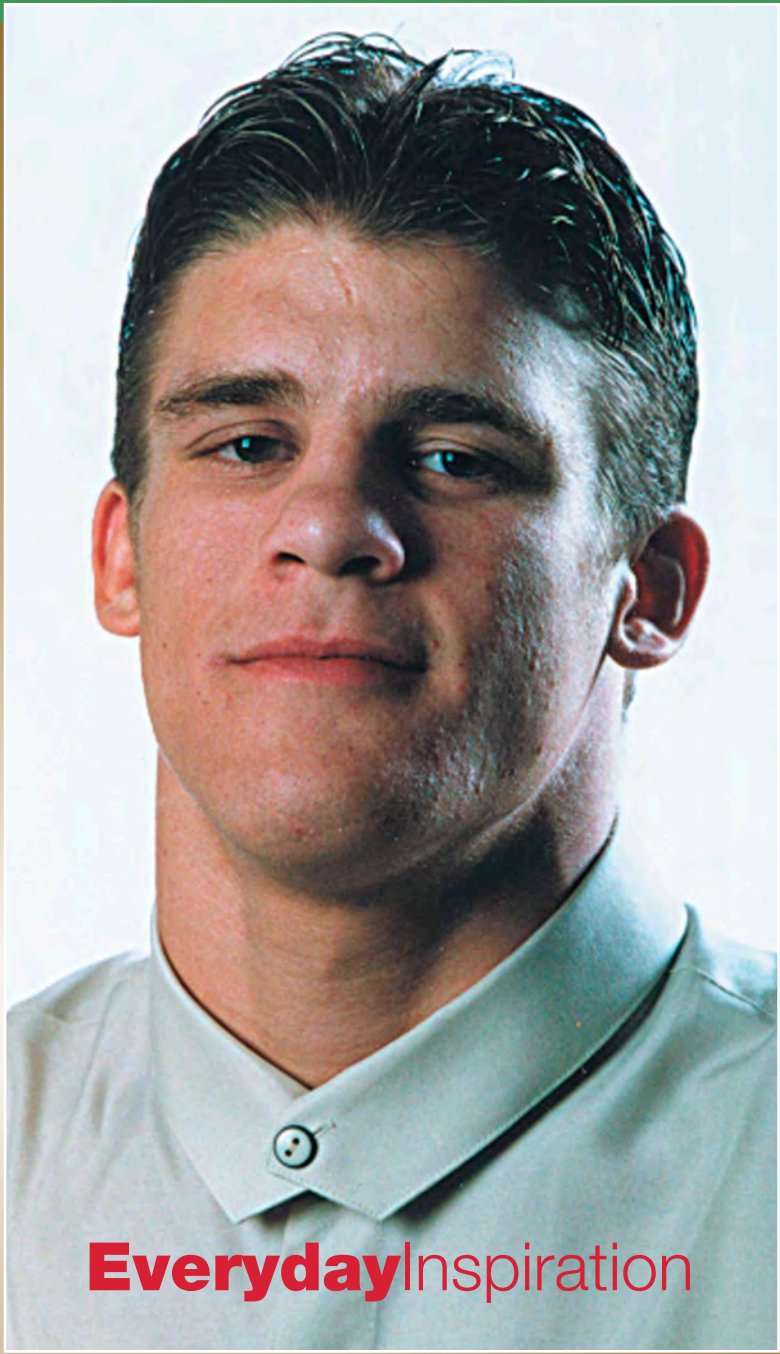
Wrestling with ADVERSITY

Documentary chronicles Lehigh wrestler's bout with life lessons

By Greg Johnson, *The NCAA News*



You don't have to be a wrestling aficionado to appreciate "Veritas: The Jon Trenge Story." You just have to appreciate a student-athlete's resolve.

The documentary follows the Lehigh University wrestler's senior season in 2004-05 and the expectations that came with being favored to win the 197-pound championship after finishing second in each of the two previous years.

After Trenge lost a heartbreaking decision in the finals as a junior, he had the word "Veritas" (Latin for "virtue of truthfulness") tattooed on his right thigh.

His story is one of courage, since he wrestled his last three years with retinal damage in his left eye. Doctors told him he risked permanent blindness if he took a blow to the eye and strongly recommended that he give up the sport he loved.

But his childhood dream of becoming a national champion trumped the possibility of losing his eyesight. In the documentary, Trenge's parents, Michael and Darlene, support their son's decision, but they can't help but worry every time he takes the mat.