MARIA SPORTS

Raven Donaldson



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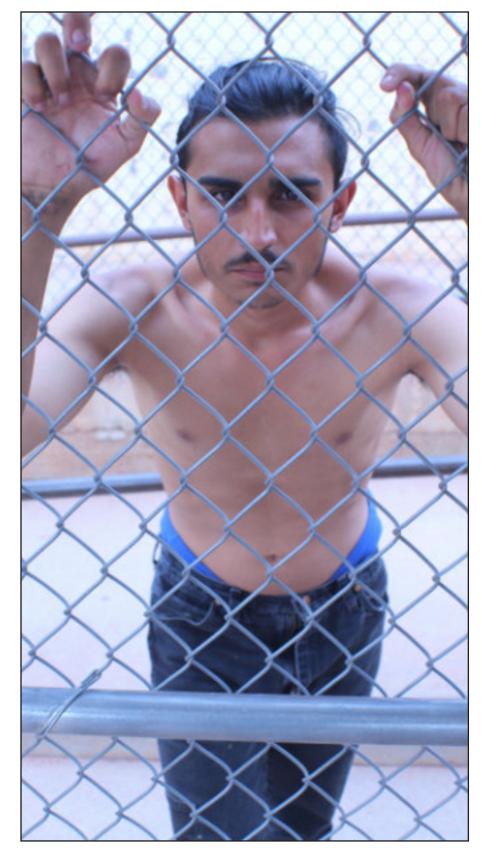
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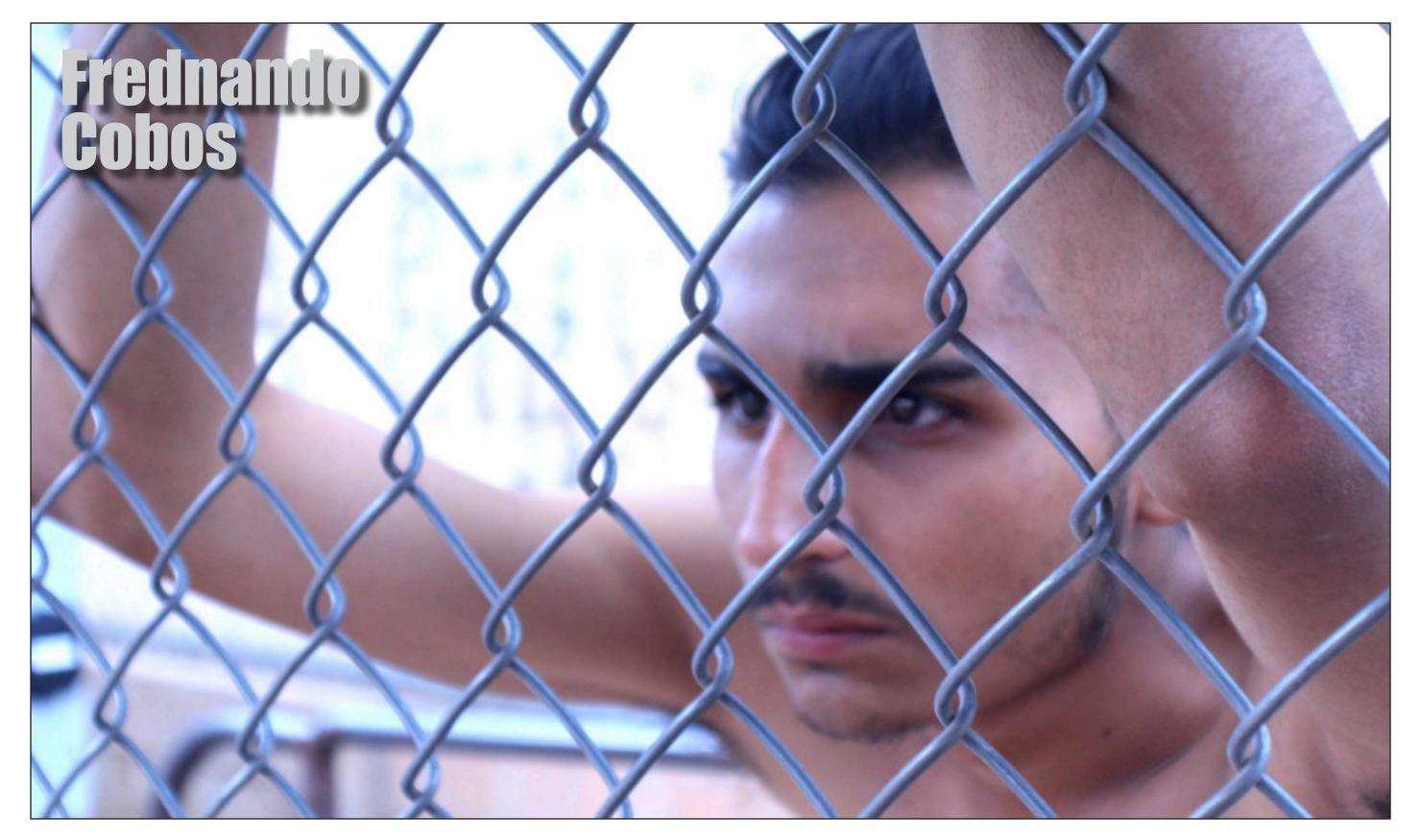














