

I can't get the perma-grin off of MY FACE now as I relish in just HOW far this kid has come in now making the varsity for Eaton Rapids, going undefeated this past weekend, and doing his thing out there at a new school, new team. You will recall how much we put into him before his departure, and latent growth to actually wrestling for TEAM MICHIGAN!

But, on this day, it was all about what E.J. had become – a GREYHOUND, a 112 varsity, HIGH SCHOOL wrestler and actually – FOLKSTYLER, which we had NOTHING really to do with if I had done my job CORRECTLY in previous years. Troy Nault has had him more so under his wing since departure, and I knew E.J. was in good hands, just didn't know the HIGH SCHOOL COACH was all, but it seems that is GOOD TOO!

E.J. excelling, I have had also Cage over to some practicing at the facility from time to time, YES, back on return, Cage completed his punishment, said not one word about such, and bit his tongue “like a man” to correct his previous infraction. He was welcomed right back after, and since he has been awesome to see AND HEAR, as he always checks in.

Thomas Houston, one in the same with the other Waverly guys, great to see him in from time to time to the facility, always looking for an extra work out, I much to easy to oblige, as him and his brother were some of our longer term members of the Adult Extension over at CCWC and Sexton (just visited THAT practice last week in fact!!!!).

Thomas was one of the first actual WAIVERED athletes TO THE Adult Extension in fact, between him, Devyn, and middle Rocha, since they all were eager to train with us, but were just not old enough to initially qualify. Hoping reports are WRONG, as of last week I heard MIDDLE Rocha wasn't wrestling anymore, although Devyn is tearing it up.

YES, a proud coach I have to say I am, I can remember almost all of these kids first wrestling, and starting, what they looked like, how they did, first match won usually, and more. As for Thomas, like I always say, “he just could NOT walk a straight line”, let alone WRESTLE. But, look how far he came, small time, now varsity, undefeated weeks ago!

As for E.J., he was almost EXACTLY like Thomas, almost, at least in body composition. I couldn't even get him to score a point or win a match almost the entire time I had him, yet he'd ALWAYS do great in practice and have the BEST attitude. I KNEW he'd flourish later, I knew it, just didn't know WHEN. How proud everyone is of him now, perserverance!

In contrast, Thomas may have been a “diamond in the ruff”, quickly advancing within less then a year, but then exponentially within the next year THERE AFTER. But, let us now forget my other little GRECO STUD, as I call him in Devyn Smyth! This was Thomas' previous adversary on the mat, and even today, they are STILL only 1 weight divided!

Devyn, has been doing MMA, every sport known to man, suffered multiple injuries, and yet is STILL back on the mat making a difference. I had two veteran wrestlers, one from Perry, one from Morris the other night in our tri-meet, and STILL Devyn beat both, and Devyn is like Thomas, ONLY A FRESHMAN! I didn't see a lot of Greco, jajaja but STILL!

As we ousted Haslett on that night, Devyn and I didn't have time to talk, but you all would have laughed, as I couldn't help but be CHAGRIN this day. I had so much appreciation for Haslett Wrestling through Larry McCormick, and Devyn's mom, Coach Byrd, & working with Michael Grenwalt, that is was hard not be excited seeing them all again.

But, there they all were, before the match, after, in the stands. I couldn't help but go over and make a fool of myself saying hello. No reason to do such since I was the opposition, game faces on for the match, but I couldn't help it. Only Larry was missing from this day.

Seeing all these kids now growing up is weird, INDEED for a coach, flourishing in wrestling though is really our goal, no matter what team. Those kids don't forget, and EITHER DO WE. Much pride back then to them, as there are so MANY in fact right now that we TAUGHT wrestling to in fact, that are equally doing AWESOME, like the following:

*BRECK, Dewitt, Ron's son – 171 or so wt. class, tearing it up LAST YEAR too (taught with us over at CCWC)

*Reggie Jr. and Ray Ray Duncan – 189 & 135 or so, both transferred actually from Haslett OVER to Williamston, and been tearing it up between Ray Ray's injury, little Reg going like UNDEFEATED for this season so far I hear (if correct)!

