



DANNY TINDELL/DOTHAN EAGLE

Former pro wrestler Marc Mero speaks to teens in Ozark Tuesday night. Mero gave a motivational, anti-bullying message to several groups.

'I just believed'

Former pro wrestler tells audience how his life changed nine years ago

BY EBONY HORTON
ehorton@dothaneagle.com

OZARK
Motivational speaker and former wrestling champion Marc Mero gave students a twist on the cliché "Seeing is believing" lesson on Tuesday.

Mero said it was instead "believing what you see" and placing that belief in your heart that could determine whether your life is a success and you live without regrets.

Mero spoke to hundreds of teens and adults in Ozark during his Believe: Never Give Up that encourages both goal-setting and anti-

"There's nothing special about me. I just believed, and I just took action."

Marc Mero,
motivational speaker and former pro wrestler

bullying tactics.

Mero said his life changed about nine years ago after the realization that money and fame weren't the basis for happiness.

Mero said he started at an early age writing down his dreams and posting them in places he would look at every day.

He said the habit even works in his adult life, such as when he posted in 2008 that he would publish a book by 2010 and actually did.

Mero spoke at Carroll High School and the Ozark Civic Center during his visit to the city. The event was

hosted by the Ozark Police Department, Dale County District Attorney's Office, and Ozark and Dale County Schools as an effort to deter negative actions and encourage more positive behaviors.

Mero used music, dancers and other props to assist him in his message.

"There's nothing special about me. I just believed, and I just took action," Mero said.

"Happiness is a choice, but we have to be willing to make that choice. It is truly better to 'try and fail than to fail to try.'"

Adults and children who heard Mero speak said his words were encouraging.

"Setting goals will help us to do great things in life, and they can help us set examples for people younger than you," 13-year-old D.A. Smith student Casey McDonald said.

Rune Lisenby, 12, said Mero's presentation was "exciting."

"Goals are pretty important," she said. "They're going to get me somewhere in life."

Carroll High School senior Chris Snell, 18, said Mero's presentation on anti-bullying was both timely and influential.

"You have people committing suicide and doing so many things