My name is Gage 'the Gladiator" Cooper. I live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and train in Muay Thai and BJJ. I also wrestle and play tackle football. On the off chance I'm not on the mat or on the field after school, you can find me at speed and strength conditioning. I am obsessed with being the best I can be in my respective sports and know that the only way to get there is through hard work and the consistency of continuing to show up day in and day out.

Although I'm relatively new to martial arts, only

starting Muay Thai and BJJ in December 2022, I've already earned my grey white belt in BJJ and often travel the country competing in various tournaments in the US. I'm currently training for my next tournament scheduled for October where I will be competing as a higher belt, a new age bracket, and a new weight class all at the same time. I can't wait for the challenge!

My greatest goal is to earn 1,000 medals as I travel the world competing in various martial arts tournaments. So far this year, I've racked up 13 medals, so I know I have a long road ahead of me. I also plan to start incorporating judo into my training to improve my takedowns.

My greatest dream is to play professional football as a linebacker in the NFL and to earn my red belt, which I know is an incredible feat. In the

meantime, I'm simply focused on having fun and seeing where my dedication to sports can take me. Would love for you to follow along on my journey through social media! Instagram @gage_the_gladiator

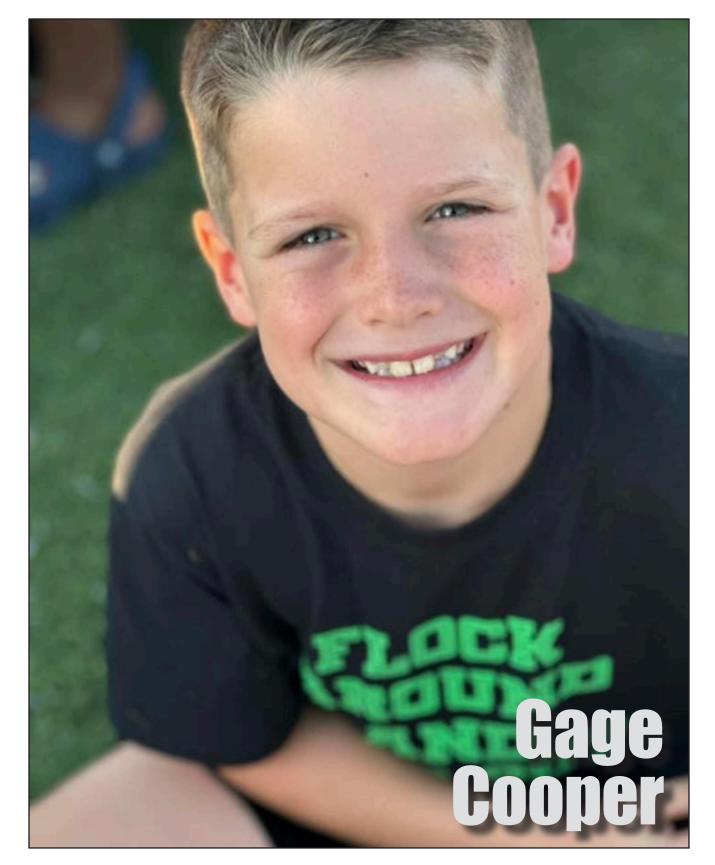
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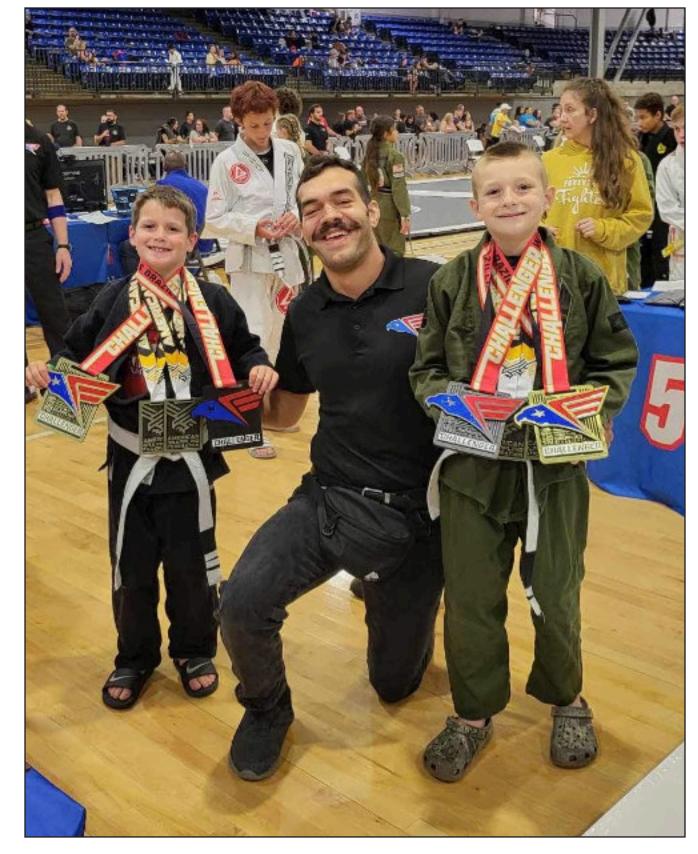






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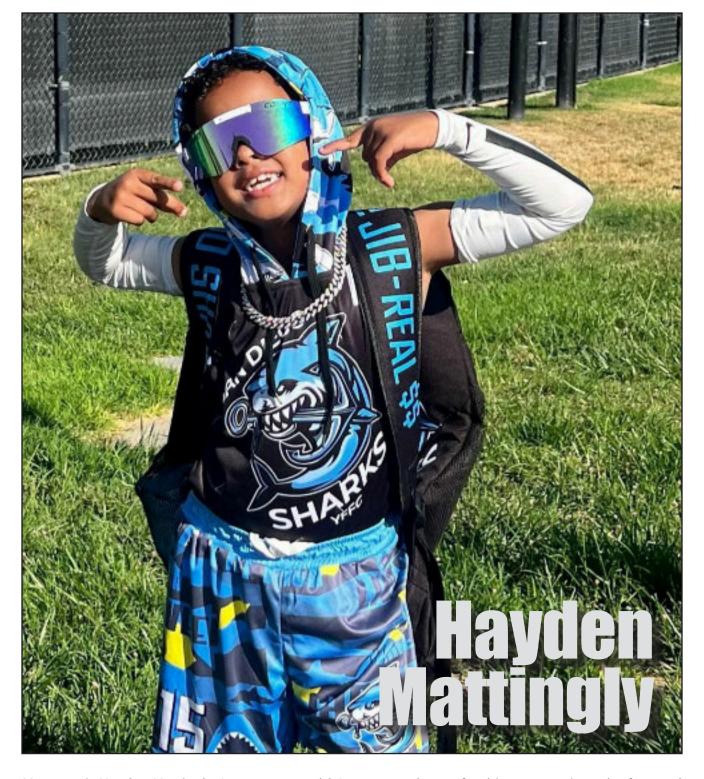




