

Youth Wrestling Continues Into Second Week

A series of youth wrestling tournaments were held on January 12th and 13th with 44 wrestlers from the Pierre Youth Wrestling program participating. Over the course of the two days of action a total of 17 individual champions were crowned along with 12 runner-up finishes.

On Saturday January 12th a total of 8 Pierre youth wrestlers competed at the AAU Winter Nationals in Omaha, NE. The tournament serves as the primary Midwest national tournament for the AAU organization and hosted wrestlers from 14 states. In the Bantam age division, Gabe Turman placed 4th, and Jayden Wiebe finished in the top 10 in a larger 32-man bracket. Maguire Raske finished as the runner-up after winning his true-second match at the end of the day in the 10 and under division, and Jack Van Camp finished third having lost a true-second challenge. Will Van Camp went 3-2 at the event but eventually forfeited due to injury finishing in the top 12 of his 64-man division.

Garrett Leesman was the only Pierre wrestler competing in the 12-under division and earned a runner-up finish after a 4-2 loss to the eventual champion from Fort Dodge, IA. Michael Lusk secured a 4th place finish after an impressive win in the semifinals in the Schoolboy division, and Will Turman finished in the top 8 in this division losing to opponents from Colorado and Iowa. “While we did well as a club overall at the tournament, we had four kids who lost their opening round match,” said Jammie Raske,



Garrett Leesman, member of the Pierre Youth Wrestling Program, works to pin his Nebraska opponent at the AAU Winter Nationals in Omaha, NE during his semifinals match. Leesman went on to place 2nd at the event.

advanced group coach for the Pierre Youth Wrestling program. “We need to ready to compete in the opening matches because at tournaments like this, with such large brackets, one really struggles to place when coming through the back-side of the brackets.” The next national level competition will be on January 9th in Gillette, WY where a larger number of Pierre wrestlers are expected to attend.

In more local action, a total of 26 wrestlers traveled to Gettysburg on Sunday (January 13th) to compete in the annual Battler tournament. The tournament is one of a few youth events that allow clubs to compete for team points and the Pierre program came away with the team championship this year. Paul Turman, president of the Pierre Youth Wrestling program, noted that “We always have a good showing at the Gettysburg tournament each year, as we had a number of our new members who used this event as their first time in competition.” Of the 26 wrestlers, a total of 12 champions were crowned in the 4-man round-robin format including Tristan

Spencer, Easton Swartz, Spencer Davis, Justyce Murphy, Nicholas Murphy, Aiden Heathcote, Jacoby Taylor, Jacob Mason, Logan Meyer, Matthew Hostler, Shawn Van Liere, and Carson Stoesser. Seven other wrestlers finished at runner-ups (Steven Fullerton, Brady Miller, Jett Zabel, Tyrone Oldenkamp, Zachary Oldenkamp, Spencer Easland, and Tyson Nemeć) at the event followed by four third place finishes (Colt Norman, Bryaden Houlette, Mason Dell, and Tristan Nemeć), and three fourth place finishes (Spencer Taylor, Ridge Leimbach, and Robert Arnold).

An additional 10 wrestlers competed in tournaments in Huron and Mitchell on Sunday as well with five champions produced at these two events including Gavin Stotts, Hayden Shaffer, Hudson Shaffer, Nathan Williams, and Noah Williams. Runner-ups included Brady Getz, Andrew Snyder, and Kahlor Hindman. Cole Rank finished fourth, and Harlan Stotts placed fifth.

Club members will remain in Pierre this coming weekend to compete at the Pierre Invitational which will be held on Sunday January 20th with wrestling beginning at 10:00 a.m. Individual performance for each Pierre youth wrestler includes:

Saturday January 12th

AAU Winter Nationals - Omaha

Garrett Leesman – 2nd
Michael Lusk – 4th
Maguire Raske – 2nd
Gabe Turman – 4th
William Turman – DNP
Jayden Wiebe – DNP
Jack Van Camp – 3rd
Will Van Camp – DNP

Sunday January 14th

Gettysburg

Robert Arnold – 4th
Spencer Davis – 1st

Mason Dell – 3rd
Spencer Easland – 2nd
Steven Fullerton – 1st
Aiden Heathcote – 1st
Matthew Hostler – 1st
Bryden Houlette – 3rd
Ridge Leimbach – 4th
Jacob Mason – 1st
Logan Meyer – 1st
Brady Miller – 2nd
Justyce Murphy – 1st
Tristan Nemeć – 3rd
Tyson Nemeć – 2nd
Colt Norman – 3rd
Tyrone Oldenkamp – 2nd
Zachary Oldenkamp – 2nd
Tristan Spencer – 1st
Carson Stoesser – 1st
Easton Swartz – 1st
Jacoby Taylor – 1st
Spencer Taylor – 4th
Shawn Van Liere – 1st
Jett Zabel – 2nd

Huron/Mitchell

Kahlor Hindman – 2nd
Brady Getz – 2nd
Cole Rank – 4th
Hayden Shaffer – 1st
Hudson Shaffer – 1st
Gavin Stotts – 1st
Harlan Stotts – 5th
Nathan Williams – 1st
Noah Williams – 1st
Andrew Snyder – 2nd