

## Shooting from the Hip - Chasing ghosts

by Scott Schulte

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I have been around wrestling for most of my life. I started wrestling as a 13 year-old kid and began coaching in 1986. In all of those years I can honestly say Viewmont's Nate Larsen and Layton 's Adam Fager are as great of competitors as I have had the chance to know. Chasing ghosts, perhaps, is only one way to describe the mindset of these two Davis County athletes. Before everyone flips out and starts screaming other names, understand I have only been involved in Utah wrestling for four years and the wrestling here is light years ahead of anything I witnessed in Connecticut. I mean you could take a junior varsity team from Davis County and go back and win many tournaments in New England. It's that much better here. And while Larsen and Fager may not be the likes of the nation's top grappler Jason Chamberlain who resides in Springville, these two wrestlers are head and shoulders ahead of their competition and Tuesday night's Utah All-Star match-up showed it.

Larsen methodically manipulated his opponent to a technical fall (18-3) just before Fager broke the will of his powerful opposition much like someone subduing a horse.

Larsen and Fager are as different as they are alike. Larsen is small and depends on his quickness and ability to know every possible situation and how to get out of it. Fager, on the other hand, walks to the mat and you know this man is going to thump whoever is going to try to take him down.

And as I've had the chance to get to know both athletes, it has become obvious that Larsen and Fager are mentally above the competition, maybe more so than they are athletically. In speaking with both, the message is the same: every match is just a stepping stone to getting better as if they are chasing some ghost.

It's fun to listen to two young people this driven and this focused on consuming the competition.

"I should win by more points."

"I should have pinned him sooner."

"I did OK."

"There's so much more to accomplish."

These kind of comments can make someone sound cocky, maybe a little arrogant. But these two don't fall into that category.

No, these two young men are just chasing high school immortality and perhaps a few

ghosts.

Read more: [Davis County Clipper - Shooting from the Hip Chasing ghosts](#)