Black and Gold Player Spotlight

The Pine Needle sits down with UNCP wrestler Mike Williams during the 2010-2011 season.

By Nick Phillips
Sports Editor

What are your expectations for yourself and the team as you head towards the end of the season and tournament time?
My expectations for myself this year are to continue getting better and cap off the year with a national title. I would like to see at least half the team qualify for nationals. We have the potential to do it; it's all about who's putting in the work to separate themselves at this point in the season.

Describe your experience as a UNCP student athlete.
I love UNCP, as an athlete and as a student. This school has really helped me a lot, and I owe a lot to the athletic department for giving me a second chance to prove what I could do on the mat, and I only have more to accomplish. There are tons of resources here as a student-athlete, from academic assistants, to facilities and athletic training staff. It's been a pleasure representing this school.

What is your most exciting wrestling moment?
My most exciting wrestling moment was becoming All-American as a freshman. This was gratifying to me because of the level of respect that you get once you become an All-American, on any level. I think my coaches had confidence that I could do it as a freshman, and I certainly knew I could. But no one could ever take that achievement away from you because it declares you as one of the best in the country in your division.

Who/what are your biggest inspirations, in wrestling and life?
My inspirations in wrestling and life are definitely my mother and my sons. Many athletes have a parent figure as their inspiration, and my mother has never taught me a thing about wrestling but I go out there with her mental toughness everyday I step on the mat. She's taught me how to persevere and always keep my head up. She is the person I wrestle for and strive to win for. My sons are my motivation, and I feel like I have to be successful for them.

2010-2011 Stats
Through Feb. 1 - 16-3 overall record, No. 1 in region at 165-pounds

Bio of the week
Mike Williams
Year - Redshirt-Sophomore
Sport - Wrestling
Weight Class - 165-pounds
Hometown - Plainfield, N.J.
Major - English

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