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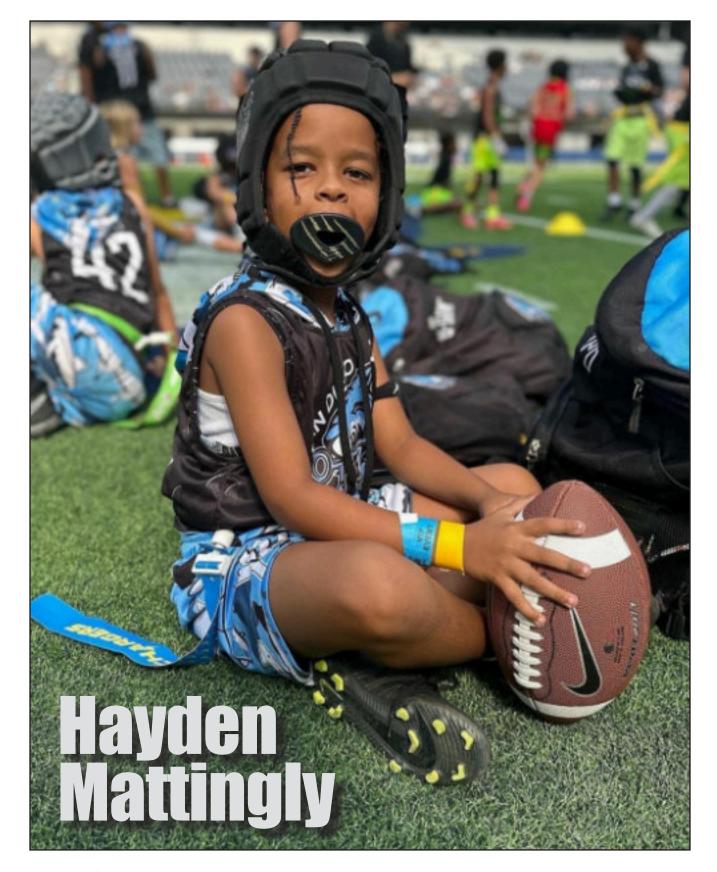
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My name is Hayden Mattingly. I am 11 years old. I have started playing football since the age of 8 . I also do martial arts. Though I do it seldom, I enjoy it. I am also a green belt which I earned last year. I

am very happy for this opportunity to be featured in a magazine. My goal is to be an international footballer. I want to experience many more things in future which I'll share for sure.











My name is Kaya Sebat. I have been doing Brazilian jiu-jitsu a few years and I have accomplished a lot such as winning a state championship. I have over 30 wins and my next Photos Credits: Kaya Sebat













Hello, my name is Kaylin Ortiz and I am nine years old from Queens, NY. I am half Peruvian, half Dominican.

For as long as I could remember I was always kicking and throwing punches. I loved to watch Karate Kid, Jet Li, Jackie Chan, and Bruce Lee movies and I would always try to imitate their moves. wanted to go to karate school but my parents told me I was too young at the time, so on my fifth birthday, I asked my parents for karate classes as a birthday gift. My parents asked me every day for a week if I was sure that was what I wanted for my birthday. My parents started looking for a karate school and found Tiger Schulman's school in Bayside, NY where they teach kickboxing, jiu jitsu, and mixed martial arts. As soon as I walked into the school, I saw the kids on the mats training hard and hitting the punching bags. At first, I was scared because I looked small compared to the other kids in the school. A Sihan, who is the head instructor of the school, took my parents and I downstairs for my free trial class. I loved it so much that I immediately asked my parents to sign me up. Since that day I have been training under Sensei Julio Arce.

After six months of training, I was asked by the school if I was interested in competing in Jiu Jitsu and kickboxing. I decided to give it a try and compete in my first tournament. At five years old, I was nervous but I trained very hard every day. I won third



place in kickboxing but unfortunately lost in jiu jitsu. I remember that after that competition, I felt compelled to get better and I have worked hard every day since.

Mixed martial arts has taught me to be disciplined and to have a no quitting attitude no matter what the results are. It has taught me that hard work always pays off. I also started wrestling and GI jiu jitsu at the school of grappling under Coach Mike Maher, which has helped me very much with my jiu jitsu. I have been very fortunate to have been able to compete in many tournaments such as Challenge of Champions, New Breed, Naga, American Grappling, Jiu Jitsu World League, and Pride BJJ. I have been blessed to have won Gold 14 times, Silver twice, Bronze twice, Nuway jiu jitsu national champion and blessed to have been able to compete with very talented kids and made new friends.

