

Youth Wrestling Season Kicks Off

The formal youth wrestling season got underway this past weekend with a number of wrestlers from the Pierre Youth Wrestling program competing in tournaments throughout the state. Tournaments are traditionally coordinated by local youth wrestling programs or national organizations to provide wrestlers with varying levels of exposure to wrestlers around the state or region.

Five youth wrestlers attended the Tri-Valley Youth Wrestling Tournament in Colton, SD on Friday January 4th. The tournament included more than 400 wrestlers from the eastern portion of South Dakota, as well as wrestlers from Minnesota and Iowa. Blake Judson and Gabe Turman were both champions in their 7-8 year old division pinning all opponents. Pierre wrestler Cade Hinkle competed in the 11-12 year old division resulting in a second place finish. Additionally, Will Turman was a champion in the 13-14 year old division, with runner up in the same weight class going to Lincoln Turman.

Four wrestlers from the program also traveled further east over the weekend to compete at the Brandon Valley Youth Wrestling Tournament on Sunday January 6th. A rather large venue, the tournament hosts a number of wrestlers from South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa. Hudson Shaffer was the sole



Pierre Youth Wrestler Noah Williams works to set up a takedown on his opponent. Williams placed 2nd at the Mt. Vernon Youth Wrestling Tournament over the weekend.

champion from Pierre, pinning all three of his opponents to advance to the championship match. Cade Hinkle also finished as the runner-up in his eight-man bracket, and Haden Shaffer and Jace Bench-Bresher placed seventh and six respectively at the tournament. “These three kids found themselves in brackets with very tough competition and won some matches against quality opponents,” said Paul Turman, president of the Pierre Youth Wrestling program. “Cade Hinkle in particular found himself up against the state champion from his weight class last year and pinned him in the first period. We look forward to see how all four of these kids finish up at the end of the season.”

The largest number of wrestlers competed at the Mount Vernon Youth Tournament on Sunday January 6th, with 15 Pierre wrestlers participating. A total of six

wrestlers were champions in their age group including Matthew Hostler, Trey Lewis, Blake Judson, Jacoby Taylor, Tristan Spencer, and Spencer Easland. Five other wrestlers finished second in their weight classes including Tyson Nemec, Gavin Stotts, Noah Williams, Nate Williams, and Andrew Snyder. Also placing at the tournament were Grant Judson and Spencer Taylor (3rd), Tristen Nemec (4th), and Harlan Stotts, (5th).

“We normally see a lot of our experienced kids travel to compete over the opening weekend and kids really had some good success,” said Jammie Raske, coach for the advanced wrestling group for the Pierre program. “As the season progresses we start to see a lot more of our new kids venture out to compete which provides them with great experience as the post-season quickly advances.” Local tournaments occurring during the January 12-13th weekend include events in Huron and Gettysburg, as well as multiple tournaments in Rapid City and the Black Hills area.

Individual place winners at each of the tournaments around the state include:

Tri-Valley

1. Cade Hinkle – 2nd
2. Blake Judson – 1st
3. Gabe Turman – 1st
4. Lincoln Turman – 2nd
5. Will Turman – 1st

Brandon Valley

1. Jace Bench-Bresher – 7th
2. Cade Hinkle – 2nd
3. Hudson Shaffer – 1st
4. Hayden Shaffer – 7th

Mt. Vernon

1. Spencer Easland – 1st
2. Matthew Hostler – 1st
3. Grant Judson – 3rd
4. Blake Judson – 1st
5. Trey Lewis – 1st
6. Tyson Nemec – 2nd
7. Tristen Nemec – 4th
8. Andrew Snyder – 2nd
9. Tristan Spencer – 1st
10. Harlan Stotts – 5th
11. Gavin Stotts – 2nd
12. Jacoby Taylor – 1st
13. Spencer Taylor – 3rd
14. Noah Williams – 2nd
15. Nate Williams – 2nd

