



Tag Team

Father, son pair up for wrestling haven

BY BRANDON BRIGMAN
STAFF WRITER
brandon.brigman@
gwinnettdaily.com

LAWRENCEVILLE — When Rich Gabaldon walked into Takedown Sportswear he was instantly greeted by Randy and Dustin Kawa.

“Hello, hello,” Dustin said.

“I need to get a pair of wrestling shoes,” Gabaldon replied.

Gabaldon only needed shoes for his son, a Peachtree Ridge baseball player and wrestler, but he could have gotten just about anything he needed at Takedown Sportswear.

From headgear to singlets to shoes and knee pads, Takedown Sportswear has a wide range of wrestling

WRESTLING

- **What:** Takedown Sportswear and The Wrestling Academy
- **Where:** 1665 Lakes Parkway, Suite 106, Lawrenceville
- **Noteworthy:**
 - Takedown Sportswear is Georgia’s largest supplier of wrestling gear and apparel
 - Dustin Kawa is a 1999 grad of Shiloh, where he won three state championships

wrestling,” said Randy, who owned Ultima Trophies in Stone Mountain for 18 years. “It’s kind of the same concept of the soccer pro shops and tennis and things like that, but there has never really been one for wrestling. So we decided to do it.”

In just three years of existence, Takedown Sportswear has flourished. But this isn’t your typical mom and pop sporting goods story. The father-son duo of Randy and

tom design for uniforms and training gear, Takedown Sportswear has its own clothing line.

“Instead of wrestlers buying Tapout or Fight stuff, they are buying wrestling gear,” Dustin Kawa said. “We are one of the only companies in the country that sells a brand for wrestlers designed by wrestlers.”

Takedown Sportswear did business with high school and college teams from 30

contract with the American Crown Series, the toughest and largest national tournaments in the country. That means their clothing line will be available to wrestlers throughout the county next season.

If that wasn’t enough, they are also partners with the apparel company Knuckle Up Fight Gear, which is the largest mixed martial arts training facility in the state.

While Takedown Sportswear has expanded tremendously over the last year, it hasn’t lost its local roots. Ever since the company first started in 2006 it has donated all of the uniforms for Team Georgia wrestlers to compete in national tournaments. With more than 125 Team Georgia wrestlers, that’s roughly \$25,000 worth of uniforms, which is even

equipment, making it Georgia's largest supplier of wrestling gear and apparel.

"There's never really been a retail store in Georgia for

Dustin have made Takedown Sportswear one of the premier clothing lines for wrestlers.

In addition to doing cus-

different states last year and will supply the Appalachian State wrestling program with its gear next season.

They recently signed a

more impressive in tough economic times.

"They've been in Georgia