

Beyond The Mat with LG Senior Wrestlers: The Making of a Wrestler • The Making of a Man

We asked our senior wrestlers and their families to create a short story or biography of the challenges and tribulations they endured that shaped them into becoming the senior wrestlers that they are today. We know that they are all tough and hard working, but what made them that way? Why did their parents support them through grueling season after grueling season of hard work, sweat, and blood to get to this point? Every wrestler has a story. These are the stories of a few of the La Grande High School Senior Wrestlers...

Check throughout this program for their stories.

GABE SHUKLE

Gabe started wrestling at the insistence of his father since he had been a wrestler and loved the sport. The toughest moment for him has been the sudden death of his father from a heart attack when Gabe was 16. It happened during the summer before his junior year in high school. The wrestling coach and a lot of his teammates came to the house together when they heard the news and one by one, gave Gabe, his sister and mom a hug and offered support. This team is a family.

Gabe had to become the man of the house at a young age. The skills that wrestling have given him- emotional toughness, strength, perseverance and mental agility- have helped him to be the man, athlete and scholar that he is today.



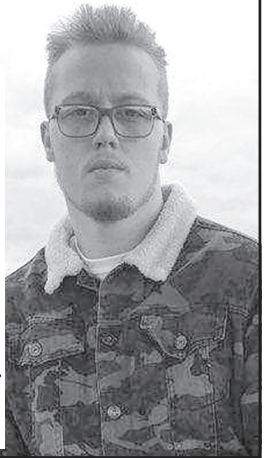
JOEL ROGERS

Hi I'm Joel Rogers, I am six foot and six inches tall, two hundred and sixty five pounds. I wrestle for on the La Grande High School Tigers. Here is something you may not have known about me.

When I was born I was missing a crucial nerve in the left side of my face. This has caused my speech impediment and affected my depth perception. This has caused a lot of problems most people don't have when they play sports. Because of these issues it makes simple stuff like communication with my team challenging and makes it very difficult to see what's going on with my opponent.

In seventh grade playing school basketball I suffered a catastrophic foot injury that ended up putting me out of all physical activity for almost two years. After having surgery and getting a permanent screw placed into my foot I was eventually able to get out and play sports again after a lengthy recovery with physical therapy. During my downtime not only was I supporting my team mates the entire time but also learning and preparing mentally for the time I was able to come back.

It's been a very challenging road but in a way I'm thankful for these hardships because its made me who I am.



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