

# Moore Sports

## NACHO IS MACHO IN FARGO!

### Sanchez earns All-American honors in Freestyle, Greco-Roman

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Throughout the summer months, Demon grappler Carlos Sanchez had prepared for this eight-day stretch in the middle of July.

Throughout the summer months, Sanchez hit both the weight room and the wrestling room, all to be prepared for this eight-day stretch in the middle of July.

For eight days in the middle of July, it was time for the 285-pounder to shine on the wrestling mat. For eight days in the middle of July, the incoming junior took his trade to the national stage.

In his return to the home of the Demon Dynasty, Carlos Sanchez had a few more accolades to add to his grappling résumé.

After battling the best of the best at the U.S. Marine Corps Cadet and Junior Nationals, held from July 15 through July 22 at the FargoDome in Fargo, North Dakota, Sanchez can claim the recognition of being Dumas' first Double All-American.

Carlos was one of four All-Americans from Team Texas, and was the only Double All-American with an eighth place finish in both the Cadet Freestyle Nationals and the Greco-Roman Nationals.

"It feels great," Carlos said of being the first Dumas Double All-American out of Fargo. "I went into freestyle feeling good, and I wasn't emotional just yet. I went into Greco and I lose my first match. I was a little disappointed, but I worked all the

way back in the consolation rounds, all the way to the blood round – which is the quarter consolations where you had to win to become an All-American. I was wrestling my butt off, and then it hit me. At first, I didn't know, but then people were telling that I was the first Double All-American. Once I got on the podium, I was like, 'this is the greatest feeling ever.'"

Carlos' tour de force began on July 12, when the bus housing Team Texas traveled from Allen to the largest city in the Peace Garden State. Sanchez and Team Texas trekked for more than 15 hours and logged in a staggering 1,080 miles on the road.

"We practiced for about four to five hours before we left, with breaks, of course," Carlos said about the preparations done in Allen and the bus ride up to North Dakota. "We were on the road at six o'clock in the evening and didn't get to Fargo until 11 o'clock the next morning. It was a sucky ride, I'll tell you that."

"The best thing about the ride was that I was able to charge up my stuff, so that was nice," Carlos added about the ride.

Once the long ride was through and Carlos got settled into the FargoDome, it was time to wrestle.

In the Freestyle bracket, Carlos scored a 6-3 victory over Oklahoma's Ashton Aldridge in the first round and dominated Illinois' Colin Baker by an 8-1 decision in the second round. Sanchez

then fell to the consolation bracket after a tough loss to North Dakota's Chase Dockter.

Once he dropped into the wrestle-backs, Carlos defeated California's Justin Ramos by an 11-6 decision before ensuring a tough outing against Minnesota's Nicholas Pierce. Carlos then battled Colby Whitehill of Pennsylvania, but had to settle for the eighth place spot.

"I go in there, and my name gets called," said Carlos on his first run to the All-American podium. "I get nervous, and I start sweating and coughing. Once I got in there, I just went and threw my opponent out of the ring. I start getting a little confidence."

"But I start getting a little nervous again in the second round, because I was on Mat 1, where all of the finals will be wrestled," Carlos continued. "But I had the two Team Texas coaches by my side and won the match, 8-1."

Carlos then described Dockter as the "fastest heavyweight I had ever seen."

"When it was all over, it felt good walking onto the mat and getting my name called," Carlos said of his moment of recognition. "It just felt good."

During the Greco-Roman Nationals, Carlos unfortunately dropped into the consolation brackets after a loss to Oregon's Ashton Brecht. During his matchup against Team Texas competitor George Marsh, Carlos pulled out some of his magic exhibited during his 2016-17 cam-

paign by rallying past Marsh by a slim 8-7 decision.

Using the comeback win to his advantage, Carlos then pinned Maryland's Sawyer Sturla and defeating Will Taylor of Tennessee in an 8-7 decision to gain a place on the Greco-Roman All-American podium.

Even though Carlos fell in his final two matches, the mustached wonder claimed his standing as a double All-American.

"Greco is a really tough challenge," Carlos said of the Greco-Roman Nationals. "You can't touch the legs. I'm not much of a Greco guy, but I worked my way through. I was shocked after my first match, so I was on the consolation side for that tournament."

