

**Headline:** Small Town Unknown a Step Away from Superstardom

Since he was six years old, James Brian Nutter has been obsessed with professional wrestling. From the first time he saw Hulk Hogan on TV, he knew that he “was hooked.” Growing up since then watching and idolizing wrestling stars like Sean Michaels, Rick Flare, and Ricky “The Dragon” Steamboat, it’s no wonder his life goal is to make it to the big-time with the World Wrestling Entertainment, or more commonly referred to as the WWE.

“I’ll be on TV one day. I work harder than anybody else in the world at what I do,” says Nutter, who started training when he was 17 as a senior at Waynesburg Central High School.

Despite having only three years of experience under his belt, he’s determined that this is what is he meant to do.

“Growing up, I knew I was going to affect people, be a role model and entertain people; I do all three things,” Nutter, now 21, says boldly. “Wrestling will take me all the way to the top.”

Sitting on his bed in the house where he grew up in the small town of Mount Morris, Pa., wearing gym shorts and an Arnold Schwarzenegger tee-shirt, Nutter is relaxed and easy-going. He actively engages in conversation while playing continuously on his smart phone.

One aspect that is crucial to his success as a wrestler is nutrition, and Nutter follows a strict breakfast ritual that includes 6 raw eggs, ¼ pound to ½ pound of turkey bacon, ½ loaf of bread and a large glass of milk—“all to get my metabolism going.” He eats six meals throughout the day and consumes about 5,000 calories.

This is a complete 180 to his days as a teenager. Nutter is now 70 pounds heavier—mostly muscle— which compliments his new haircut and style.

“I’ve become very good-looking in the past year—good hair, strong jaw line,” he says, 100 percent won over that women are naturally more attracted to men with strong jawlines. “It’s an indicator of a lot of testosterone and women feel safe around you.”

After his intense breakfast, Nutter clocks in for the opening shift at Best Buy in Morgantown, W. Va., a job he has had for approximately two and a half years.

“I’m my own boss,” Nutter says pointing out that he has had four promotions since starting out as a part-time computer technician. “Yeah, they like me there,” he admits with a smile. James is in charge of the functionalities of the displays throughout the store and that employers know how to properly work them. He also orders supplies and oversees the Geek Squad, Best Buy’s technical support department.

Once his shift ends, James goes tanning, which he says is very important in the wrestling industry because “you can’t be a ghost on camera.” He then makes his way to the gym, somewhat of a second home to him, where he works out four to six times a week. He constantly alters his workouts and his weightlifting routines in order to continue gaining new muscle and toning his body.

Nutter, who actually has a wrestling license for the state of Kentucky that he obtained last April, has wrestled in West Virginia, New York City, New Jersey, Louisville, Nashville,

Megan Fox

Phoenix, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Erie. But he calls his “home shows” the matches in Pittsburgh.

Throughout this whole experience, James has performed in the not-so-glamorous bingo halls, YMCA’s, gymnasiums and cafeterias. However, he has seen his fair share of arena’s and sport emporiums.

“I did have to wrestle outside once with temperatures in the 80’s at a match in West Virginia, though. It was awful. I got sunburnt,” he says bitterly. Nevertheless, it’s the crowd that makes up for what a venue lacks.

“I’ve seen the high end of the spectrum and the low end,” says Nutter, who’s wrestled in front of crowds ranging from four to 2,000. “Wrestling has made me the happiest I’ve ever been. But I’m not content. I’m so glad I didn’t peak in high school because the best is ahead of me. This isn’t all for me.”

His favorite matches have been the tag team title match he and his partner, JT Williams, won against the tag team “Excellence Personified,” last summer in Pennsylvania, along with any match with Joe Brooks, Matt Sigmon, and Ryan Mitchell.

“Brooks is the best talent I’ve ever been with in the ring and Sigmon is a gentleman from Tennessee and I have a really, really good time with him in the ring,” he says. “Mitchell trained me, along with Shane Shadows, from Keiser, W. Va., who broke me into the business. He beat me up for six months,” he admits nonchalantly. “I have met a lot of people who are the best at what they do. It’s pretty cool.”

In his career, Nutter has won three matches: The tag team title match in Pa., a Cruiserweight Championship in West Newton, Pa., and just a match, no belt, from a tournament he was a part of in McKeesport, Pa. "I'm most confident in my dedication and my work ethic." The one word that sticks out most to Nutter when summing up everything he has been through these past three to four years?

"Confidence." He says it's something you have to find. And he definitely has a lot of it now. He believes he will be working for the WWE one day, a goal he considers "his only option." Nutter goes on to say it could happen tomorrow, or ten years from now. "Of course, I'd prefer sooner."

Along with wrestling full-time, Nutter plans to attend school next fall out of Westmoreland Community College to earn an associate's degree in Computer Science/Programming.

"If I wasn't wrestling, I'd be a teacher for kids in fifth through eighth grade. I love kids. Those are my fans," he says extremely aware of the fact that he's a "role model" and his actions as a wrestler impact and inspire his young fans.

He's often approached a lot at the mall, restaurants and Facebook. "It's a mix between kids and adults." One place Nutter would prefer to be invisible to his fans is at his job at Best Buy.

"I like my privacy. My day job and wrestling are two different worlds," he says. "I don't like to mix them."

“I like to tell stories, and this is the greatest form of storytelling,” Nutter says as to why he’s so passionate about wrestling. “This is something that I’m better at than other people. It’s my niche and when things get rough, I’m the one with the heart for it.”

Nutter has been from zero to hero, a total Hercules transformation. With his heart, that’s why he is so confident that his name will be in lights on an arena marquis. One day households across the nation will have a son or daughter with an action figure of him and wishing to be him.

“People are put on the Earth for a reason,” says Nutter, positive that he has what it takes to make it big, no matter how much sweat and pain he has to endure. At the end of the day, he knows his purpose full heartedly. “I’m made to be a wrestler.”