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Arizona State's Zahid Valencia Wins Second Consecutive NCAA Championship

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PITTSBURGH – In dramatic fashion, three-time All-American Zahid Valencia won his second consecutive NCAA championship, defending his title from 2018, also over Penn State's Mark Hall.

Valencia became the first Sun Devil in history to win national championships at the same weight class in back-to-back years. He became the third all-time Sun Devil to win two championships (also: Dan St. John in 1989, 1990 at two different weight classes; Markus Mollica in 1993, 1995).

He also became the sixth Pac-10/12 Conference wrestler to successfully defend his NCAA title. The others were Oregon State's Jess Lewis (HWT) in 1969-70, Greg Stroble (190) in 1973-74, Dan Hicks (142) in 1978-79, and Les Gutches (177) in 1995-96 and CSUB's Stephen Neal (HWT) in 1998-99.

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