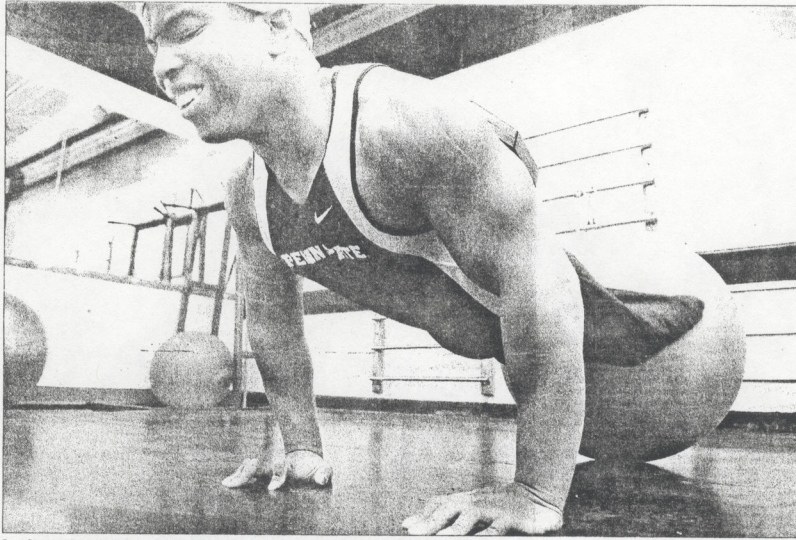


Six-year-old Mason Mellett stares at Rohan Murphy moments before his match during wrestle-offs in Rec Hall.

Photos and text by Carl Kosola for the CDT

Penn State wrestler Rohan Murphy knows that when he takes on an opponent in the 125-pound weight class, he always will be at a disadvantage — not because he hasn't trained harder than his opponent — or that he isn't stronger. Murphy, who also is a champion weightlifter, was born with a birth defect that led to the amputation of both of his legs. The junior kinesiology major from Long Island, N.Y., hasn't allowed his disability to prevent him from competing in college. Even when he gets stares from those who don't understand his disability, Murphy doesn't let it sidetrack him. He relies on his competitiveness, discipline, dedication and drive with the consistent support of his teammates.

Heart of a warrior



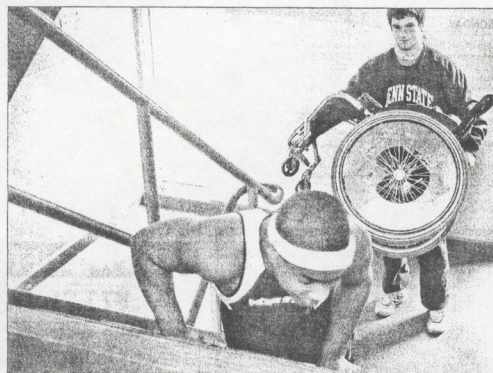
Penn State student athlete Rohan Murphy finishes his workout by doing push-ups with a 35 pound weight on his back.



Murphy struggles furiously to get off his back against Chris Robbins during wrestle-offs at the 125 pound weight class.



Murphy talks with classmate Whitney Gutshall about a homework assignment.

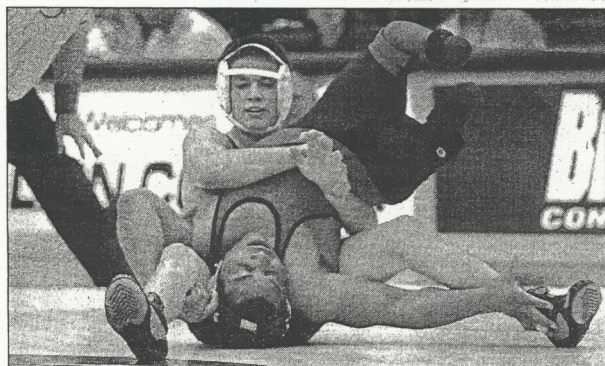


Above: Wrestling teammate Jake Strayer helps Murphy by carrying his wheelchair up a flight of steps.



Left: After a day of classes, Murphy travels back to his dorm with his teammate Chris Robbins.

ON THE WEB
See additional photos of wrestler Rohan Murphy
www.centredaily.com



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Above: Wrestling teammate Jake Strayer helps Murphy by carrying his wheelchair up a flight of steps.



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