



Buffalo wrestler is released from rehab center

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Wrestler Dan Bishop is not only up on his feet a little over a month after sustaining a life-threatening spinal cord injury: The senior also intends to walk on stage to pick up his diploma next month.

In the latest step in Bishop's remarkable recovery, the University at Buffalo athlete was released from a rehabilitation center in Schenectady, N.Y., the school announced Tuesday. Bishop returned home to Whitehall, N.Y., a day after he spent 45 minutes walking unassisted.

"It kicked my butt," Bishop said of walking for that long. "But I was really happy to go that far. I feel great and have no pain at all, outside of getting tired pretty quickly."

He will continue receiving therapy as an outpatient twice a week.

It's now Bishop's objective to return to Buffalo to complete his coursework late next month. Under school rules, he will be allowed to attend graduation during the first weekend of May because he is only a few credits shy of graduating.

Bishop lost all feeling to his extremities after sustaining a fracture between two vertebrae and

American Conference 125-pound semifinal match in Saginaw, Mich.

Doctors were credited for acting quickly by conducting emergency surgery during which they fused the two vertebrae back together and installed a metal plate and permanent screws to support his spine. Bishop spent nearly two weeks recovering in Michigan, before being transferred to Schenectady.

"I can't thank people enough for all their cards, e-mails and notes. It has kept me going," Bishop said. "I can't wait to get back to Buffalo and see everyone in person."

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