



Nathan Boston awarded Michael Jackson Scholarship Award

Nathan Boston, a two-time state wrestling champion for the Woodford County High School wrestling team, was named the 11th recipient of the Michael Jackson Memorial Scholarship award on Thursday, June 5.

Boston joins 10 other Mat Jackets who have received the award, which was named in honor of former WCHS wrestler Michael Jackson, who was tragically killed in a car accident in 2002.

Past winners of the award include Wesley Morris, Curtis Graham, Robert Bracco, Jamison Large, John Barrett, Nick Neessen, Rusty Parks, Steven Butler, Chad Scott and Harrison Courtney.

The award was created by Jackson's parents, Debbie and Guy Jackson, to ensure their son's legacy lives on through this award.

According to the Jacksons, "The Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship was created in memory of Christopher Michael Jackson who was fatally injured in a car accident on December 15, 2002. Michael was a varsity wrestler for four years at Woodford County High School (1996-2000). He won the 135-lb. Kentucky High School Wrestling Championship title his senior year. Michael's relentless determination, unceasing work ethic, team spirit, exemplary sportsmanship, and respect for his coaches, fellow teammates, referees, and opponents made him a true champion.

"The Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship is awarded annually to a Woodford County High School senior wrestler who is planning to attend college. The recipients of this award exemplify the qualities exhibit by Michael as an athlete at Woodford County High School."

Jackson, who had 188 career wins in his WCHS career, was also a two-time state champion and is a member of the Woodford Wrestling Hall of Fame.

In addition, he also had the most pins during the 2000 season (25) and had 100 or more takedowns in a season three times in his career.

In talking about Jackson in the July 26, 2012, issue of The Woodford Sun, Woodford co-head wrestling coach Joe Carr Sr. said of his former wrestler, "Whatever it takes to get better, that's what Michael Jackson did. Here's a young guy whose hopes and dreams were to be a football player. But, he was small, a 134-pounder. (So), he got stronger. He could bench 250, something like that. A little bull. But, he would do those things that would make him a state (wrestling) champion. He had the goal of being undefeated and winning the state championship his senior year and he was able to do that."

Boston's wrestling career as a Mat Jacket was definitely an impressive one, and it helped him earn a scholarship to Iowa State University, one of the most storied college wrestling programs in the county, where he will join the team this coming season.

Boston wrestled his first two years in high school in Indiana, where he went 99-1. Then, his parents moved to Woodford County so that he could finish his high school career at WCHS under the guidance of co-head coaches, Joe Carr Sr. and Joe Carr Jr. WCHS is the same place Boston's father, Rob, wrestled when he attended high school.

At Woodford, Boston went undefeated in both his junior and senior years.

In 2013, he wrestled in the 113-pound weight division and finished 51-0. In the process, he won the Region 7 title and went on to win the KHSAA State Wrestling Championship, where he defeated all five of his opponents by pins.

Boston finished the year by being named the Mat Jackets' MVP, while also leading the team with 154 takedowns and 40 pins.

During the off-season prior to the WCHS 2014 season, Boston wrestled his way to another outstanding achievement. In November 2013, he became the No. 1 ranked wrestler in the nation in the 120-pound weight division when he won the FloNational wrestling tournament in his weight class.

He earned the ranking when he defeated Sean Russell out of Collins Hill, Ga., in the championship match of the tournament in what was the longest match – over 16 minutes long – in high school history.

Boston went into his senior season with his confidence high and his wrestling skills as sharp as ever, and it showed throughout the season.

In all, Boston finished the year undefeated once again with a 49-0 record. In addition, he won his second straight region title; this time in Region 5 where Woodford had been moved after an offseason restructuring.

Boston then went on to win his second consecutive KHSAA state wrestling championship in impressive fashion.

In the tournament, he opened with a pin over Brad Colwell of Powell County Central, and then followed that up with a pin over Jake Peace of Walton Verona and Michael Beets of St. Xavier.

In the semifinals, he scored a 22-7 technical fall over Robbie Dezember of Union County, before pinning Logan Erdman of Ryle to capture the championship title.

Boston capped his year by being named the Mat Jackets' MVP for the second straight year. He also led the team once again with 245 takedowns and 33 pins.

Boston now heads to college at Iowa State University, where, according to NCAAChampionships.com, the Cyclones have won eight national championships.

In addition, according to Wikipedia.com, Iowa State has had 65 individual national champions, and sent 30 wrestlers to the Olympics, where nine have won medals; six of them gold, including the most recent by Jake Varner at the 2012 London Olympics.

Information about the Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship will be available within the next few months on a new website currently being created. More information will appear in The Woodford Sun when the website is launched.