

## KM wrestler's death shocks school

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Former Kettle Moraine High School student Daren Hidalgo was remembered as a happy kid, with a good work ethic that got along with everyone. News of his death in Afghanistan this past Sunday shocked those who knew him.

A first lieutenant in the Army, Hidalgo was killed in Afghanistan's Kandahar province when insurgents attacked his unit with an IED, according to a press release from the United States Department of Defense.

"It's kind of a sad shocking thing, there is no doubt about it," said KMHS Athletic Director Mike Fink, who remembered the hard-working wrestler.

Hidalgo was involved in Kettle Moraine middle school and high school wrestling, where "he was a star in the making," neighbor and former assistant wrestling coach for Kettle Moraine Middle school and High School Fred Konkol said.

Konkol added that Hidalgo always wanted to be good at wrestling, and that he always had a great work ethic.

"He breathed in hard work," Konkol said. "You couldn't help but love him."

The Hidalgo family moved back and forth between Waukesha and Dallastown, Penn., during his high school years because of his father, Jorge Hidalgo's, executive job with Harley-Davidson.

"When he moved, it was a big blow to us," said Fink of Hidalgo's move after his sophomore year at KM.

After high school, Hidalgo attended West Point Military Academy. He was appointed company commander during his senior year where he had 140 cadets looking to him for leadership.

Hidalgo graduated from West Point in 2009, and left for Afghanistan a year later.

Hidalgo's body was flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Tuesday morning. Funeral arrangements are pending.

He had been assigned to 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment out of Vilseck, Germany.

"This is one of those kids who knew this is what he wanted to do, he wanted to serve his country," Fink recalled.