

2021 (Limited) Season Review



Ethan Green celebrates a victory over Central Catholic's Jacob Jackson last season. SUBMITTED

Ross' Green top ranked heavyweight in Ohio

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During the pandemic, first responders of all types deserve admiration all over the world.

Fremont Ross junior Ethan Green is a first responder. He also is worthy of respect.

Green qualified for the state wrestling tournament for the first time as a sophomore, before the event was canceled because of the coronavirus. He immediately looked toward the track season as a thrower and the national wrestling tourney in the summer.

He prepared for each until he was told they were completely off the calendar. He even responded last week to a single-car crash that totaled his car by walking away unscathed and already contemplating his best decision to put his best foot forward.

"The hardest part was swallowing the whole pill of not going to state," he said. "At no point was I absolutely

heartbroken. I knew I had two more years. I had to shake it off and get ready for the next season.

"I looked forward to national. It wasn't the end of the world. I've been anxious for this season. With great success for football, it's been in the back of my mind since the last two weeks of football.

"I take things one sport at a time, trying to make it (to the upper echelon) in all of them."

Green is the top ranked heavyweight wrestler in Division I in Ohio.

"With COVID last year to this year, you have to stay humble," he said. "Last year, I was a sophomore. Now I'm ranked No. 1. I have a target on my back. Going from unranked to No. 1, you have to stay humble. Rankings are only predictions."

Green is unbeaten in six matches at three events this season. The Little Giants return from quarantine Monday after a positive test in the room.

He's hunting a state crown. He was seventh at the national tourney in

eighth grade and fifth as a freshman.

"That's what every kid goes for," he said. "I have a huge shot. As long as we can stay healthy and in the wrestling room, and stick with Coach (Matt) Guhn's training and our game plan as the season rolls on.

"(If we can wrestle), we can game plan from atop the podium and then see what we can do in Virginia Beach (for national)."

Weighing 250 pounds at nearly 6 feet, 7 inches tall, Guhn is trying to help Green maximize his strengths.

"He's very dangerous," Guhn said. "It takes mat time to see how dangerous. Leverage. He's a tall boy. He's filling out. He's got tons of potential. We're working on not getting underneath people. We don't want him stuck under someone who weighs 285.

"He wrestles smart, he's not just wrestling. He's driven. He's looking for the challenge. It's fun to coach someone who wants more and more each day.

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Green

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He's looking to be pushed, not get practice over with.

"That's how athletes get to the next level. He's not coasting."

He's trying to match his wrestling style to his body.

"Most wrestlers go for a single or double leg shot," Guhn said. "He's taller. There are judo throws or he can position for take downs that don't require him getting down to the mat or a knee on the mat. Teaching him take downs from his feet is something we're having fun with."

"He'll be fun to watch, getting more dangerous and getting more take downs."

Guhn competed at the state tourney three times at Clyde, including a state championship in 2005. He can't imagine being in Green's shoes last year.

"We focused on track," Guhn said. "You look for what's next. That was canceled. It was good for him as an athlete to get the football season in. (COVID) affects training. Sports is who is training the best. Now, you win if you get through a day of practice."

"You just have to survive."

The coronavirus' disruption of preparation presents challenges and motivation is a different beast, especially when isolation is enforced. Green is most struck by the environment.

"Not having many spectators is weird," he said. "Usually, it's a full crowd with everyone's moms and dads. It's awfully quiet getting ready. That's new. I'm not phased by the whole COVID thing. You still have to wrestle the match with the same rules."

"I block that out. Control what you can control."

