

Morris inks with Clackamas

The Oregon City wrestling standout plans to help lead the Cougars to the national team title

by John Denny

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OREGON CITY — Oregon City High School wrestling standout Jake Morris has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for Clackamas

Community College.

"Part of the reason I chose to stay here in Oregon City is because of the Cougars' national success and the success I think they will continue to have," Morris said. "After they took third in the nation, that was a big eye-opener to me...."

"They've got a few young recruits who are pretty good, and we could do even better next year."

Morris joins a program that is coming off one of the most successful seasons in school history. The Cougars placed third at the 2009 National

Junior College Athletic Association Championship Tournament, with five All-Americans.

"I believe that Jake has the ability to help move us toward the team title we are working for here at Clackamas," said Clackamas coach Josh Rhoden.

Morris said that Oregon State University and Cal State also expressed an interest in recruiting him.

But he said that after conversations with acquaintances who know about the Clackamas Community program, it was "an easy choice."

"Hopefully it will set me up to get a scholarship to a [NCAA] Division I program," said Morris. "That's the plan."

Morris comes to CCC with plenty of credentials. He earned a 127-31 record in high school collegiate wrestling — with 95 falls. He holds school career and freshmen (20), sophomore (25), junior

(27) and senior (23) class records for falls.

Morris placed in the top three at state three times, first at 135 pounds as a sophomore, second at 145 as a junior and third at 160 as a senior.

Morris is only the second wrestler in Oregon City High School history to have won district titles all four years. Ryan Snegirev (1998-2002), a two-time state champion, was the first.

Three Rivers League coaches twice named Morris the TRL District Tournament's "outstanding wrestler."

Morris recently took up mixed martial arts. He competes regularly as an amateur in the cage fights at Portland's Roseland Theater.

He said he plans to begin working out with Clackamas Community College wrestlers in open gyms this week.



photo by JAIME VALDEZ

Oregon City senior Jake Morris