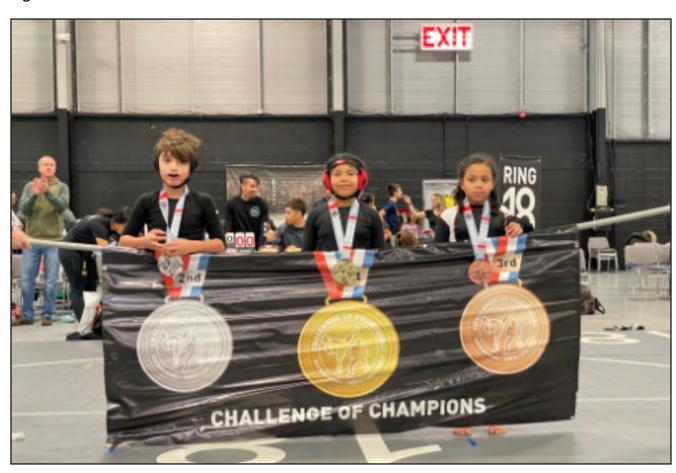
My dream and goals are to become a black belt at Tiger Schulman's, and black in BBJ and become a

Mixed Martial Arts world champion. I would also like to one day open my own school to teach kids everything that I have learned.

I would like to thank my school Tiger Schulman's in Bayside for their support, my Sensei and mentor Julio Arce for teaching me never to quit and to always push myself, Joshu and Sempais, which are my big brothers and sisters in martial arts, for their knowledge and helping me with techniques and giving me advice, and I also give thanks to my teammates for pushing me when training and for beating me up....

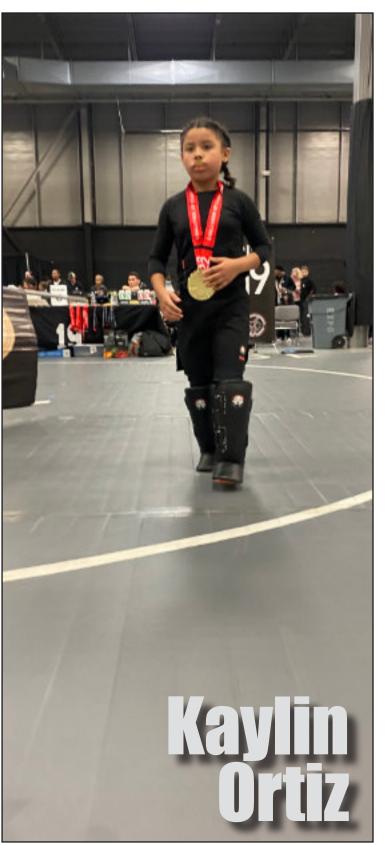
I would like to give many thanks to Coach Mike from grappling school for always supporting me and for taking time to break down the techniques of wrestling to use in my jiu jitsu. I would like to give a special shout out to my family for always supporting me at my tournaments and for always being there for me.