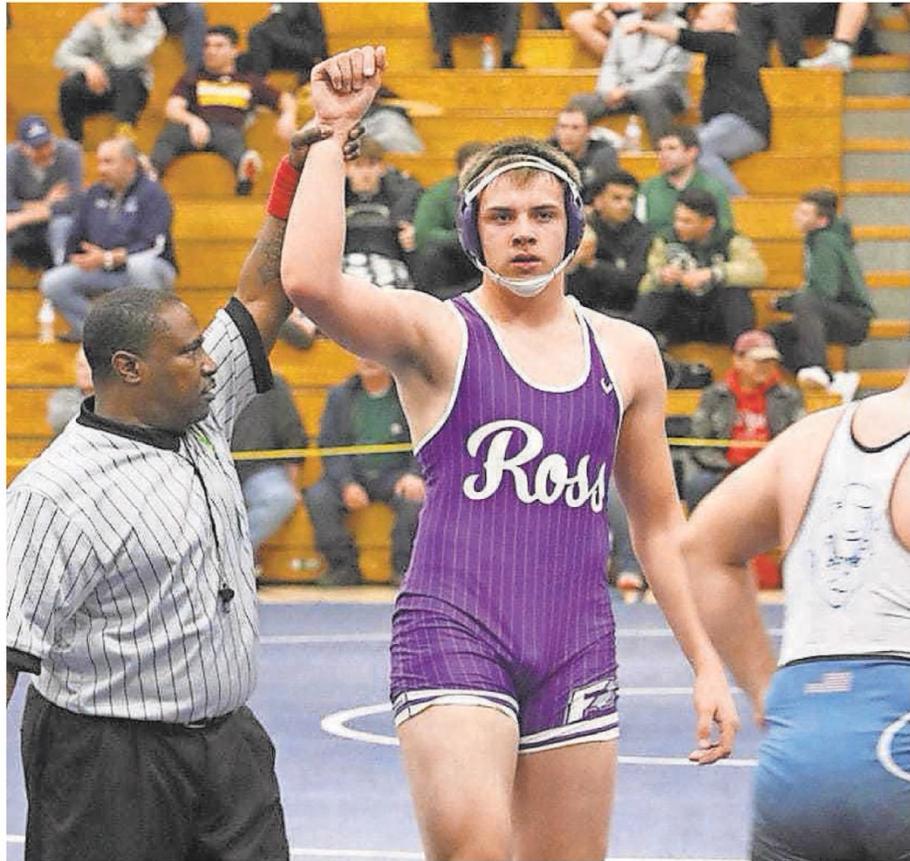
Green was projected to be eliminated in the consolation round at state last season.

"In our room, we disagreed," he said. "We thought I'd take the podium, if not top four. We had high hopes and a game plan. We were ready for anything. We were ready for anything the tournament threw at us."

"We trained every single day (for two or three weeks) when it was postponed. I felt prepared. The staff got me in the best shape for the best opportunity."

Green didn't dwell on losing out on the state tourney, but he was anxious to return to the mat.

"He's a doer," Guhn said. "He likes to get things done. He sets a goal and gets it done. He's smart. He has to apply



Ethan Green celebrates a victory for Ross. KIMBERLY WEAVER

himself. At times he's a kid and at times he's a humble up and coming athlete.

"It's fun to have a front row seat. He's always on to the next thing."

He has Division I potential in all three sports, including offers for football at left tackle. He has exposure, but the coronavirus currently restricts in-person campus visits.

"We'll see how his body responds the next two years and he'll make a decision," Guhn said.

Green transitions between sports rather seamlessly.

"That's what I love," he said. "The sports I play work with each other with strength and balance and speed. No matter what I train for, it benefits the others."

Green wrecked his 2009 Pontiac G8, his dream car, on his way home from work. He wasted no time considering what he'd do to make his next automotive iteration even better.

"How to build it with everything the way I want it," he said. "How to bounce back. Figure out what to do now. That was taken away. I've learned to practice

every day like it's the last. Leave everything out there."

The pandemic reinforced, rather than instilled, Green's perspective on taking things for granted. From the start, he didn't.

"Especially with football, we preached anything can be taken away at any time," he said. "In the blink of an eye. You won't see it coming, blindsided."

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