

Student Ambassador Spotlight: Hudson Skove of Rumson-Fair Haven

One of the best things associated with the NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships are the wide-range of emotions on display throughout the three days of competition in Atlantic City.

Hudson Skove of Rumson-Fair Haven experienced the rough end of that as a sophomore in 2022, when he fell one match short of earning a place medal in the 190 pound class.

Coming that close served as a motivational source heading into his junior campaign, which would come in the 215 pound division, although not quite in a way you might think.

“My preseason goal was to simply improve from last year, not just in terms of accolades, but in pure wrestling technique, IQ, and strength,” he said.

He achieved all of that during a spectacular season, capped by a drama-filled trip to Boardwalk Hall that he’ll never forget. He finished 41-1 after a five-match march through the 215 pound bracket to become the first-ever state champion from his school.



Photo credit: Chris Faytok/NJ Advance Media

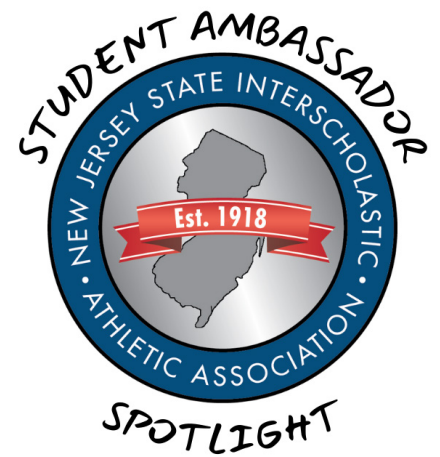


Photo provided by Hudson Skove

“The entire weekend in AC was great,” said Hudson, whose season also included Shore Conference, District and Region championships. “It was my second time wrestling the state tournament there, so everything felt very comfortable and expected. After I pulled out the championship victory (2-1 in an ultimate tiebreaker over Riley O’Boyle, a frequent training partner from Southern Regional), I just felt a feeling of disbelief over everything that happened and started thinking about everything it took to get there.”

The spectacular wrestling season was not the only impressive thing that Hudson has embarked upon this school year. Prior to any of that happening, he was one of 19 student-athletes from throughout the state chosen to serve as a NJSIAA Student Ambassador. By being a part of the group, his meetings with the fellow ambassadors and NJSIAA

officials will help give a voice to every student-athlete throughout the state, while giving the adults valuable insights into the concerns of the students.

The opportunity to do just that is what made Hudson want to apply to serve as an Ambassador.

“I have always loved NJSIAA events, as sports have always been a large part of my life as both a fan and an athlete,” he said. “I had always heard people complain about different aspects of sporting events, so I wanted to help improve the experiences I loved for everyone involved.”

Now that he’s taken part in several meetings, he’s enjoyed the experience and is eager to see what the group can accomplish.

“I am hopeful that we can provide input that will positively impact new rules to help promote better sportsmanship and create an athletic environment suitable for athletes of any level,” he said. “I have been really interested in the different experiences and perspectives of the other ambassadors. I have also heard about larger problems regarding sportsmanship issues with fights and social media attacks than I previously knew existed. I have also seen how many students become stressed or overworked by long seasons with almost no rest.”

One other thing happened for Hudson over the weekend in Atlantic City - by winning the championship, he continued an impressive Skove family wrestling tradition.

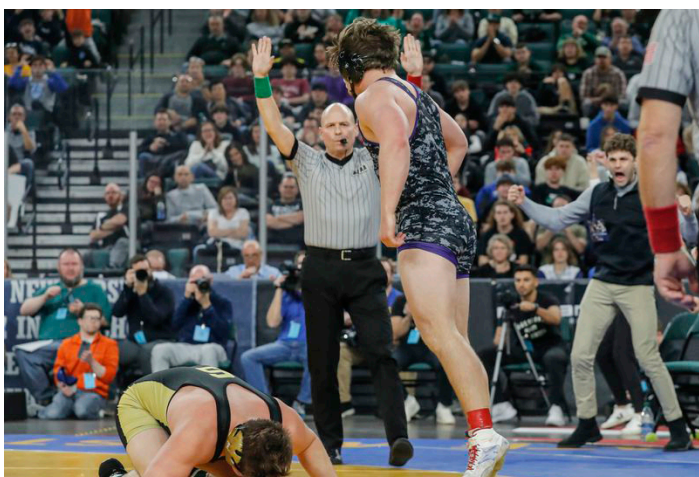


Photo credit: Joe Warner/NJ Advance Media

“I have had many uncles and my dad wrestle,” he said. “One of my uncles (Luke) was a three time state champ and then a three-time All-American. Another (Jude) was a one-time state champ and two-time finalist and a college national champion. Another (Andrew) was also a state champ and an All-American. One more uncle (Mathew) took a third place in states and was an All-American and my dad (Thomas) took a third place in states as well.”

