



Thursday,
April 19, 2007

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Sports

No time off: East standout Adams prepares for MSU

The pressure may be off for Cody Adams, but the Mankato East wrestling standout isn't taking much time off.

The senior Adams, a three-time state champion for the Cougars, unburdened himself from the stress of picking a college by committing to Minnesota State University in December. There are no more late-night phone calls or constant e-

mails from coaches trying to entice him to wrestle at their institutions.

With his college decision behind him, it could be tempting for Adams to relax a little bit this offseason. But that's hardly the case for the 125-pounder who is looking to make an immediate impact with the Mavericks next winter.

"I go pretty much year round," Adams said. "If



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Mankato East senior Cody Adams finished sixth at the high school nationals in Pennsylvania. He will join MSU next season.

you're not doing that then you're falling behind the guys who are."

It's that kind of enthusiasm and dedication that made Adams a high priority for MSU coach Jim Makovsky

when it came time to set up his recruiting list. Adams has not disappointed in the least as he placed sixth in the nation at the prestigious high school nationals in Pennsylvania a few weeks ago.

"When you look at that tournament and see who's there and how big it has become, you know that's quite an accomplishment," Makovsky said. "There are just no easy matches there. There are a lot of kids who are going to Division I

schools and almost all of them are going to pretty good wrestling programs."

The soon-to-be East graduate wrestled nine matches in the tournament and came away with a 6-3 record. He pinned his first three opponents and also had a 3-2 decision against Vince Alber of Illinois, a 5-2 verdict over Minnesota's Kirk Anderson and a 2-1 win against John Michael Simpson of Tennessee.

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RUEDA: Adams will wrestle a few more tournaments

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Anderson, by the way, is also a three-time state champion who finished his high school career as the winningest wrestler in Minnesota history with a 246-14 record. He will wrestle for Division I North Dakota State next season.

"I loved wrestling in that tournament," Adams said this week. "I wish I would have gone when I was a junior; it's

just great competition out there."

Makovsky watched Adams wrestle most of his matches at nationals and was impressed with what he saw.

"He has that confidence, that swagger you like to see," he said. "He wrestled well but, at the same time, I saw some things he's going to need to work on at the next level.

"He'll be pushed a lot harder in our wrestling room than he was in high school. He'll

have guys like Nick Smith and Andy Forstner and Travis Elg to go against every day so he's going to have to fight for everything he can get."

In addition to hitting the weight room and running a couple of miles a day over the next few months, Adams is also expected to compete at junior team nationals in Oklahoma in June and junior individual nationals in Fargo, N.D. in July. Those will probably be his last competitions

until he shows up at MSU.

"The thing about Cody is I love his energy," Makovsky said. "Watching him in Pennsylvania really validated what we thought we were getting when we recruited him. He just loves being on the wrestling mat."

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