*Can't remember his name, but the youth that came in to the facility to train with my coach – Andy, little guy, cousin to a neighborhood kid, we saw wrestling out with Charlotte now, same kid that Forest was training with and against!

Freestyle and Greco can truly impact a wrestler's career, that is true, double season, double training, experience, and confidence. And, talking about such, there is one of the other GRECO coaches like myself, also previous MSU HWT – Matt Lamb, out at Williamston tearing it UP with the Duncans, and coach Weber! Yes, they won it all last weekend!

Couldn't believe it, saw the caliber of all teams present, even WHO they beat in other divisions, as Matt was able to carry Williamston over HUGE wins like over Portland, who had AGAIN just beat Eaton Rapids, various OTHER teams, and then the OTHER big dog with Coach Byers (Brian), with DEWITT! OH YES, Dewitt's been on FIRE!

(not to mention that we draw WILLIAMSTON for our Team Districts with Portland, but also Dewitt in a QUAD SOON, GEEZ! WAIT, jajaja, we even have Charlotte again,

As noted above, as capital renovations' projects are ongoing now, LCC Wrestling Club has been on break, but not dead. We already had ordered in and received their t-shirts, plus applied for our SECOND grant on record for this year to then order in the first set of prototype singlets for them TOO! If awarded, they, the singlets, will be the first of their KIND!

Stay tuned then for more on LCC Wrestling Club, and their training in 2010. Obviously the goal is STILL after finishing the walls and gymnasium – with the bleachers, to redirect to much more for the club, like through completion of the club's shower room and then after such – up stairs for any type of lodging/quarters approved. Internet lab just UPDATED!

Yes, annually I would like to think we are DOING OUR JOB in all areas, especially me, so after some quick maintenance checks between our annual reporting this time of year, I managed to do maintenance, and pay additionally for such on all facility electronics! That means all arcade games work, all T.V. video systems, & even all computers in the student lab!!!

CONGRATS! AND, MERRY X-MAS!

And no everyone, the Whiskey Barrel is not our account for doing MMA, and was not approved to be done.

But, on a brighter note, we are reportedly almost DONE with our Heavy-bag holder for the gymnasium also! Our new boxing coach – Ricky Uribe and myself had already picked up the steel from a generous donation from Bill, out in Portland. From such, Ricky had found an initial contact to get such welded together, and are reportedly ALMOST DONE!

As for training, I have to be honest, as we have a LOT of training planned for 2010, but want to be fair about how such is approached right now during these times also, because the walls are not yet complete, and when first entering the gymnasium for example, before the heat is turned on for 15-25 minutes to start, IT IS FREEZING, not kidding.

So, here are my thoughts/intent for the new year: with Anthony and myself STILL coaching full time out to Perry right now DAILY, we are unable as of yet to get the gymnasium there at an earlier time. So, practices have to go still to about 6:30pm. Knowing such, practices for us need to be set back again at our facility now till this:

7:15pm, Tue/Thr

But why, right? Well, a lot of changes that we don't want to make are probably going to have to be sacrificed for now, because without enough money coming in right now, Perry is paying our facility lease, in short. In such, practices unable to change, their meets are

ALWAYS on Wednesdays, hence no practices on those days, and we still need travel time.

Plus, we have had separate classes for LCC Wrestling Club in the past, and would love to keep such for at least another month or two of true FOLKSTYLE season for them. We can still honor that since these kids are older, out of high school, etc. But, they still have to agree on such as a “club”, on those times for days, any day, but at least twice a week, daytimes.

Beyond LCC then, Domestic Situation will still be going, and I even just heard back from Kiara, who sits on LCC’s board for their club, noting that in the future she wanted to come back in to train with Autumn and Domestic Situation. Autumn even has the big NATIONAL next month we are planning on in Wisconsin to note LADIES! Inquire!

