

Continued mat dominance

Junior Manny Figueroa reflects on his high school wrestling career

By. Zaq Leslie

From a distance, Manny Figueroa looks like an ordinary high school junior. However, he has a secret, you might not expect the determination and ambition that fuels him beneath the surface.

Step into a wrestling arena with him, and it will be clear that he is anything but a high school athlete. He is a dedicated wrestler with a fierce commitment to his sport.

Wrestling has had a significant impact on his life since the age of 3 years old. Over the last 2 years has been marked by multiple achievements. He is constantly ranked among the top competitors in his weight class, which earned him a spot in the championship's his freshman and sophomore years.

Manny dreams of attending North Dakota State University. They are a Pac-12 school which is under a D1 school.

When asked if there was a D1 school that he wanted to attend he stated "Nebraska Huskers" so that he could be a "home town hero."

During his sophomore year of high school, Manny was able to break or tie various school records. This includes "Most Pins in a Season" at 39. The Previous record was 33 held by Riley Berg. Another record was "Wins in a Season" which tied Riley Berg with 50.

One record that Manny wants to break is the "Most Wins in a Career" which is 167, currently held by Riley Berg. Manny needs to have 50 wins his junior and senior year of high school.

When it comes to motivation, Manny has a lot of support to help exceed his limits. One being his little brother, Henry.

Another inspiration would be Antrell Taylor. Taylor graduated from Millard South High School In Omaha, Nebraska. He finished his high school career with a record of 177 and 8. Taylor wrestles for Nebraska and is also a 3 time Nebraska State Champion.

Despite the hardship of balancing academics and athletics, Manny faces the challenges of a positive attitude. Juggling late night studies and practices isn't always easy, but he has learned to manage his time effectively.

As he prepares to start his junior year of wrestling. With the dreams of becoming a state champion and having a competitive spirit that drives him on the mat, he believes that his high school wrestling career is just the beginning. One thing is certain; wherever the road leads him, he will carry the lessons learned from wrestling and the support of the ones who inspire him.

Manny is determined to make a mark, not only at West Point-Beemer High school, but also in the lives of those around him, proving that with hard work, anything is possible.