

Dear Sir,

Hello this is Matthew Thomas Mahon; I am writing you a letter as a wrestler from Brighton and a member of the Section V wrestling community. I was born May 10, 1990 in Rochester and have lived here in Section V ever since. Though I've lived here for 18 years I've found my last six far more rewarding since finding wrestling. Through Coach Mark Hoyt and Tony Gentile in the middle school I found a love for this sport. Since the day I stepped into that tiny sweltering sweat-soaked room I've never found another sport that I truly cared for. This sport has helped me and many others come from boys to men. This sport though great would be lacking if it weren't for the community surrounding those of us who participate in it. For this I can never show my gratitude enough and hope I can some day give back to this community that gave me so much.

I was supposed to be a spot-filler on the varsity team. In 10th grade our heavyweight (275lb) position was empty and I opportunistically offered my 206 pound body for the spot. When I did that it was to help my in a sport I loved, I never expected to go far in this really I was just hoping not to screw up too badly. After it all I shaped up and I came out of my high school a better man though I did have a rocky start.

In my first tournament I chugged 8 pounds of applesauce to make weight and I was terrified. I will never forget my first match I went out and I lost to Brian Harrison from Alfred Almond 11-7. I was embarrassed by a man no more than 2 years my elder. Upon feeling what it was like to lose I determined I didn't have much of a taste for it so I won 4 straight to take 3rd at that Byron Bergen invitational avenging my loss on the way to the podium.

I won't say I didn't lose again but I will say I never quit. I wrestled all the way to the sectional finals that year only to see the better Matt win as I was to be bested that night by Matt Caternolo. A year later I got my win and my sectional shield which I proudly hang on my wall today. Then a year later I stood in front of thousands of people wearing a pair of purple spandex, wrestling for the section that gave me so much. I ended my high school career on a loss but I did place at the state tournament which was amazing.

Section V has meant everything to me. I bled purple for 6 years and now I must move on. This summer I started that journey when I qualified for the World Beach Wrestling Championships. I will be representing The United States of America in Albania. This will be the greatest challenge of my career but I've never backed down and I don't intend to start now.

This brings us to the underlying point of this letter. I need to get to Albania, and as with all international wrestling there is an immense financial cost which I cannot amass on my own. So I am reaching out the local wrestling community asking for donations so that I may represent Section five and actually our whole nation in this competition. I would love to represent our great nation and any help that you can give will be more than appreciated.

All donations can be sent to:
82 Southern Parkway, Rochester NY, 14618

Thank you just for reading and best of luck to your Section V teams in the 2008-2009 season.

Sincerely
Matthew Thomas Mahon