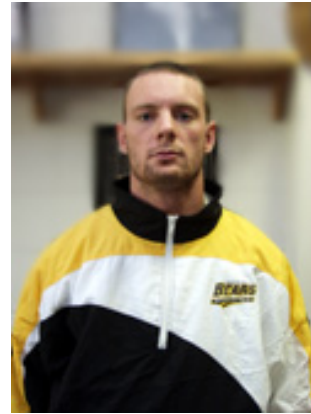




Andre Moore



Eric Florance



Josh Langlois

Wrestling Bears at Mott Community College Defending All-American Honors and Country with Service in Military

It wasn't enough for Mott Community College student-athletes Andre Moore and Eric Florance to honor the MCC community with capturing prestigious All-American honors in wrestling last season. Moore of Flint and Florance of Otisville chose to join the ranks of the brave men and women protecting our country in the military. Currently, Moore is serving in Iraq with the army and Florance is in basic training for the army, but may compete on the wrestling team next semester after completing his basic training. Also competing on the Bears' 2004-05 team is Iraqi war army veteran Josh Langlois of Fenton. Langlois and Moore, who were high school competitors, help make up the MCC team hailing from area high schools that have won three of four 2004 Michigan Team State Championships.

MCC Wrestling Bears Coach Paul Holdren, acknowledging that last year's inaugural team was "built on something from nothing – no team, no uniforms, no schedule" – is not surprised by the wrestlers' willingness to serve their country. "These young men are dedicated, well-disciplined, hard working individuals," Holdren said. "The sport of wrestling builds character and provides opportunities for its participants to fulfill personal goals as well as achieve their full athletic potential." Holdren shared a recent e-mail he received from Andre

Moore, in which he stated: “. . . The things you taught us about being mentally and physically tough have helped me overcome a lot of situations out here . . . Tell all the guys I said good luck, work hard and bar none!”

The type of wrestling performed at MCC is the collegiate style practiced in American high schools and colleges. Developing into a competitive program, the MCC Wrestling Bears qualified four wrestlers into the 2004 National Collegiate Wrestling Association Nationals, finishing 12th in the nation. There are only seven colleges in Michigan with wrestling programs, Holdren said. MCC is the only school along Michigan’s industrial I-75 corridor with a wrestling program. “Genesee County is known as a hotbed for wrestling talent, regularly providing the state with many of its best individual wrestlers, and often its finest teams at all levels of competition,” Holdren said. These young men are shining examples of what it takes to win on the collegiate level, on the world stage, and in life. We are working hard to build MCC’s wrestling program into one that will be Michigan’s next step to the Division I university level.”

The Wrestling Bears are affiliated with the National Wrestling Collegiate Association, the nation’s fastest growing wrestling university program. Wrestlers who are full-time students and academically eligible have the possibility of competing in the National Junior College Athletic Association's regional in order to qualify for the NJCAA national tournament. For more information about MCC’s Wrestling Bears, call Coach Paul Holdren at (810) 762-0417.