

# He's at 100 and going strong!

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By: Judy Harlow

Kewaskum High senior Eric Ogi gained membership in an elite group last week.

With a pin in 1:07 over Tristan Clark of Two Rivers, Ogi reached the 100-victory mark in his career, joining other KHS standouts such as Scott Rhoads, the school's only two-tye state champion, Joel Dzedzic, the Middle School wrestling coach and volunteer KHS assistant coach, who placed four times in the state tournament, the late Mike Farchione and perhaps Josh Kurtz, a state champion from the 1990's.

Was this a major goal of Ogi's when he entered high school? <sup>3</sup>To be honest, I never really thought about it until recently,<sup>2</sup> Ogi said Monday, indicating when he reached the 90s, <sup>3</sup>Then you realize it's kind of here.<sup>2</sup>

More important to Ogi four years ago when he started wrestling was <sup>3</sup>making it to state and just being a successful wrestler,<sup>2</sup> but added after his freshman year, <sup>3</sup>I knew I could win 30 matches a year,<sup>2</sup> so it was a possibility.

About the covetous 100th win, Ogi said, <sup>3</sup>It was a pretty easy match,<sup>2</sup> but he still reminded himself about <sup>3</sup>keeping my focus like I should.<sup>2</sup>

Ogi said he got two quick takedowns, but let Clark go a couple times, then when Clark got hold of his leg, he used a move called a <sup>3</sup>Ritchie,<sup>2</sup> tossing Clark over his body and right to his back. <sup>3</sup>It was a pretty cool win to pin him.<sup>2</sup>

Like many other successful wrestlers, Ogi started in the sport before reaching middle school. <sup>3</sup>I started in the fifth grade,<sup>2</sup> the 145-pounder standout said, reporting his first coach was <sup>3</sup>Mooch<sup>2</sup> Melstrand, one of the leaders of the West Bend Wrestling Club.

<sup>3</sup>Mr. (Mike) Bauer was my Middle School coach and he helped me at a lot of the (club) tournaments,<sup>2</sup> Ogi went on, knowing how important these formative years were because they gave him an opportunity to start on the varsity his freshman year.

When asked if he recalls his first match, Ogi said, <sup>3</sup>I don't remember the first one, but I do remember a couple matches from my freshman year.<sup>2</sup>

The first one he singled out, and the only win out of the three that stand out in his mind from that year, came at the On The Waters Tournament in Oshkosh. <sup>3</sup>It was my second match, and I wrestled Kurt Wondra from Lomira. I beat him 5-4,<sup>2</sup> Ogi said.

Next, going down memory lane, was his match against a wrestler from Chilton named Lisowe. <sup>3</sup>I think my brother (Bobby) wrestled his older brother,<sup>2</sup> Ogi said, reporting during the match he tore some cartilage in his knee. <sup>3</sup>I tried to finish the match,<sup>2</sup> but couldn't stand, and, <sup>3</sup>I ended up getting pinned.<sup>2</sup>

After rehabbing the knee for several weeks, Ogi returned to action, then in the regional, he went up against Lee Mueller of Lomira. <sup>3</sup>I think I was beating him 7-1 after the first period,<sup>2</sup> but the lack of conditioning caught up with him. <sup>3</sup>I can't remember. I either got pinned or lost by tech fall,

and he ended up taking fifth at state.<sup>2</sup>

Since then, the story has changed. Ogi's knee has been strong, and he is always in tiptop shape. This year he record stands at 19-2 and a perfect 5-0 in Eastern Wisconsin Conference action.

<sup>3</sup>My focus had been more this year ... I guess my confidence is also up,<sup>2</sup> Ogi said, explaining in the past he would look at a rated opponent and psyche himself out a little but now, <sup>3</sup>I realize I'm a pretty good wrestler myself.<sup>2</sup>

The two fourth places in Division 2 state are impressive, but Ogi said he is thinking <sup>3</sup>This is my last year,<sup>2</sup> so I'm pushing myself hard every day to be the best.<sup>2</sup>

Ogi said his biggest fans are his parents, Greg and Julie. <sup>3</sup>They're always there, which is a big thing for me. Their support is important.<sup>2</sup>

While Ogi, an honor roll student, has enjoyed wrestling and football, his goal in life is becoming a veterinarian like his dad. Next year he plans to attend UW-Wisconsin to pursue that goal.

<sup>3</sup>When I was little I always went with him and sometimes my grandpa<sup>2</sup> on farm visits,<sup>2</sup> Ogi said, adding he has also been able to help out in the surgery room in the last couple of year.

When it was suggested he was lucky to have this opportunity, Ogi said, <sup>3</sup>I've been very blessed, I guess ... in a lot of things.<sup>2</sup>

Back to wrestling, Ogi said has some unfinished business on the mat. <sup>3</sup>(There are) a couple of big ones (matches) left. Hopefully I can help out team win another championship. That would be a nice way to go out,<sup>2</sup> he said.

Note: KHS Coach Dennis Aupperle provided information on the 100-match winners. If there are others, the Statesman would be interested to know who they are.