



The Champ

By Bill Welker, Ed.D.

A number of decades ago in the scholastic ranks of athletics, there was a remarkable wrestler we will rightfully refer to as "The Champ."

The champ wrestled for one of the best mat teams in the state. His coach was considered a legend in the sport. However, it

was the champ who shined.

This story takes place during the champ's senior year.

Near the conclusion of the season, the champ (a three-time state titleist) was well on his way to becoming the first wrestler in the state to win 100 matches. But he was more than an outstanding wrestler. Allow

me to explain.

The champ was the epitome of the scholar-athlete. He carried a grade-point average of 3.93 in the "college prep" curriculum. The champ was also a member and officer in numerous clubs and organizations, including the National Honor Society and the Key Club.