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Tuesday, July 28, 2009 12:01 PM CDT  
**Gadson verbals to Cyclones**

By JIM NELSON, [jim.nelson@wfcourier.com](mailto:jim.nelson@wfcourier.com)

WATERLOO --- Kyven Gadson was cleaning out his bedroom recently when he came across some old journals.

Printed on and through out those journals was the phrase, 'I want to be a Cyclone.'

Those junior high journals turned out to be prophetic.

Last Thursday, the Waterloo East state champion and senior-to-be made a verbal commitment to new Iowa State wrestling coach Kevin Jackson, becoming Jackson's first recruit at ISU.

"I just felt coach Jackson could get me to where I wanted to be," Gadson said. "I grew up wanting to be a Cyclone."

Gadson will be following in the footsteps of his father and high school coach, Willie, who was a two-time all-American for the Cyclones in the mid 1970s.

Jackson and his assistant head coach Chris Bono visited Gadson on July 9, Gadson's 17th birthday. Jackson and Bono told Gadson he was their top in-state target.

Gadson, the 56th-ranked recruit in the nation by Intermat, was still going to let the recruiting process develop after that in-home meeting, but had a change of heart last week.

"He really was going to got through the whole process," Willie Gadson said. "But last week, he called me and said, dad, I'm ready to commit. I think it was one of those things where we've been working out with the Waverly-Shell Rock kids and he saw some of them commit so he decided to verbal to Iowa State.

"I think coaching Jackson getting hired at Iowa State was important, too. He is a very good coach technically."

"They told me they really liked me and liked the things I can and will be able to do on the mat in the future," Kyven added about the Cyclone coaching staff. "I think he (coach Jackson) is going to be great fit in Ames. And, I'm following my dad to ISU. Hopefully, I can do a little better than him."

Gadson won the 171-state championship for East in February which came on the heels of a state runner-up finish as a sophomore at 145 in 2007.

He expects to start his college career at 184, but at his current rate of growth figures he'll wrestle in the 197-pound classification eventually.

Currently, Gadson is rehabbing from knee surgery earlier this month. The injury was expected to keep Gadson out four-to-six months, but he his physical therapist told Kyven he was ahead of schedule Monday.

"I was happy to hear that," Kyven said. "Four months would be November and our first dual meet is in December. But at the same time I'm not going to rush the process. I have bigger things in mind for the end of the season."

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