

Isaac Johns wins 2025 Michael Jackson Scholarship



By Bill Caine – Woodford Sun Sports

Woodford County High School senior Isaac Johns has been awarded the Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship. This honor celebrates not only his athletic achievements but also his academic excellence and leadership.

A two-time KHSAA state wrestling champion and standout scholar, Johns has become one of the top names in Kentucky's high school wrestling scene in his high school career. Known for his determination, he stood out among a strong pool of applicants.

"He is a tremendous young man and a terrific student-athlete," said board member Randy Cotton. "We were very impressed with how he carries himself. He's a positive role model both on and off the mat."

Johns will continue his career at Bellarmine University this fall, where he plans to redshirt his freshman season to adjust to the pace and competition of NCAA Division I wrestling.

“We have a rubric that looks at academics, involvement in the community, and recommendations from wrestlers, teachers, and coaches,” said board member Don Leugers. “It has been a good and fair system. Of all the applicants I’ve reviewed over the years, this young man embodies Michael’s spirit. Isaac has been consistent in his growth and love for the sport.”

The Michael Jackson Wrestling Scholarship has been a tradition in Woodford County since 2003. Named in honor of beloved coach and mentor Michael Jackson, the scholarship is awarded annually to a student-athlete who exemplifies excellence in wrestling, academics, and character.

“We want to help young people reach their dreams, and we hope to continue this as a tradition in the county,” said Jackson’s mom, Debbie. “Each year we receive applications, and they are all terrific kids with big dreams.”

For Johns, the award carries deep meaning. “I didn’t know about Michael before coming to Woodford County for my freshman year, but the stories are all about work ethic and tremendous heart on and off the mat,” Johns said. “This is a great honor—to be part of something that runs deep within Woodford County culture for years.”

Johns has spent his summer competing in high-level tournaments to prepare for the next level of competition. “I’ve been to some big tournaments this summer and want to continue to improve as I get to Bellarmine,” he said. “I would tell anyone who wants to be here someday to stay consistent and stay the course.” Johns plans to study exercise science at Bellarmine.