

PIERCE HARGER

School: Moeller // Class: 2010 // Ht: 5-10 // Wt: 152
College: Northwestern // Nickname: The Hebrew Hammer

Year	Weight Class	Record	State Finish
2008-09	145	39-5	3rd

Last season during a meet, an announcer introduced Harger as "The Hebrew Hammer," a nickname that has caught on locally. "It's pretty funny," Harger says, "because my mom is basically Jewish, my dad is Methodist but I go to an all-Catholic school."

HARGER'S FAVORITES

Movies: "Hustle and Flow" & "V for Vendetta"
TV Show: "Eastbound & Down" // Musical Artist: Eminem
Athlete: Tom Brady // Sneaker: Supra Footwear
Clothing Line: Urban Outfitters
Video Game: NCAA Football

AFTER PRACTICES AND HOME WRESTLING meets, Moeller's Pierce Harger hops into his Nissan Altima and heads northeast to his house in Loveland, nearly 25 minutes from the school.

His classmate, Jake Corrill, turns the key in the ignition of his black Audi GT and drives southeast to Batavia, close to 40 minutes away from Moeller.

While the two senior grapplers live in different corners of suburban Cincinnati, their wrestling careers have brought them as close as brothers. As freshmen, Harger and Corrill quickly forged a bond, and they've remained close throughout their careers. Whether it's carrying their gear to practice together or sitting in the stands game-planning before matches, there aren't many wrestling-related activities they don't do together. Away from the mat, they've even gone on double dates together.

"We are pretty tight; we hang out a lot during school and wrestling," says Corrill. "We don't hang out a lot (outside of school), but I'd say he's my best friend."

Soon, each hopes to add a state title to the

mix. Last year, the two were closer than ever to capturing a Division I championship.

"It was tough," says Corrill, who finished third at 119 pounds last season but will wrestle at 125 this year. "I wanted to win it since freshman year."

Harger, who placed third at 145 pounds and is now wrestling at 152, shared in his friend's disappointment.

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Harger says of his 9-6 loss to St. Ignatius' David Habat in the semifinals.

With one last shot at a state crown on the horizon, Harger and Corrill have a common goal: use their friendship to elevate each other past the close calls and follow in the footsteps of former Moeller stars Germane Lindsey and Frank

Becker, both of whom ended their careers with championships in 2007.

"We looked up to them," says Harger. "They treated us good (when we were freshmen). We try to emulate that now that we're seniors. We are trying to be good team leaders and have a productive year."

Harger, the more decorated of the two, entered the winter rated the nation's No. 11 wrestler in the 152-pound weight class by InterMat. Corrill has flown under the radar nationally, but state favorites Logan Stieber of Monroeville and Gus Sako of St. Edward would be unwise to underestimate him.

"They're going to be two of the top kids in the state," says Moeller head coach Jeff Gaier of his senior stars. "They're our anchors, and we expect a lot out of them."

To meet Gaier's expectations, Harger and Corrill both had to work back to full strength after sustaining offseason injuries. Corrill injured his back in April, and a few months later the injury bug bit Harger, who hurt his shoulder.

They kept each other upbeat during the recovery process and were ready to go by the beginning of the season, which was great news