

THE SCRAP-MADE STANDOUT INSIDE THE GROWTH OF WALLER'S AMORI SMITH





Last weekend at the Cy Ridge Classic, Waller junior Amori Smith didn't just win a title – he announced himself as one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the Houston area. Smith stormed through the bracket with three technical falls and a pin, dominating every opponent in his path. His finals performance sent an even louder message: a tech fall over a returning state qualifier to cap off an undefeated run. It was the kind of breakout showing that gets people talking, and for Smith, it felt like the culmination of months of steady grinding and leveling up.

Waller junior Amori Smith wasn't always destined for wrestling greatness. In fact, he didn't even want to join the sport at first. But sometimes the best stories start with a little push – or in Smith's case, a nudge from his brothers and a family that believed he'd thrive on the mat.

"I really didn't want to try it," Smith admitted with a laugh. "But after some convincing, I went out for the team. From there, I was drawn in by the dedication and commitment you need to truly succeed. Wrestling demands another level of discipline, and that challenge hooked me."

That initial spark has now grown into something special. After a strong sophomore campaign, Smith has launched into his junior season absolutely on fire – dominating the Cy Ridge Tournament and remaining undefeated heading into December. And if you ask him, this breakout start didn't happen by accident.

Fuel From February

Last season ended earlier than Smith wanted – a regional exit he still thinks about today. Instead of letting disappointment linger, he turned it into fuel.

"Ever since getting knocked out of regionals, it's been stuck in my mind," Smith said. "I've been grinding ever since, and this season is my chance to prove myself and show the progress I've made."

That offseason grind was no joke. Smith logged hours upon hours of mat time with Waller teammates and wrestlers from programs across the area. He doubled down in the weight room, sharpening explosiveness, speed, and especially endurance.

"To me, being tired on the mat is a sign of weakness," he said. "I wanted to build a gas tank that never quits."

Even at home, the work didn't stop – drilling, conditioning, refining his pace, and building the confidence to pull the trigger on his attacks without hesitation.

Leveling Up: Body and Mind

The physical jump has been obvious this season, and Smith points directly to one major change: fixing his weight-cut process.

“Last year I struggled with that,” he said. “This season I’m treating my body right and not exhausting myself in the wrong ways.”

But the mental shift may be even more important.

“Mistakes used to get to me – a bad shot, a loss, messy wrestling,” Smith said. “Now I’ve learned how to reset my mind and stay locked in.”

That poise has been noticeable. He wrestles with a calm, calculated confidence – never rushed, never rattled, and always ready to strike.

Brotherhood and Leadership

Smith’s growth hasn’t happened in isolation. Two people, in particular, helped shape the wrestler he’s become.

First, his brother.

“He pushed me to my limits,” Smith said. “He’s helped me grow every step of the way. I want to thank him for everything he’s done for me.”

And then there was Trever Land, Waller’s captain during Smith’s freshman year.

“He set the standard for leadership,” Smith said. “I shaped myself after the example he set. I’m grateful for the impact he had on me and for helping me become the leader I am now.”

Now, as a junior, Smith sees himself stepping into that same leadership role – helping to refocus a team that lacked discipline last season.

“We’re a family this year. Everyone has each other’s backs,” he said. “I’ve done my part to help get everyone locked in and focused.”



A Club That Changed Everything

If there's one place outside of Waller that's molded Smith, it's 484 Scrap Club, one of the fastest-growing training hubs in the Houston area.

"The Scrap culture has pushed me farther than I thought I could go," Smith said. "I've put everything into the club, and they've returned that support tenfold. I'm proud to represent 484."

The results speak for themselves.

What Comes Next?

Despite his rapid rise, Smith insists he didn't plan any of this. Growing up, he thought he'd play football all four years and run track. Wrestling wasn't part of the picture – until it became his passion.

Now, he wants to pay that passion forward.

"After high school, I want to start something similar to the Scrap club wherever I end up," he said. "My goal is to help kids in the community find the same love for the sport that I found."

For now, the mission is simple: keep winning, keep improving, and keep proving that the work he put in all spring and summer wasn't just for himself – but for his team, his family, and everyone who believes in his potential.

If his early-season dominance is any indication, Amori Smith isn't just a rising name in Waller – he's becoming one of the most compelling wrestlers to watch in the Houston area.

