

Santa Ana College's first-ever women's wrestling team

Jade Morales (bottom), Giselle Barrera (bottom), Daisy Castaneda (top), Lesley Marroquin (top), Jessica Dionicio (bottom), Itzia Rivera (top), Stephany Zamora (botom), Tonancin Martinez (bottom), Maya Vazquez (bottom), Valerie Robles (bottom), Destiny Huerta (top), Sarah Centeno (top) el Don / Geo Esparza



## ZINE AND WRITING

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## **a** el Don

## First women's wrestling champ

**STORY BY** Manny Hernandez June 3, 2024



Jade Morales becomes the first-ever women's state champion. / Photo Courtesy of Chris Mora

a role model to my sisters," said be a stronger person, woman, and "It has taught me overall how to now lives and breathes wrestling. grown more and more. Morales Morales' passion for wrestling has a perfect record of 14-0. Over time, Morales ended her season with

Before Morales shot for a take-

match only lasted two minutes. the mat not letting her escape. The down. Morales kept Figueroa on after executing a single-leg take-Morales was able to pin Figueroa opportunities during my matches." Morales. "I just look out for different angles and I'll adjust myself," said "I'm always seeing different

looked like a lioness waiting to wraps her hair in a ponytail, she stands around 5-foot-5-inches and angle. Even though Morales only Figueroa trying to find the right down, she was moving around

anteed," said Morales.

brance on its prey.

myself in that environment." wrestlers so I want to surround Montana. "They produce national is the University of Providence, in number one choice as of right now Virginia, and Montana. Morales's Morales from Oregon, West ahead. Colleges have approached onship, Morales has a bright future After winning the state champi-



Photo Courtesy of Chris Mora Jade Morales trying to pin Denise Figueroa in the championship match.

from Dickerson's takedown. successful takedown and escaping than Dickerson after executing a in the end by scoring more points

well as nearly pinfalling Hernandez from five successful takedowns as 18. Most of Morales's points came from Mount San Antonio College by also outscored Nadia Hernandez In the semi-final match, Morales

Denise Figueroa whom she had onship match to face No. 3 seed Morales headed to the champi-

and reminded myself it is not guar-

could take it but remained humble

"I just thought then and there that I

beaten twice already this season.

Jade trying to find the angle to takedown Figueroa. Photo Courtesy

down. But Morales won the match

Dickerson shot for a takedown

from Palomar, was able to throw

match against Pir'Chai Dickerson

put into this." During Morales's first

"I am thrilled with all the hard work I

College Athletic Association state

champion in Santa Ana College's

came the first-ever women's state

wrestling captain Jade Morales be-

Saturday, April 20, Las Doñas

Sacramento City College on

n the red-and-yellow mats of

history at the California Community

"It feels really good," said Morales.

and was able to bring Morales

her around during the match.

wrestling tournament.