

Lozinski gets 100th win



Kade Lozinski, a Minneota senior, recorded the 100th win of his wrestling career on Thursday with a pin against Fulda/Murray County Central. Lozinski also won his other match on Thursday against Redwood Valley, and had two more wins in Saturday's Wabasso Duals on Saturday to give him 103 career wins.

Congratulations, Kade!

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McCoy

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McCoy then requested a moment to compose himself.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I'm a crier. I admit it. It's just been so difficult not knowing what is going on. I talked to Lacie and my parents and they helped build me back up."

When McCoy's exasperated message was received by the U.S. Embassy, they became concerned for his mental health and set up a meeting with Togolese officials.

"I had tested negative on Day 9, and I waited the 10 days," McCoy said. "Yet, here I still am. They say my test was positive and it wasn't. I've checked all the boxes and they still keep me here."

The U.S. Embassy personnel, led by Chief Consulate Bryan Cox, his right-hand man (Daniel) and a regional supervisor (Bruno), met with Colonel Djibril Mohamane, second in command in Togo and also the head of the COVID response team there.

Colonel Mohamane then met with Togo doctors and, although they said McCoy still tested positive, they felt his body was not recovering as well as others that were quarantined because he was under

more stress.

Colonel Mohamane then allowed McCoy to leave the hotel on Wednesday, Jan. 5 and move in with Tyler and Trevor Grinder to finish his quarantine in their rented home 10 miles away. But there would be armed guards stationed outside at all times.

Colonel Mohamane and the U.S. Embassy personnel then set up a meeting the next day with a doctor in order to hear McCoy's testimony on how his initial testing on Dec. 22 went before he was set to fly home.

At the meeting in the hotel lobby along with McCoy was the doctor, a police officer, and the three Embassy personnel.

"It was a 45-minute meeting and I only got to speak for two minutes to tell my account of the events," McCoy said. "The police officer took down some notes and the doctor kept getting calls and answering them the whole time. Everyone was speaking in French so I had no clue what was being said."

After the meeting, McCoy was placed in an ambulance and driven to Grinder's rented home with a police officer with lights and sirens engaged.

McCoy then took another nasal swab test on Friday, Jan. 7 and received a message from the Embassy personnel the

next evening that the test was negative.

"I was so excited that I was finally going to get to go home," McCoy said.

McCoy and the Grinder brothers then went to be tested on Sunday in order to fly back to the U.S. on Monday.

McCoy was also told he must meet with the prosecutor on Monday morning to officially be released.

But the release never came. Instead, the prosecutor arrested McCoy for falsifying the original documents written in French that he had signed to go home on Dec. 22.

"I was being arrested for not being able to read French," McCoy said, again losing control of his emotions. "I couldn't have falsified any documents because it's absolutely impossible to alter the QR code for the test."

McCoy was then taken to the jailhouse and told to wait on a tiny bench. He watched as other prisoners were brought in and stripped to their underwear and put in 5' x 8' cells with no toilet.

"I was just shaking," he said. "I thought I was going to puke. I could never have made it in that jail."

After a four-hour wait, McCoy learned that the U.S. Em-

bassy convinced the prosecutor to allow McCoy to be placed under house arrest with armed police again guarding outside.

"I have to pay the police to guard me, too," McCoy said.

McCoy faces a possible fine of anywhere from \$200 to \$5,000 in U.S. dollars and imprisonment of a few months, he was told.

McCoy got in touch with a top attorney in Togo that speaks English and he agreed to meet on Thursday, Jan. 13.

"I'll pay them all whatever they want," McCoy said. "I just want to go home."

When McCoy was taken to the jail, a police officer tried to remove the Rosary beads he was wearing around his neck, but McCoy resisted until another police officer intervened and allowed him to keep them on.

"Before I left home to go to Togo, I packed the beads for some reason," McCoy said. "Even my daughter (Ellie) wondered why I was bringing them."

McCoy then broke down as he revealed the history of the beads.

"They belonged to my grandma Kathy," he said while sobbing. "Now I know why I brought them. They are keeping me safe."

Schuelke named Presidential Scholar



Carter Schuelke

Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD is pleased to announce that Carter Schuelke has earned the YT Johnson Science Scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The YT Johnson Scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence and plan to major in a science-related field.

To qualify, a student must possess an ACT score of 27 or a 3.7 grade-point-average. Recipients are selected based on interviews with the Augustana University science faculty and

student representatives.

Schuelke, a freshman at Augustana, is the son of Donnie and Julie Schuelke of Minneota.

Freeze

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But then returned to bitter cold on Sunday and Monday with wind-chill being minus-19 on Sunday and minus-21 on Monday. Yuhus expects this bitter cold trend to dominate, except for occasional brief warmups, from now until early February. One of those brief warmups began on Tuesday (Jan. 11) with a high of 39 degrees. Wednesday's forecast called for a high of 34 degrees, while Thursday and Friday are expected to be in the low 30s. The cold weather is expected to return again next week.

"Polar vortex is trying to develop over Hudson Bay and can create prolonged periods of bitter cold over all of the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains from January through March.

"Personally, I think milder Pacific air returns to Minnesota in mid-February and be ready for active spring tornado season in Minnesota."