



THE EX-FILES

NORVILLE'S NEW GIG

NEVER LET IT BE SAID **Deborah Norville** backs away from a challenge. In her college days at the University of Georgia, she got a weekend anchor job at WAGA-TV. There was just one hitch: She sometimes had no place to stay in Atlanta and simply slept in her car. "I'd get off around 11 p.m. and park near a streetlight," says Norville. "My worst fear was that someone would see me in my car and think I had been out partying all night."

Nearly three decades later, Norville—who had the daunting task of replacing Jane Pauley on *Today*—faces another challenge. Her new show on MSNBC, *Deborah Norville Tonight*, is trying to knock CNN's Larry King off his ratings pedestal. That's on top of the Dalton native's "day job" as host of *Inside Edition*.

Norville now lives in New York City with her husband and three children, but she appreciates her visits home. "As much as Atlanta and the South have changed, I'm very pleased to see that the Georgia where I grew up has not changed one iota," Norville says.

—CHANDRA R. THOMAS

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

BEYOND THE MAT

Wrestler

KYLE MAYNARD

aspires and
inspires.

By Debra Miller

THE GREEN AND WHITE walls in the gym at Collins Hill High School in Suwanee seemed to sweat as the wrestling team grunted its way through one of the final practices before the state championships last February.

Of course, the big story was senior Kyle Maynard and his amazing 35-16 record and his unfailing spirit. Kyle was born without legs and with a set of arms that end as stumps about where his elbows would be. Though his joystick-controlled wheelchair gets him around, Kyle prefers to scamper around on his arms and the tiny feet that are attached to his torso.

He was remarkable to watch on the mat. To look at him was to imagine him as helpless, and yet he had figured out ways to compete. He bulked up his torso to the point he could butterfly-lift 350 pounds using chains



attached to his arms. He learned his opponents had a tough time adjusting to him because the things they would typically use for leverage—arms and legs—don't exist with Kyle. "I've always

been able to figure things out as I go," he says. "It's what I call my 'pursuit of normalcy.' Anyone I come in contact with soon realizes I'm just a regular guy."

Well, yes and no. A regular