Photos Credits: None



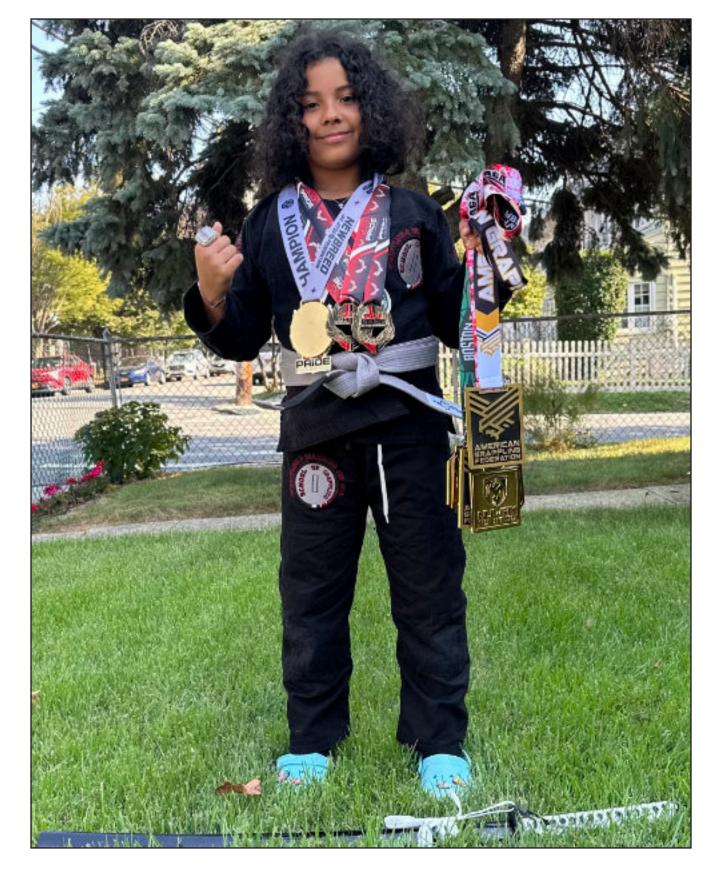


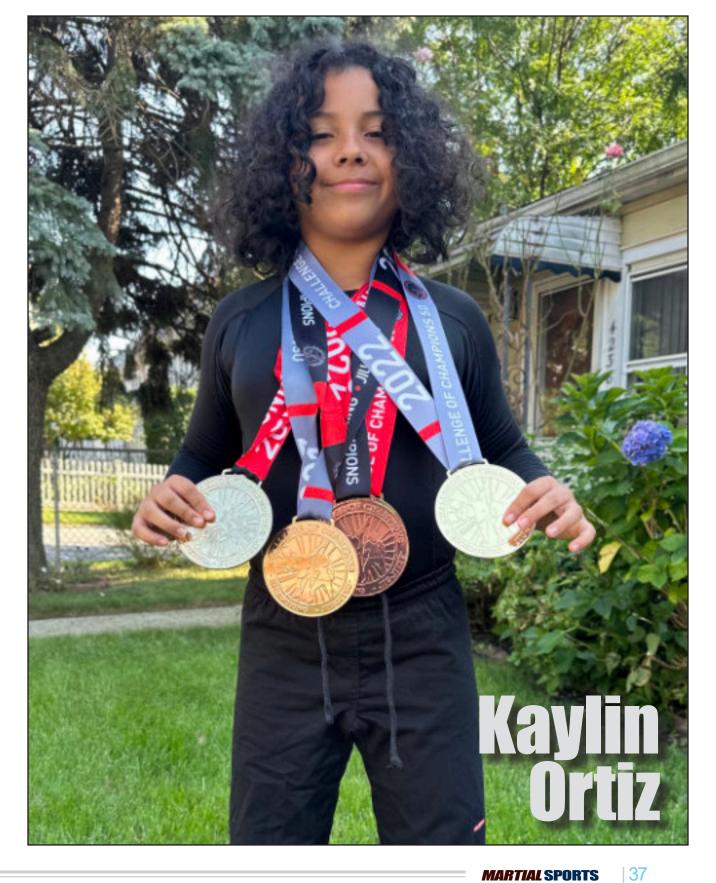






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Photos Credits: Mai'via Simi













My name is Raven Donaldson, I'm a green belt in Taekwondo and a Grey-White belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. I started my martial arts journey when I was 5 years old at Singletons Martials Arts near San Antonio, Texas. I started learning Taekwondo under Grand Master Stan Singleton, and then became interested in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu when I saw Mr. Ulises Flores teaching it. My dad put me in martial arts because I was smaller than other kids and getting bullied. When we moved to Dallas I focused only on Jiu Jitsu under the Carlos Machado system, and then moved to Rockstar Martial Arts where my competition skills have really begun to grow. I also just started in wrestling.

