

Youth Wrestlers Continue Improving on Their Season

Despite the winter weather this past weekend, a small number of Pierre youth wrestlers competed at a number of wrestling tournaments around the state and Wyoming. On Saturday February 9th, nine members of the Pierre program traveled to Sturgis, and five champions were crowned in the competitive round-robin format employed by tournament hosts.

“They still rely on the large round-robin format where all wrestlers compete in double-elimination competition until the top three wrestlers are identified,” said Paul Turman, Pierre youth wrestling president. “The fact that we had five champions out of the nine wrestlers that competed is very promising.” Individual champions at the tournament included Andrew Snyder, Gavin Stotts, Brady Getz, Gunnar Gehring, and Matthew Hostler. The remaining four wrestlers placed second (Ethan Martimaas, Gage Gehring) and third (Carson Stoesser, Harlan Stotts) at the event.

Also on Saturday, six wrestlers traveled to the Kimball Youth Wrestling tournament and individual champions included Alex Oedekoven, Sam Slocum, and Jacob Larson. Owen Sivage and Cayden Morris finished as runner-ups in their division and Samuel Larson placed 4th.

Blizzard conditions on Sunday February 10th resulted in a small number of wrestlers competing at the annual Rapid City Central Cobbler Youth Wrestling Tournament. Nine Pierre wrestlers made the trip to the Black Hills



Will Van Camp works to turn his Castle Rock, CO opponent during his semifinal match at the Wild West Championships. Van Camp went on to advance to the championship round and finished as a runner-up in his weight class.

to compete with solid finishes in the district style bracketing employed at the event. Gunnar Gehring, Ethan Martinmaas, Jacoby Taylor, and Matthew Hostler were champions in their division, and Harlan Stotts, Gage Gehring, Nicholas Murphy, and Justyce Murphy all placed second after making it into the championship match. Spencer Taylor also placed sixth at the tournament.

The largest number of Pierre wrestlers traveled to Gillette, WY on Saturday to compete at the Wild West Championships. An event hosted by the Rocky Mountain Nationals organization, the tournament hosted approximately 1,000 wrestlers from fourteen different states. Thirteen wrestlers participated in the event with eleven placing in the top six.

In the 8 and under division, Blake Judson placed the highest with a solid runner up finished in the 58lbs weight class. After a close 4-2 win in the semi-final match to his Colorado opponent, Judson lost in the championship to Avery Allen from Montana. Gabe Turman finished third in the 50lb weight class and also advanced to the

championship only to lose to the eventual champion from Denver, CO and then in his true-second match. Jammie Raske, advanced group coach for the Pierre program noted that “These larger tournaments allow the third place finisher an opportunity to challenge the runner-up if they had not faced each other earlier in the tournament. Those can be hard matches to win when you’ve just come off a loss in the championship match.” Jayden Wiebe competed at the 62lb weight class but was one match from placing at the event.

Solid performances came from five Pierre wrestlers in the 10 and under division with all five wrestlers placing in the top five. Maguire Raske placed first in the 89lbs weight class with solid wins against Wyoming and Montana opponents. Will Van Camp placed second and Jack Van Camp placed third after losing his true second challenge match. Cade Hinkle finished fourth at the 77lbs weight class, and Jace Bench Bresher finished fifth at 73lbs.

Four wrestlers placed in the top four in the 12 and under and 15 and under division. Garrett Leesman pinned all of his opponents in the 130lbs division on his way to a championship. Austin Senger finished third at 95lbs, losing a 2-0 decision in his true second challenge match. “Austin came within a few seconds of beating an accomplished Gillette, WY wrestler in his final match,” said Turman. “He had lost to him 9-2 earlier in the year which shows how far he, and all of our wrestlers have come as the season has progressed.” Michael Lusk finished fourth in the 88lbs weight class, as did William Turman in the 86lb division. Turman noted “Both Michael and William lost tight matches in either overtime or right at the end of the third period that would have put both of them in contention for second. Getting these close matches at this point in the season will be beneficial as the postseason draws closer.”

This coming weekend will see Pierre wrestlers competing at tournaments in Miller, Mobridge, Phillip, Kadoka, Hot Springs, and Sioux Falls. Individual results for Pierre Youth wrestlers over the past two weekends include:

Wild West Championships

Maguire Raske – 1st
Garrett Leesman – 1st
Blake Judson – 2nd
Will Van Camp – 2nd
Gabe Turman – 3rd
Jack Van Camp – 3rd
Austin Senger – 3rd
Cade Hinkle – 4th
Will Turman – 4th
Michael Lusk – 4th
Jace Bench Bresher – 5th
Jayden Wiebe – DNP
Skyler Leesman – DNP

Sturgis

Andrew Snyder – 1st
Gavin Stotts – 1st
Brady Getz – 1st
Gunnar Gehring – 1st
Matthew Hostler – 1st
Gage Gehring – 2nd
Ethan Martinmaas – 2nd
Carson Stoeser – 3rd
Harlan Stotts – 3rd

Kimball

Alex Oedekoven – 1st
Sam Slocum – 1st
Jacob Larson – 1st
Owen Sivage – 2nd
Cayden Morris – 2nd
Samuel Larson – 4th

Rapid City Cobbler

Gunnar Gehring – 1st
Ethan Martinmaas – 1st
Jacoby Taylor – 1st
Matthew Hostler – 1st
Justyce Murphy – 2nd
Harlan Stotts – 2nd
Gage Gehring – 2nd
Nicholas Murphy – 2nd
Spencer Taylor – 6th