



FROM MY FRONT WINDOW

By Byron Higgin, Mascot Publisher

Adam Josephson is a National Champion.

He won that honor when he helped Minnesota take a first place in the nationals in wrestling. Now, he's recorded a second in individual National wrestling in the Cadet program and he's attained all american status.

The night before he was to wrestle Indiana's Matt Sliga for the national title, he already knew he was a national champ and all american. "It was a good feeling, but we weren't done yet," Josephson said. That night he got a special call.

"Actually, I got a call from Les Engler (Minnesota assistant wrestling and assistant football coach) the night before. 'Great job, but second place sucks, you're not done yet,'" the coach told Josephson.

The night he weighed in at 185 pounds, "The guy weighing me in looked at me kinda funny, like ... you're kinda light," aren't you?"

Josephson (top row, at right in a photo with his Cadet teammates) had lost about five pounds and was wrestling a little light. All the running around this summer was taxing on his weight.



When the dust cleared, he had second place. "You always want to win but I had a great tournament," said Josephson.

Folks all over Minneota ... in fact, all over Minnesota and other places were following his every move. Thanks to the Internet, that's possible.

"There were a lot of folks following me on the internet, so it was fun," said Josephson.

Even his final match was broadcast on the Internet.

Asked if all this summer glory will help him when it comes to attaining individual and team goals in high school wrestling, the junior said, "It helps out being in a big spotlight, in pressure situations, and competing against the best in the nation. It's probably the best way to prepare."

While it's highly doubtful Adam Josephson ever really considered not competing, he was literally burned out and very tired from the steady diet of wrestling and football camps, football scrimmage at Southwest Minnesota State in Marshall, some American Legion baseball and a lot of moving from one event to another.

"I really didn't feel like going. I called Joel (Minnesota Coach Joel Skillings) and said I was worn out." But the coach simply told him it was a great opportunity and that, "Minnesota had never had an all-american."

That got to Josephson and he decided to compete.

Having teammates Beau Buysse and Christian Skillings along also made the event a lot of fun for Josephson.

If Adam Josephson learned anything about himself this summer it was from beating kids such as the triple crown, national champ he beat in the national team tournament.

"I used to think I'd get handled by them easily, but just to be up there and wrestle with them ... wow, it was thrilling," he said.

And when he'd win a match from someone like that, it helped him understand he was in the same category.

Now that wrestling is finished for the summer, Adam Josephson hopes to get a little rest.

Then, someone mentions football, he jumps to his feet and says, "I'm ready to play some football."

Josephson was a member of Minnesota's State Championship football team last year and as a junior he'll be one of the captains this year.

He's high on this team and very anxious to open the season against ... who else ... Adrian, their top rival and team they beat for the state title last year.

While Josephson loves wrestling, it's likely he'd play football first. "Football is my favorite," he said.

And that's the ballad of Adam Josephson.

LAUGH A LITTLE: (From Dave Meiners).

An airplane pulled away from the gate, taxied to the runway and began its take off. Part way down the runway it cut power and taxied back to the gate. An hour later they were finally in the air. One of the passengers asked a flight attendant about the delay. The attendant said that on the first takeoff the pilot thought he heard a strange noise from one of the engines and it took an hour to find a different pilot.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: As my Ole Pappy used to say, "Live a little, love a lot."

Ole Pappy put an emphasis on living the good life, but he always said it was more important to love than to be loved.