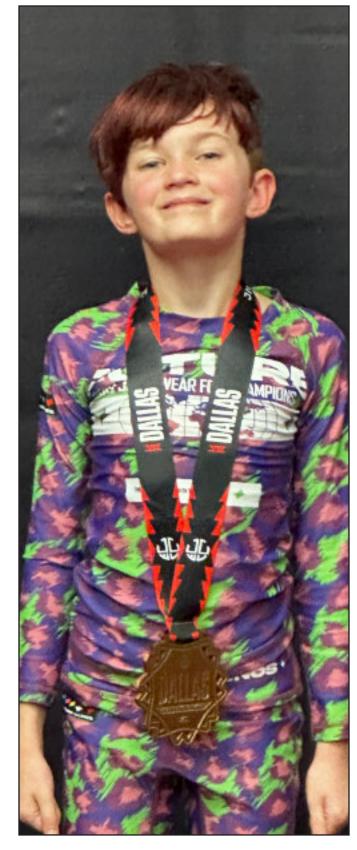
The people I look up to in Jiu Jitsu are my coach, and also Helena Crevar, and Gordon Ryan, but my goal is to be better than they are and help advance and grow Jiu Jitsu as a sport and self-defense. I would love to train under John Danaher even if it's just one day, and I try to use what I learn from him on Instagram when I'm training. I also want to get back into Taekwondo or another striking art so I can be a professional fighter, or learn to be a software engineer because I'm really good at math and I like computers.

When I started out competing, I lost a lot and I didn't want to do Jiu Jitsu anymore. But my dad told me that it is alright to lose as long as I walk off the mat knowing I fought my hardest and learned from the loss. After that, I started winning bronze and silver and finally gold. But I'm still learning, and I still lose, but I always assault forward and leave everything on the mat.

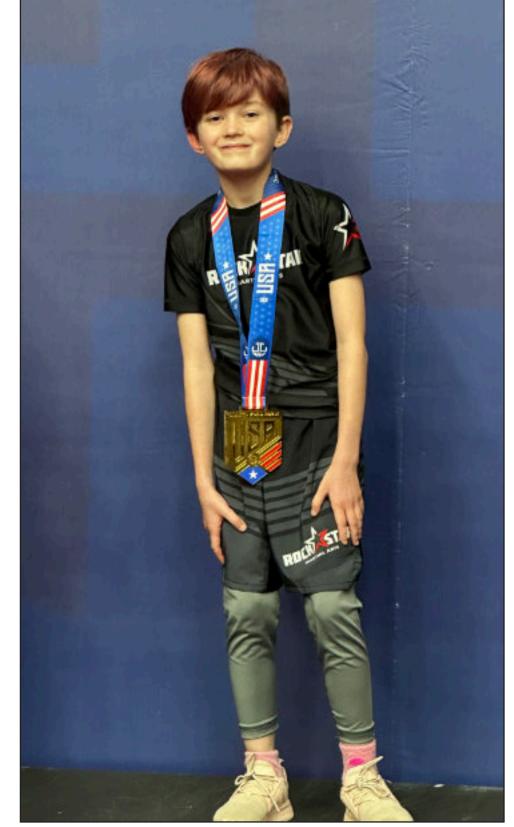
My biggest accomplishments have been winning my first Taekwondo tournament as a green belt against a bigger blue belt, and winning the first of my gold medals at the Jiu Jitsu World League USA tournament. I also feel that earning a Bronze medal at Jiu Jitsu Con was a big success because my division was stacked with amazing athletes.

My journey in martial arts has helped me so much with my confidence, and I've made a lot of friendships along the way.

