

Vasquez Becomes First Four-time California Champion

By Al Fontes

The standing room only crowd at the University of Pacific in Stockton was privileged to witness the beginning of what would eventually be one of the greatest challenges in California wrestling history during the

1998 State Wrestling Championships. After narrowly winning a come from behind bout in the semi's, Jacob Palomino of Independence High School made history when he defeated David Lopez of Valhalla in the 103-pound final, becoming the first

freshman to win a prestigious California state title. Many people in the stands whispered hints of him possibly becoming the first wrestler to win an unprecedented four state titles. Since the start of the CIF State Championships in 1973, this achievement