

Monster Match Preseason Nationals

Off-season competition continues to become a growing feature for almost every sport. With the high school wrestling season set to start on Monday November 12, a number of Pierre wrestlers traveled to Denver for the Monster Match Preseason Nationals on November 3. This event serves as the kick-off tournament for the competitive Rocky Mountain National Wrestling series which included wrestlers from 25 states around the country.

Of the sixteen wrestlers that competed at the event, eleven placed in the top six with two runner-up finishes. Paul Turman, Pierre Youth Wrestling President, noted "This is the best overall performance that we have had at a national tournament. All of these wrestlers took part in our summer wrestling series, and then practice sessions throughout the fall to improve to a level where they can compete at these national events."

In the 8 and under division, Pierre wrestler Nate Williams (1-2) kicked off the event as he faced off against returning Triple Crown winner Tyler Esie (Colorado). Williams brought the match within two at the end

second period, but was unable to score in the closing period and lost 4-2. Blake Judson (5-1) placed the highest in this division with a runner-up finish at the 54lb weight class. Judson has gone 9-1 at Rocky Mountain National events over the past two years having won a Rocky Mountain Championship in March 2011. Noah Williams (3-2) also finished fifth at this weight division with a solid performance advancing him into the semifinal. Jayden Wiebe (3-3) ended the day with a sixth place finish in the 58lb weight class and advanced into the semifinals which ended in a 2-0 loss to Santino Robinson (Illinois). Finally, Gabe Turman (7-2) earned a place finish. After losing 4-3 in the second round of a 32-man bracket, Turman won six straight matches to compete for a true second against Daniel Soto (Washington) eventually losing 11-9.

"I'm very impressed with how these young guys wrestled," said Turman. "As you look at the scores from their matches it is evident that they can compete with some of the best kids from around the country."

Four wrestlers represented Pierre in the 10 and under age division, with the highest placing performance coming from Maguire Raske (2-1) who ended as the runner-up in the 89lb weight class. Raske finished the day with a 9-7 loss to Andrew Donahoe (North Carolina). Jack Van Camp also advanced to the finals in the 85lb weight class, and ended with a third place finish after losing in a true second matchup to Darren Green (Colorado). Will Van Camp (5-2) placed fourth after a 6-2 loss to Ramiro



Jace Bench-Bresher works to pin his Colorado opponent during the second round of the Monster Match Nationals in Denver Colorado. Bench-Bresher end with a 2-2 performance at the event.

Jimenez (Washington) in the consolation championship. Jace Bench Bresher (2-2) also competed at this age group but did not place at the event. “For his first trip at a national tournament, Jace wrestled very well, said Jamie Raske, Pierre youth wrestling coach. “ After being down 9-2 in his third match he came back to pin a tough wrestler out of Illinois to advance to the fourth round. We expect good things from him as the season progresses.”

Lincoln Turman (4-2) and William Turman (3-2) finished third and fourth respectively in the 82lb weight class for the 12 and under division. Both Turman’s lost close matches in the semifinal round, only to face each other in the consolation championship. Lincoln went on to wrestle for a true second against Parker Benekas (Colorado) eventually losing in the closing seconds 4-3. Grant Judson (1-3) also placed sixth in this age group in the 114lb weight class.

Michael Lusk (3-2) finished fourth in the 83lb weight class for the 15 and under division after a 8-7 loss in the consolation championship to Sawyer Deagan (Montana). Turman noted “Lusk had two impressive wins to advance to the semifinals, and scored a great come from behind win to advance into the third and fourth place match.” Austin Senger (3-2) fell one match short of placing in the 95lb weight class despite impressive wins against Casey Moser (South Dakota) and Taten Ringel (Utah) in the opening rounds of the tournament. Eric Williams (0-2) did not place at the event resulting from losses to two Colorado wrestlers. “I think people can



Gabe Turman looks to score in the closing seconds of his overtime match against his Nebraska opponent at the Monster Match Nationals. Turman ended the tournament with a third place finish.

expect good things from these three wrestlers in the coming years as they advance into the Governor varsity lineup,” said Turman.

Finishing up the field of wrestlers from Pierre was Alex Williams (3-2) who did not place in a competitive 64-man bracket in the 138lb weight class from the 18 and under division. Williams faced off against the eventual champion Bryce Weatherston (Montana) losing 9-0 in the second round, and then was eliminated in the fourth round wrestle backs by Garrett Chadwick (Wyoming) 6-2.

Raske indicated “All of our youth coaches were very impressed by how both the younger and older kids wrestled. You often wonder how kids will do against wrestlers from these elite programs where most only participate in one sport and focus on wrestling all year long. It continues to validate that the approach we have been taking in the Pierre youth program is working.” Registration for the 2012-13 youth wrestling season will be held on Monday November 19, at the Georgia Morse Middle School cafeteria. Official practices will then begin on Thursday December 13.