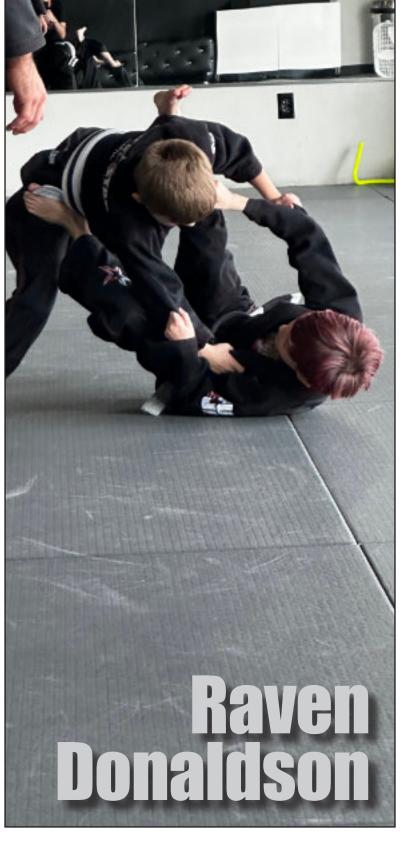
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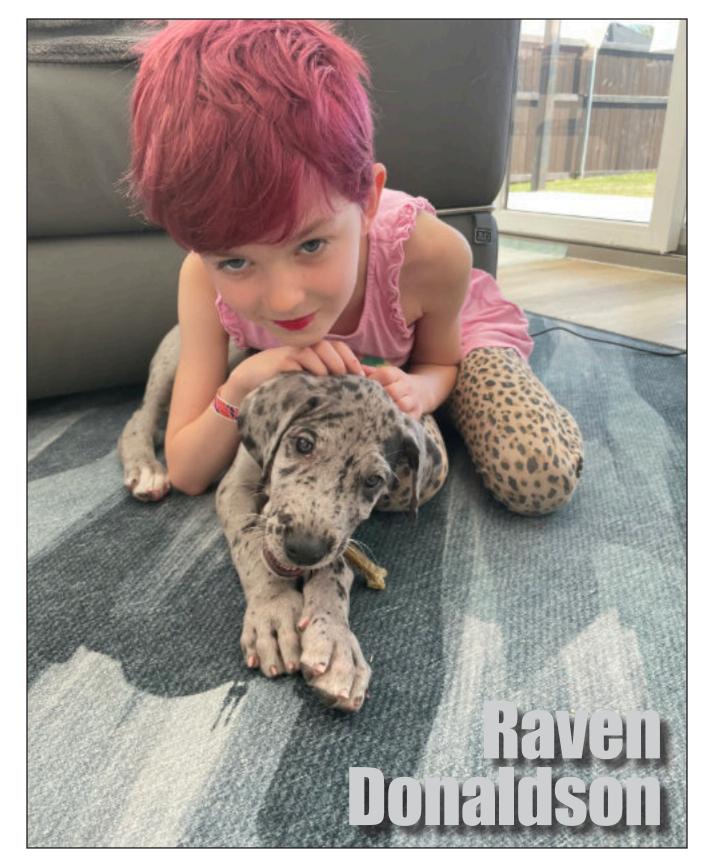








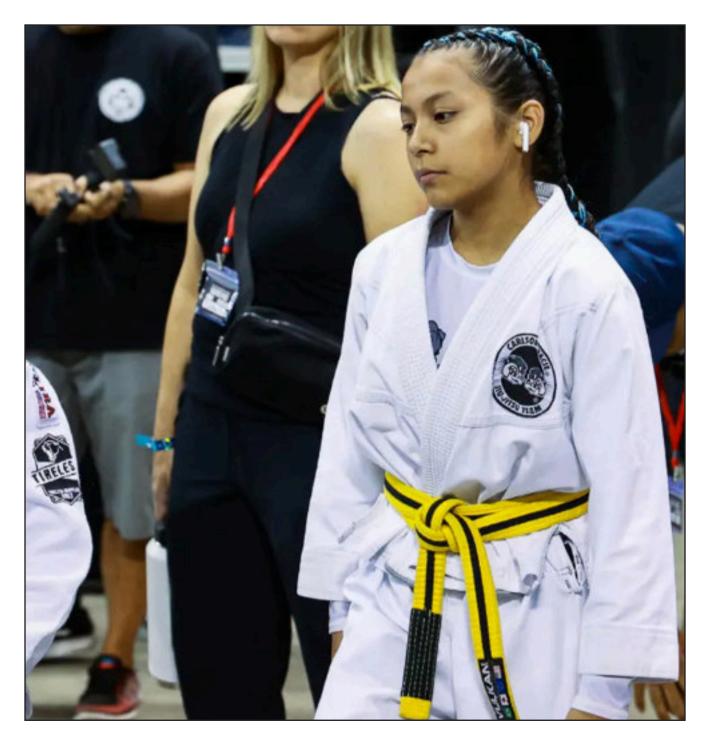






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Rhylee and Camila Torres train at carlson Gracie garden grove under Diego segura. Two sisters that have taken over jiu jitsu with the dynamic of sisterhood. Rhylee is a yellow/ black belt definitely don't want to mess and camila is a white belt. They

both have their heart out on the mat and during matches they show their strength and commitment to the love of jiu jitsu. They are two sisters you around with. They hope to show

that anyone can do jiu jitsu no matter what obstacles come at

Photos Credits: Chris Hori, Mom







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