

## Tuned up by TV, Olson drops another fighter

**Camera catches ex-prep,  
college wrestler at his best  
in Tachi Palace win.**

By Nick Giannandrea  
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LEMOORE— Casey “The Underdog” Olson [has] built a reputation around the central San Joaquin Valley with his success on the wrestling mat.

His fan base is now growing all over Northern California, Oregon and western Nevada thanks to his efforts inside the mixed martial arts ring at the Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino.

Palace Fighting Championships 8 [A Night of Champions] on Thursday was the third night of bouts recorded for tape-delayed broadcast on Comcast SportsNet, a regional cable network.

“To be on TV, it’s like the World Series in baseball for me,” said Olson, who has MMA star Chuck Lidell and legendary trainer John Hackelman from The Pit in San Luis Obispo in his corner. “It’s an awesome opportunity.”

It was an opportunity Olson, the former Clovis High, Fresno City College and Fresno State wrestling standout made the most of.

Olson (7-2) landed a big left hand and several knees before dropping Lemoore’s Sergio Quinones (3-1) to the ground, where he applied a rear-naked choke for a submission at 46 seconds of the first round of their



Former Fresno State wrestler Casey Olson kicks Sergio Quinones of Lemoore before winning by submission Thursday in a mixed martial arts bout at the Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino in Lemoore. (Photo by Kurt Hegre)

featherweight bout.

The performance will reach 4.7 million homes from the Valley through Northern California, up into the Medford/Klamath Falls, Ore. Areas as well as into Reno, Nev., market.

Olson was on the Palace’s first televised card in February, and the performance led to a major increase in hits on his MySpace [myspace.com/caseyo\_24] page.

“I have a lot of local support, but it’s nice to get [my name] out there,” Olson said. “I’m not looking to go big time or pay per-view, but if it happens, it happens. It’s my job to inspire anyone I can.”

PFC President Christian Printup said the Palace has a deal with Comcast

SportsNet to deliver 12 broadcasts in 2008, one new show per month. The Palace gets two taped shows from each MMA card, with each broadcasting featuring three to four bouts.

Bouts also are available through Comcast’s On Demand feature, where fans can see things such as the weigh-ins, interviews and behind-the-scenes footage as fighters train.

“The Comcast deal puts us in some very important markets for MMA fans and really helps us in terms of sponsors, after market revenues streams, merchandising opportunities and future cities we’ll promote live events in,” Printup said.

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