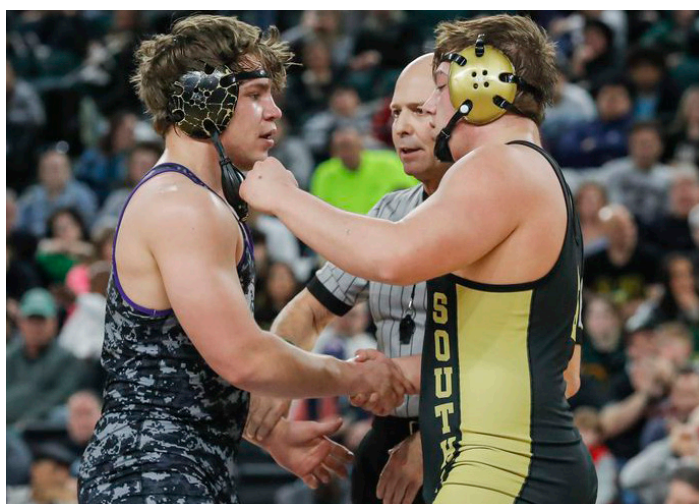
The others all wrestled for Long Branch. Hudson won his for Rumson-Fair Haven, so most importantly, he made history for his school as its first state champion, and also for himself.

“It felt great to add on to the family legacy and I grew up idolizing the achievements of my uncles and dad,” he said. “But over the past few years, my focus has been more on myself and my own journey



Hudson Skove’s winning moment in the 215 pound state final

Photo Credit: Scott Faytok/NJ Advance Media



Hudson Skove shakes hands with opponent Riley O’Boyle of Southern after the 215 pound state final

Photo Credit: Scott Faytok/NJ Advance Media



Photo credit: Joe Warner/NJ Advance Media

as Hudson Skove rather than just a Skove. It also felt great to be the first RFH champion. I have been with this program since before I can remember with my dad being the youth coach and I have loved this school and wrestling program every step of the way (Including with our great high school coaches Eleazar DeLuca, Zach Delvecchio, Thomas Colella, and Jeremy Schulte)."

Getting to know Student Ambassador Hudson Skove:

Favorite school subjects: Math and Physics.

Favorite athlete: NJSIAA wrestling champ, Olympic Gold Medalist and six-time World Champion Jordan Burroughs.

Do you have any superstitions or pre-game rituals? "I always wear the same mustard-colored shorts that my coaches and friends think are ugly."

How do you spend time on the bus on the way to an away meet? Listening to music.

Favorite food? Pizza.

Favorite lunch at school? Cheeseburgers.

The best thing about my school is...? "The people."

What's your favorite thing about being a high school athlete? "The bonds you make with your teammates both in the sport and at school in general."

What's the best quality in a teammate?

Determination.

Do you have a favorite sports memory? "Seeing the crowd of kids congratulate me after the finals, including the whole wrestling team and my sister who flew in overnight from college in Chicago and surprised me."

Is there a sport you don't play but would some day like to try? Ice hockey. "It seems incredibly fun, but I need time to learn how to skate well."

If you had a super power, what would it be and why? "Teleportation. It saves time."

If there were 25 hours in a day, what would you do with the extra hour? Sleep.

Do you have any pets? "I have one dog, named Buckeye."



Photo credit: Scott Faytok/NJ Advance Media

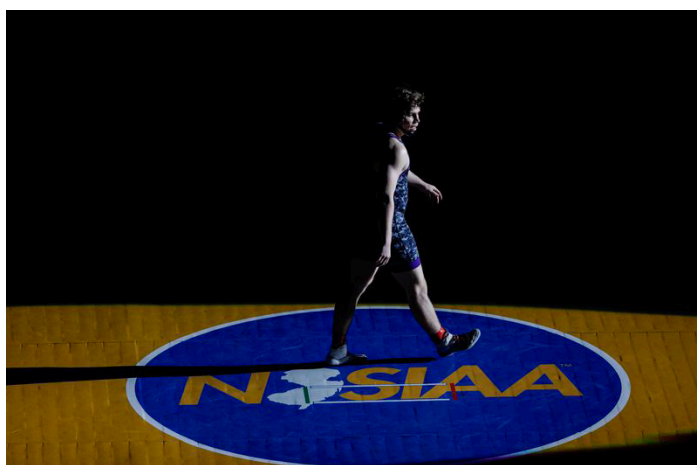


Photo credit: Scott Faytok/NJ Advance Media