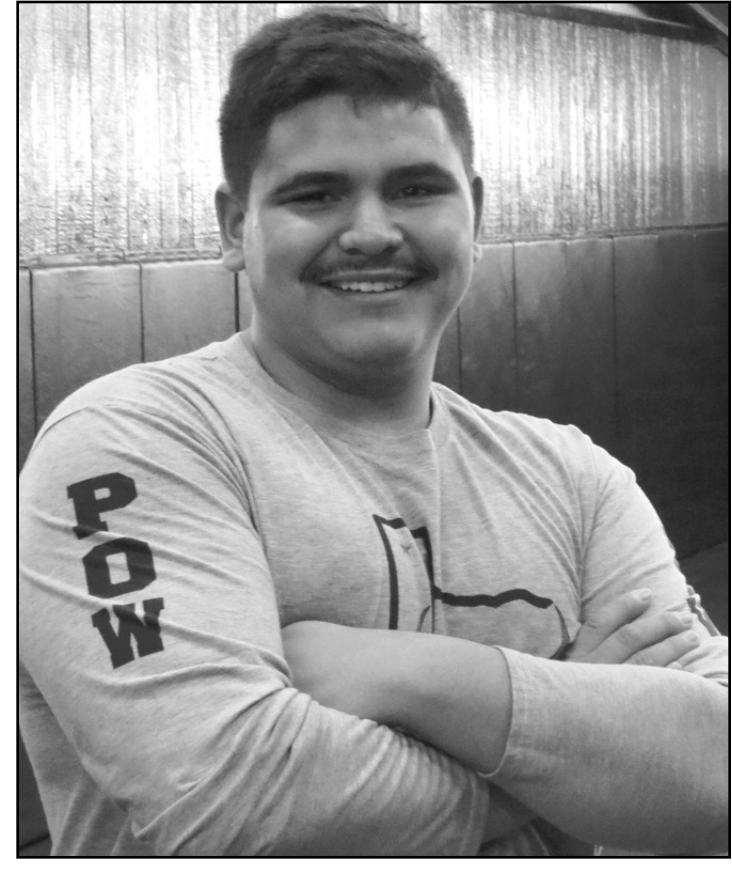
After outlasting Taylor, it marked a big moment Carlos.

"After I won, that's when I was collapsed and started to cry," Carlos said of the moment. "From then on, though, it felt awesome."

Then, came the long but satisfying ride home. For Carlos, it was another notch on his already loaded belt.

In his sophomore campaign, Sanchez went 34-16 and scored many inspiring victories along the way.

Sanchez also helped the Demon wrestling program to its first UIL Conference 5A State Wrestling Tournament team championship in late February. During his time at the Berry Center in Cypress, Carlos collected a victory over Carrollton Turner's Matthew Thorp via a 3-2 decision before dropping his



Tyler Anderson/News★Press

Demon wrestler Carlos Sanchez is all smiles after his big trip to the U.S. Marine Corps Cadet and Junior Nationals wrestling meet in Fargo, North Dakota. Carlos earned the distinction as the lone Double All-American for Team Texas.

last two matches.

Going into the 2017-18 season, Carlos is looking to push a little further into the state wrestling tournament with the help of his experience in North Dakota.

"In the future, I just know that I can't be nervous," Carlos said of his path going forward. "There were matches where I got nervous and could have lost, but I sustained my confidence and worked my way through. Just act like you're in the loser's bracket and worked

your way to the top. I want to always strive to be number one."

However, Carlos is not done making a name for himself just yet.

This weekend, Carlos will take part in the "A Mid-Summer Mat Bash" wrestling tournament, which will take place at the Texan Wrestling Club in Justin. Jesse Martinez will also participate in the tournament.

You can catch Carlos and Jesse in action at the flowrestling.com website.



Courtesy of Wrestling Texas  
At top, Sanchez sizes up fellow Team Texas member George Marsh during a match at the U.S. Marine Corps Cadet and Junior Nationals in North Dakota.

At left, Carlos gets his hand raised by the official following his victory over George Marsh at the U.S. Marine Corps Cadet and Junior Nationals.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Alizandra Herrera



Kathy Shockey photo

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Jaden Zerby



Jaden is an incoming junior at SHS and is in basketball, football, golf and track. He is the son of Jonathan and Rachel Zerby. His hobbies are sports and friends. He plans to attend college.

Angela Crenshaw photo

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