IL.-Eastern Illinois University's wrestling team saves its best for last when heavyweight DEMETRIUS HARPER (CHICAGO HEIGHTS-RICH CENTRAL/LINCOLN CC) hits the mat.

HARPER may be the last one to wrestle in the ten man lineup but he's No. 1 on the team in wins and best bet to advance to the NCAA tournament.

HARPER and his Panther teammates will show their stuff in two upcoming home meets hosting Illinois State at 7:30 Friday (Feb. 6) and Edinboro State, 7:30 Tuesday (Feb. 10) in Lantz Gym. EIU has a 3-4 dual meet record.

The only senior starter on the team and only national qualifier returning, HARPER'S first goal is to get back to the NCAA tournament. "I want to go back again but I want to do better . . .not like last year when I lost in the first round," he said.

With a 23-2 record he is certainly no stranger to winning. He has won three tournaments this year and finished second at the Hoosier Invitational last Sunday. His other loss was in the finals of the Illinois Open back in December.

HARPER has won big at every level. He was 4th in the state high school tournament as a senior, 5th in the nation as a Juco freshman and 6th his sophomore year.

Although he's wrestling well as a senior, COACH RALPH MCCAUSLAND believe Harper has just touched his potential. "This is his last chance to be an All-American ... and he really has a good chance. He just has to keep putting everything he can into it."

HARPER admits he has done "fairly well this season. I just try to push my opponents hard to get the crucial points to win matches. And if I push myself I should do OK."