



Gavin Andreoni awarded 2022 Michael Jackson Scholarship

Gavin Andreoni, a 2022 Woodford County High School graduate, has been named the Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship recipient. A five-time regional champion and team captain, Andreoni said being named in the same sentence as Michael Jackson is an honor he doesn't take lightly.

"I grew up in the Woodford County wrestling room and had heard stories on the type of wrestler and competitor Michael was, and I think it's great to be included in the category," said Andreoni. "I also knew he was a really good guy, so I am thankful to the board for seeing me in the same way."

"I had had some great coaches here at Woodford, and they have taught me how much hard work pays off on the mat and in the classroom."

The scholarship is awarded annually to a senior wrestler who demonstrates the same qualities and characteristics as Michael.

Jackson passed away in a car accident on Dec. 15, 2002. His family annually honors his legacy as the wrestling room's hardest worker and terrific sportsmanship. Jackson won a state championship in the 135-pound division his senior year with an undefeated 54-0 record and wrestled on three state championship teams. During his senior year, Jackson was named team captain based on his work ethic and leadership. Michael also played tailback and linebacker for the WCHS football team.

Andreoni, a runner-up in the KHSAA state championship last season with a 40-2 record, is preparing for wrestling at the next level as he departs to Campbellsville University this fall to begin his collegiate career. He began wrestling at five years old and had plenty of competition in the house with older brothers Max and Wyatt, who were also wrestlers that helped teach him along the way. Gavin's brother Max was a co-winner of the scholarship in 2017 with Joey Roberts after both young men won state championships earlier that year.

Michael's mother, Deborah Jackson, said that Andreoni was the right choice due to his perseverance and reputation for being a great competitor.

“Gavin has been wrestling since he was a five-year-old and has been successful at every level,” Jackson said. “He is also a very determined young man, so that made him the right choice for us this year.”

Article by Bill Caine – Woodford Sun Sports

For more information about the Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship, and the story of Michael Jackson, the scholarship's history, its past winners and how you can donate to the scholarship, go to MichaelJacksonWrestlingScholarship.org.