

Coach Walsh honored with special part in Jensen's *Wedding*

By Jenna Comes

Cole Jensen held the school record for most wins in wrestling at MVAO when he graduated in 2016. Helping Cole along the way to all of this victories was his coach, Jody Walsh.

When Cole and his fiancé were talking about who could officiate their wedding, Coach Walsh came to mind.

"We chose Walsh to marry us because he has been a big part of my life and helped create who I am today," Cole said. "We didn't want to have a traditional wedding, we wanted something different and fun and with Walsh we knew we would have that."

Cole brought his fiancé, Madeline to meet Coach Walsh and his wife, Michelle.

"When Madeline said we don't want real serious, I said 'Well you came to right place,'" Jody said.

Cole and Madeline's wedding was on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022 at the Brownstone in Topeka, Kansas. Madeline is from the Kansas City area while Cole is from Mapleton.



Jody got certified by the Universal Church of Life via the internet to perform the ceremony. He later found out in Kansas you really didn't need to be certified.

He was teaching elementary physical education when he met Cole (aka Beef) for the first meeting when he was in third grade.

"I nicknamed him, Beef, after a guy I played college football with and that's pretty much what called him from then on," Jody said.

He even said, "On behalf of Beef and Missy, I would like to welcome you!"

Cole said it was really cool and special to have Coach Walsh be a part of the wedding.

"I spent so much time with Walsh in wrestling, he almost became like a second father to me," he said. "I never thought I would have the wedding ceremony we did have but I couldn't imagine having it any other way."

Walsh said it was a huge honor for him to officiate the wedding.

"I have always tried to have a strong bond with athletes when I was coaching and this just reassured me that I do," he said.

The best piece of advice that Coach Walsh gave Cole was to never give up, always keep

going and if you fail, and keep practicing it to get better.

Cole remembers his senior year of wrestling. Coach Walsh kept making him practice this one move that he didn't like.

"He made me practice it all year and I never did end up using it in a match until I was at State Wrestling that year," Cole said. "I ended up using it twice in the same match and ended up getting the guy down with it and pinning him."

And as soon as Cole came off the mat Coach Walsh just had to say, "See I knew we would use it sometime this year."

Cole and Madeline bought a house in Spring Hill, Kansas following the wedding. Cole has been working as a lawn care manager for Custom Lawn and Landscape for five years and Madeline is an assistant county attorney for the county just south of the county they live in.

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Cole Jensen



The picture on the left is of Coach Walsh congratulating "Beef" after a match at the state tournament his senior year (2016).

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