

March Athlete of the Month: Connor Johnson

BY MATT NIEDERBAUMER, CFP® Vantage Financial, Partner, Senior Wealth Advisor

Connor Johnson, a senior at De Smet High School, has learned many lessons from his involvement in sports throughout the years. Connor has competed in folkstyle wrestling his entire career and has enjoyed doing freestyle (or Olympic level) wrestling in high school. His dedication and passion for wrestling has led to many accomplishments which include



Photo taken by Craig Lee Studios

achieving his 100th career win, qualifying for state multiple times, and being named Most Improved (sophomore season) and Most Dedicated (junior season). Connor has competed for two years on the National South Dakota Wrestling team and is a captain for the Kingsbury County Wrestling team this year. Coach Steve Gilbertson praises Connor for consistently exhibiting high moral character and sportsmanship whether he wins or loses. He also highlights his dedication and motivation to continually work towards improvement, especially during the off-season, when he runs for the cross-country team. Despite finishing races at the back of the pack, Connor has found great joy in running. This experience has taught him that medals aren't necessary to be successful and that he finds achievement in hard work, discipline, and perseverance through his struggles.

Throughout high school, Connor has excelled in band, chorus, and his college level classes while participating in National Honor Society, leading the Student Council as President, and volunteering for the Cattleman's Association service projects. For the last five years, Connor has participated in Future Farmers of America where he competes in land judging, parliamentary procedures, creed speaking, and agriculture business. These events require a great deal of preparation and Connor was excited to have the opportunity to compete on the national level two years in a row for land judging. It's clear he has learned to successfully balance the demands of schoolwork, extracurriculars, and athletics while helping on the family farm. Connor heads to Lake Area Technical College in the fall to pursue Agriculture Production.

To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email bfast@vfplanning.com, visit [Vantage Financial Partners website at www.vfplanning.com](http://VantageFinancialPartners.com), or ask your high school guidance counselor. If you are a high school senior who plays sports, attends a SD high school, you are eligible to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship.

Getting to know Connor

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Hard work beats talent when talent does not work hard."

FAVORITE FOOD: Baked cheese curds

FAVORITE LATE-NIGHT SNACK: Lemon Ginger Hot Tea with a Stroopwafel.

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER: Reaching my 100th career win in wrestling in front of a home crowd.

FAVORITE HS CLASS: Advanced Biology with Mrs. Schmidt. I found it interesting to learn more about the human body and how the body functions and Mrs. Schmidt does an excellent job making the learning process fun and educational. Also, we toured the SDSU Cadaver lab, and I almost passed out so that was a memorable experience!

FUN FACT: I am intrigued by Tesla and hope to own one of their vehicles one day.



Your Partner. Your Success.

- ✓ Investment Management
- ✓ Tax & Estate Strategies
- ✓ Retirement Planning
- ✓ Wealth Building



Matt Niederbaumer, CFP®
Partner & Senior Wealth Advisor

Adam Walter
Wealth Advisor

1712 Dakota Ave. S
Huron, SD 57350

- P** | 605-352-4124
- E** | info@vfplanning.com
- W** | vfplanning.com

*Unbiased Approach. Comprehensive Process.
Ongoing Consistency. Fee Transparent.*

Additional office locations:

- Watertown, SD
- Elm Grove, WI
- Loveland, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Youngstown, OH