But, while lady wrestler numbers are down for now, I have Domestic Situation blending on our new times for a while, still Tue/Thr, and Folkstyle for now, from 7:15pm then, till 9pm. It is late, I know, not happy about such, but may be the only compromise to still get the majority of the kids back in there training, even LCC and the Adult Extension too.

Yes, even LCC Wrestling Club members and Adult Extension members can come train on Tuesday and Thursdays TOGETHER in the future, Folkstyle though, but through just the rest of January, part of February 2010. It will be an accelerated practice for high scholars and beyond (unless waived – Autumn), transitioning into Freestyle/Greco by MARCH!

Just want to give a SPECIAL thanks this holiday/year end, to all our people, those serving as staff, board, previous to current athlete members, new or previous, and all those in the community like Ben Lyons from Local Union 499, Pat from DTE, Bill of Portland Steel, Tate/Joe & Chris for plumbing & so many more for their support & donations!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

And lastly, thanks so much for the continuous help, donations, AND support from our member benefactors – Brandon and Ron Western, Rob Orr, Ricky Uribe & Rudi Aguilar, my mechanic Abe, and Matt Thinkstead. Without their help, we wouldn’t have been able to probably have completed ANYTHING regarding new account, equipment, pick up’s, etc.

Matt LOANED ME HIS TRUCK, jajaja, for like TWO WEEKS almost, that SAVED the facility, NOT KIDDING EITHER! It was just a godsent. Then, Rob and my mechanic – Abe, took in all broken cars of mine to help sell while making me a deal on ANOTHER one for me to drive in between such, THANK THE LORD!!

Rudi continuously came over to BAIL US OUT when in trouble for any pick up’s we needed, no PUN INTENDED, because he always came WITH a truck to do such, which

is what was needed, THANK YOU! Then, he introduced me personally, after much consideration, to Ricky, who ended up helping ALSO pick up but also soliciting all new accounts/equipment!

Yes, Rick helped us find Ben from the Laborers' Union, the contact at a nightclub/bar, picking up of all new equipment from DTE Energy, EMU for remaining plumbing, and new trailer ALSO that is due SOON, plus the steel for the new heavy-bag holder once again, plus so much more.

As for Brandon, his brother JOSH ALSO, plus father Ron, they are a source of continuous support, making donations monthly to help us stay afloat, keep paying the rent, getting more capital renovation projects complete, plus getting ready to coach on site for more future classes and training, like the amateur MMA with Brandon, Self Defense with dad – Ron.

With Rob, my assistant, he is always there, out of sight, but never out of mind, laying low behind the scenes is his thing, but always working to get people into the facility to either help out, donate something, sign up for a class, whatever. He even is projecting to make a donation this year “over and above” a monthly one to help front the money for the wall project!

WOPA!

So you see, we know a lot of great people and have been blessed this year for X-mas to have actually worked along side them to have attempted to build something for all of our futures with this community center, maybe even that for our kids, grand kids, and their own families. It is working so far, and we are yet SO CLOSE to that completion.

Don't give up now, get more involved, give if you can – no matter what it is, and we will make this community center even BETTER in 2010. Until then though, MERRY X-MAS today, and a happy new year till we return for our first “mass, accelerated Folkstyle” class on Thursday, Jan 7th, 2010 if all goes to plan, and yes, after that, we'll be going this:

(future though, not now) Mon/Wed, various times (after Perry's season's complete)

Thanks again, two weeks behind now on completing our ANNUAL REPORTING for our first application into the NON-PROFIT STATUS and WORLD. So, bare with me as I put this LITTLE diddy out here, and then ATTEMPT to catch the website back up also, WOPA!

MERRY X-mas and HAPPY NEW YEAR from Camp Tisdale Community Center!
Shane Tisdale, Director, Camp Tisdale