

Getting Ready to Rumble

Casey Olson Gives Back to Community Outside of the Cage

Everyone has heard of an underdog! Most have heard of Fresno's underdog, but for those who have not, he also goes by the name Casey Olson.

Olson has become a predominate figure here in Fresno since his start in the local Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) circuit. He has also carved out a name for himself on Fresno's list of local celebrities. Along with climbing the MMA ladder to the top, Olson has also added coaching, running clinics and public speaking at local high schools to his list of accomplishments.

Olson's MMA career started a little more than three years ago. Throughout that time he has amassed a career record of 10 wins and two losses.

With such a busy schedule fighting and training, Olson still finds time to help out children in the Central Valley, especially the Fresno and Clovis area.

"Kids are my inspiration; there are a lot of false idols in the public eye today. I don't mind taking the world on my shoulders by being a role model for our kids," said Olson.

Olson enjoys going to local high schools and speaking to sports teams — football, basketball, and wrestling — on a platform of "never giving up on your dreams," said Olson. He

believes that to succeed you can't be afraid to fail.

Blake Duddley, former assistant football coach for Fowler High School, said Olson attended one of the football team's Thursday night dinners and spoke about "the underdog" mentality, which is being prepared for anything you do and not being overconfident going into it. "After he talked, the kids all surrounded him asking questions about him and his career," says Duddley. "They were all very accepting of and inspired by him."

During the past couple of years, Olson has helped out with his free time at wrestling practices at Roosevelt High School, said Scott Beck, former assistant coach. "He would come in and wrestle with the kids, showing them some new moves and helping correct their standards," says Beck. "After the practices he would talk to the kids about the importance of goal-setting and how to achieve those goals in whatever they did, inside and outside of the classroom. It meant a lot to the kids for him to come in and talk to them, basically just being a positive role model for them."



photo by Peter Robertson

Along with his outreach at local high schools, Olson also joined the Buchanan High School wrestling team last season as assistant coach.

Olson has worked hard throughout his career to alter how many may view an MMA fighter. He is a caring and positive role model for kids in the community that may not otherwise have one. His inspirational teachings inspire young children to believe they can do anything they want with the right ideologies in place and the internal belief it takes to succeed.

For more information on Casey Olson, visit www.fresnomag.com.

JOSH SPOONER

