

Closing the Gap

Maynard faces foes and disability head on

By Bryan Van Kley
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Meet the wrestler who has epitomized what it truly means to never give in.

Born with severely undeveloped limbs from a rare disorder called congenital amputation, Kyle Maynard qualified for his high school state wrestling tournament and finished the year with an amazing 35-16 record. He

then participated in the NHSCA High School Senior Nationals, April 2-4, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Both of Kyle's arms end just above the elbows and his legs end well before his knees with small feet turned backwards for balance. When he's not using a motorized wheel chair, Kyle gets around on all fours. He refuses to use prosthetics because he

does not want the mentality of actually having a handicap. The 18-year-old from suburban Atlanta has learned to adapt to nearly every situation he's been presented with in life.

And possibly the most amazing part of Kyle's story is his attitude. He's incredibly positive, content on doing the best he can with what he's been given rather than