

# GazetteOnline

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## Still wrestling at 31

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**CEDAR RAPIDS** - Jed Jobe didn't win a match at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships that wrapped up last night at the U.S. Cellular Center.

But to call Jobe a failure would be shortsighted.

Jobe came to Cedar Rapids to win, to prove a 31-year-old can still compete and still have success.

That wasn't a typo. Jobe, a native of Gilbert, Ariz., is a 31-year-old senior at Grand Canyon University. He's also married with five children and is a cancer survivor.

Why would a 31-year-old father of five put himself through the sweat, the blood and pain of a college wrestling season?

"The desire to want to compete," he said this weekend.

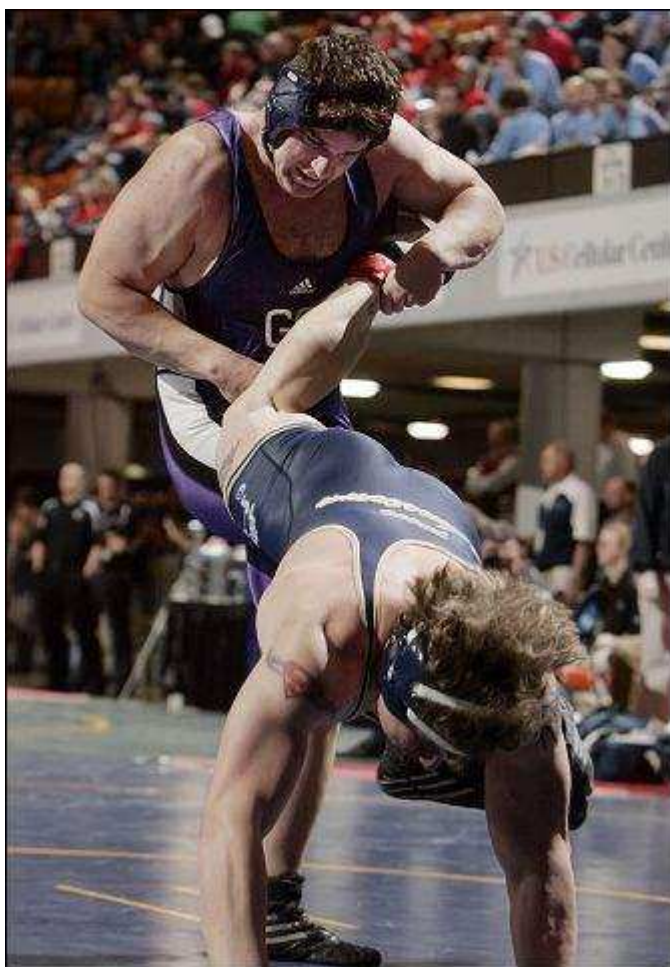
Jobe started his career at Arizona State and after a red-shirt season suffered through an injury. Then life got in the way, his wife got pregnant and his wrestling career was over. Or so he thought.

"I never really got that chance to compete at this level," he said. "I just missed it."

Jobe got back in the sport, working with the Grand Canyon staff to help kick-start a first-year program.

"We had a lot of issues with transfers, not a lot of kids were eligible," he said.

So he jokingly told his coaching colleagues he still had some eligibility left. A semester, to be exact.



(Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)  
Grand Canyon's Jed Jobe (standing) battles Pittsburgh-Johnstown's Zach Majocho during their heavyweight match Friday at the Division II championships. Jobe competed as a 31-year-old.

So Jobe enrolled in school — "It's been awhile since I've been in school," he said — and started working out with the wrestling team in January. But instead of working out as a coach, he now was a wrestler — after nine years away from competition.

"My first meet, Jan. 6, I tore my calf," he said. "I've just been trying to play catch-up."

He entered the tournament with a 7-6 record after a third-place finish at the West Regional. He said he doesn't feel like an "old man" on the mat.

"Really, this last week or two, I've been able to turn it on," he said, noting he was a heavyweight at ASU but grew to "super heavyweight" after becoming a husband and father.

"My body has really adapted well that last few weeks. It's taken me up until the last few weeks just to get the rust off and just to be able to go through the practices without dying."

In between his two college careers, in October 2004, Jobe was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He had a couple of surgeries and "I've been cancer free since," he said.

He's even fathered a son since the cancer. His daughters are ages 9, 7, 5 and 3. His son is 1.

"The doctor said I should be fine," he said. "I ended up being more than fine because I had four girls and the last was a boy. So that was all right for me."

He said his family has been supportive of his latest wrestling career.

"They're excited," he said.

But it's all over now. He goes back to work for his father in the home improvement field.