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***American Victory* - The Remarkable and Inspirational Autobiography of Olympic Gold Medalist Henry Cejudo**

American Victory - Wrestling, Dreams, and a Journey Toward Home

December 2, 2009, Phoenix AZ – In a new book from the Penguin Group (USA), *American Victory*, readers embark on an inspirational journey, as Olympic Gold Medalist Henry Cejudo personally guides them through the depths of his memories, sharing intimate details of a story that inspired a nation, the story of his life.

Although new heroes will be crowned each year during the Olympic Games, Americans will not soon forget the awe-inspiring story which unfolded before an international audience at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing; a true story of hope and perseverance that prompted the masses to dream.

AMERICAN VICTORY: *Wrestling, Dreams, and a Journey Toward Home* by Henry Cejudo and Bill Plaschke (Celebra Hardcover Original; January 5, 2010; \$24.95), is the powerful and inspiring memoir of a young and determined American-born son of undocumented Mexican immigrants who, against all odds and expectations, achieved his dream of becoming an Olympic champion. Henry Cejudo not only successfully achieved his dreams; he did it in grand style, by making Olympic history.

Born in Los Angeles into a world of instability and poverty, Henry learned at an early age that at times one must fight to live, literally. Raised by a single mother with his six siblings, Henry's life was far from easy, and never normal. Extreme poverty and living conditions that would have adversely affected most people, only succeeded in building Henry's character and integrity. The determination, unbridled passion, and stubborn resolve of a life spent fighting both on and off the mat culminated in Henry's invitation to compete under the Stars and Stripes.

Through it all, Henry's family offered their unwavering support, as he grappled to find himself and fight for his dream, something Henry will always be thankful for, "*Thank goodness. I did belong to somebody. Good or bad, I belonged to my family. We had no permanent home, but somehow... there beat a permanent heart,*" he confides.

At the Beijing Olympics, Henry Cejudo made history by becoming the youngest American to ever win a gold medal in freestyle wrestling. In addition, as the only American wrestler to bring home the gold during the 2008 Games, Cejudo is solely responsible for keeping U.S.A Wrestling's four decade gold medal win streak alive.

Today, Henry offers guidance and inspiration to inner-city and at-risk youth across the country, sharing his story, fostering hope, and helping shape the lives of thousands of young athletes.

AMERICAN VICTORY is a success story depicting a family's struggle to survive, a young man's indomitable spirit, and the American Dream. **AMERICAN VICTORY** will be available in bookstores nationwide on January 5th, 2010. Pre-order's available now on Amazon.com. For more information on Henry Cejudo, please visit www.HenryCejudo.com. We also welcome fans to follow Henry on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HenryCejudo) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HenryCejudo). Fans can also view the latest video footage of Henry Cejudo on [You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/HenryCejudo).

About the Authors:

Henry Cejudo is a freestyle wrestler who won a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. At twenty-one years old, he was the youngest American ever to have won an Olympic wrestling gold medal. Henry was born in Los Angeles. He currently lives in Phoenix Arizona, and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Bill Plaschke has been named the Associated Press Sports Columnist of the year four times. He has been a sports columnist for the Los Angeles Times since 1996 and is a regular panelist on ESPN'S "Around the Horn." He has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and his work has been featured frequently in The Best American Sports Writing.

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