mlive.com

Sign in | Register for free
Sign in with Facebook

Site Search | Search Local Business Listings
Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more Go

Home | News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Interact | Jobs | Autos | Real Estate | Rentals | Classified Ads | Shop

Sports | Statewide | High School Sports | Kings | Lions | Pistons | Red Wings | Tigers | MSU | U-M | Wings | WMU | More

Top Stories

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland vandalized on Christmas...

Generation smart phone changing how we work, play

Kid Rock's exclusive CD with Meijer is hot seller



# Ivy League experience has been eye-opener for former Bangor wrestling standout Brandon Shull

Published: Sunday, December 26, 2010, 12:00 PM

By David Drew | Kalamazoo Gazette
Follow

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.
Tweet 0 Share 0 Comment 0
Share Email Print

Courtesy photo

Brown University senior wrestler Brandon Shull, right, works against an opponent in a recent match.

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. —** Brandon Shull is not shy about saying he's living a dream.

The former Bangor wrestling standout is a senior captain on Brown University's grappling squad and is finishing up a first-class education.

"I got a great opportunity to go to Brown," said Shull, who competes in the 197-pound weight class. "No matter what happens as far as wrestling, it's given me an opportunity to have a very successful life. No matter the success I have or don't have in wrestling, I'm very grateful.

"I mean, I wrestled at Bangor, a small Division 4 school. It goes to show if you work hard and do the right things, good things will come. You look at it, and it's a needle in a haystack. There are good wrestlers all over the country. Luck had a lot to do with this, so I'm very grateful."

So, how does a teenager from Bangor end up in Rhode Island?

Fellow Bangor wrestler, Levon Mock, a state champion in 2004, was recruited by Brown and opened the door for Shull.

"When my senior year rolled around, schools were getting in touch with me," Shull said. "I went

## More Kalamazoo Sports

**Most Comments** | Most Recent

**Kalamazoo Sports** stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

346 DeAndre Levy's pick-six leads Detroit Lions to 34-27 win over Dolphins

168 Shaun Hill takes No. 1 reps at QB for Detroit Lions

81 Take your pick: Detroit Lions now have three banged-up quarterbacks

82 Detroit Lions place Matthew Stafford on injured reserve with shoulder injury

70 Detroit Lions film breakdown: This just in - Calvin Johnson's pretty good

straight to Levon to see exactly what Brown was like. It's nice when you're getting recruited to have a high school teammate to talk to. When I got the info from him, I was sold."

Bangor coach Dennis Paquette, who has visited Shull every year he's been at Brown, is proud of what his former wrestler has accomplished.

"He's very smart," Paquette said. "I remember when he was in high school, one time he won the Science Olympiad all by himself for our school. We had a whole team there, but he earned enough points to win it all by himself."

Paquette said Shull hasn't changed since his high school days.

"He's the exact same kid he was in high school," Paquette said. "He's very serious and very driven. He's also very happy-go-lucky. Nothing rattles him."

Shull said it took a while to happily settle into the Ivy League culture.

"Coming from where I come from to Providence, Rhode Island, I don't even know how many people are in Providence, but it's more than 2,800," Shull joked. "Brown is very liberal and my perspective on things changed. I didn't change, but I just saw a lot of people with views that weren't the same as mine.

"There was one person who knew where I was from. I tell people where I'm from and I don't even try to say Bangor; I say the Kalamazoo area. I told one person and they knew and that was cool. A lot of it was just adapting — trying to find people to fit in with. It was nice coming into a wrestling team because you have one big thing in common."

The decision to migrate to Rhode Island was made a little easier with some encouragement from Shull's family members.

"It was a tough decision to go," he said. "I finally sat down and talked with my mom and it's one of those things where you tell them your concerns and then it became one of those things that she said she would beat me over the head with a stick if I didn't go. She said, 'It's an Ivy League school, shut up and go.' It was a tough decision until my whole gang told me to go, go, go."

Shull is majoring in economics and, after graduating in May, he plans to join the Marines.

This season is Shull's first season as a full-time starter and is excited for the opportunity.

"The last few years there was a kid ahead of me in the lineup," he said. "Now, I'm the only senior. I don't have a lot of match experience, but I want to be an NCAA Tournament qualifier. I want to get in there and make an impact in the year that I have to be a starter.

"I want to get this team ready for success. The team success is going to be limited this year. I want to set them up for later on. The team we're putting together is going to be tough in a couple years."

Possibly the biggest honor for Shull was being named a captain this year.

"It's a pretty big deal. It's a big honor," he said. "It's a team vote. That was a big honor. I felt good about it. It's a responsibility. It's a learning experience. I try to give the younger guys advice based on my own experiences."

Contact David Drew at ddrew@kalamazoogazette.com or 269-388-8400.

**Sponsored Links**

**Most Active Users** What's this?

Users with the most **MLive.com** comments in the last 7 days

198 Pandamonium

153 retired teacher

123 Voice of the People

87 MW33

67 redwing fan

**Connect with MLive.com**
What's this?

All Facebook & Twitter accounts »

**Recommendations**

Login You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recommendations

Wayland Union Schools elementary principal dies Christmas morning after collapsing at home
609 people shared this.

DeAndre Levy's pick-six leads Detroit Lions to 34-27 win over Dolphins
141 people shared this.

Red Wings' Danny Cleary out four weeks with fractured ankle
109 people shared this.

Facebook social plugin

**From Our Advertisers**

• See coupons and values for local businesses. Click here!

Advertise With Us »

MLive.com on your mobile phone
News, Sports & more!