

Governor Wrestlers Compete on the National Stage

This past weekend 44 teams from 18 different states competed in the AAU Middle School Duals tournament hosted in Des Moines, IA. The tournament is designed to provide states an opportunity to form elite dual teams made up of the best wrestlers at each weight class. To provide a sense of the caliber of talent that attends this event each year one can look back to 2009 when 11 members of this year Governor Wrestling program sent a team comprised of 15 Pierre wrestlers to the event. In their matchup against the elite Pennsylvania team, the Governor's lost 102-0. Lonnie Stoltenburg, one of the coaches for the team noted, "Overall, the Governors ended with a 1-7 record at the event, and produced two All-Americans in Brooks Monfore and Lane Lettau."

With a talented group of middle school wrestlers within its ranks, Pierre again sought to test the waters against the elite teams participating at this event. Paul Turman, president of the Pierre Youth Wrestling Program stated, "We have been waiting for this opportunity for four years now. As we look at the kids we have in our middle school program it seemed evident that we could put together a solid team as we have 10 kids who have won state AAU titles." Teams compete at 20 weight classes and 15 of which were filled by Pierre wrestlers. The five remaining weights were filled by wrestlers from Aberdeen, Redfield, Montana, and Lemmon.

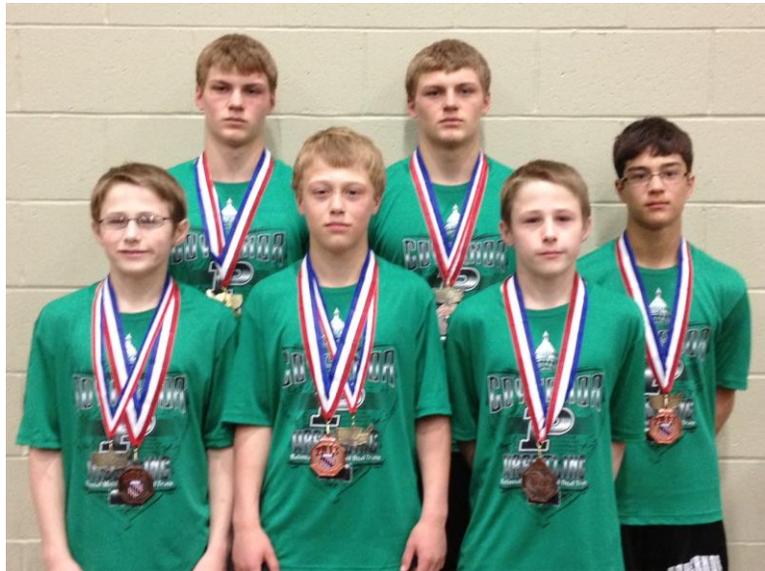


Members of the Pierre Governor team competing at the AAU National Middle School Dual Tournament include: Front Row – Gentry Lamb (Montana), William Turman, Lincoln Turman, Michael Lusk, Austin Senger, Logan Meyer, Aric Willams, Derk Wolf (Lemmon). Second Row: Spencer Sarringar, Zach Rounds, DJ Highbear, Matthew Rounds, Cadin Buchholz, Garrett Leesman, & Connor Lonbaken. Back Row: Lucas Kessler, Lucas Stoltenburg, Bradley Nelson (Aberdeen), Levi Stoltenburg, Pryce Dyk, Ty Paulsen, Anthony Baumann (Redfield), & AJ Uvalles (Aberdeen).

Pierre opened the tournament with a 66-21 loss to the Montana Grizzlies with five wins during the dual. The second round, Pierre wrestled close with the Colorado Blue team eventually losing 54-37 despite wins by seven wrestlers. Lonnie Stoltenburg indicated that the third round against the Missouri Elite team was reminiscent of their matchup against Pennsylvania in 2009. The team, comprised of 16 state AAU champions, defeated Pierre 95-3 with the sole win coming from Lucas Stoltenburg with a close 4-5 decision. “We were close in a number of these matches, but when a state that size brings the best they have at every weight class, it’s just difficult to compete as a team.” Despite the significant loss Pierre ended the day with close losses to the Indiana Black Knights (46-42) with ten wins, and then 69-28 against Missouri’s Team Takedown.

During the second day of competition teams are placed into pools based on their performance on the first day of action. Pierre was placed in Platinum pool and wrestled a solid dual against the Kansas Wizards winning 55-36 with twelve individual wins. This advanced the team to the semifinals in the pool where they faced Lake Catholic out of Ohio. Pierre earned a 61-41 victory to advance them into the championship matchup against the Ohio Firehouse team. With 12 individual victories the team secured the win 58-43.

Overall, the Pierre Governor team produced six All-Americans. Most impressive was the 8-0 performance by Lucas Stoltenburg at the 145lb weight class. Turman noted, “For



Governor Wrestlers earning AAU All-Americans status that the National Middle School Dual tournament included: Front Row – Lincoln Turman, Austin Senger, & William Turman. Back Row – Lucas Stoltenburg, Levi Stoltenburg, & Dirk Wolf.

Lucas to go undefeated at an event like this beyond words. He had two hard fought wins against the Missouri and Montana teams that ended up in the Gold pool on Sunday which speaks volumes to the level of competition he was able to compete against.” Levi Stoltenburg (6-2), William Turman (6-2), Lincoln Turman (6-2), Austin Senger (5-3), and Derk Wolf (5-3) each also earned All-American status at the event. Individual performances for all Pierre wrestlers can be found below.

- 75lbs – Gentry Lamb (Montana) – 0-8
- 80lbs – William Turman – 6-2
- 85lbs – Lincoln Turman – 6-2
- 90lbs – Michael Lusk – 2-6
- 95lbs – Austin Senger – 5-3
- 100lbs – Logan Meyer – 0-8
- 105lbs – Aric Williams – 2-5
- 110lbs – Dirk Wolf (Lemmon) – 5-3
- 115lbs – Spencer Sarringar – 4-4
- 120lbs – Zach Rounds – 0-8
- 120lbs – DJ Highbear – 1-4
- 125lbs – Cadin Buchholz – 1-4
- 125lbs – Matthew Rounds – 0-8
- 130lbs – Garrett Leesman – 3-5

135lbs – Connor Lonbaken – 0-8
140lbs – Lucas Kessler – 3-5
145lbs – Lucas Stoltenburg – 8-0
152lbs – Bradley Nelson (Aberdeen) – 4-4
160lbs – Levi Stoltenburg – 6-2
171lbs – Ty Paulsen – 2-6
171lbs – Pryce Dyk – 1-5
189lbs – Tony Bauman (Redfield) – 3-5
HWT – AJ Uvalles (Aberdeen) – 3-5

In other wrestling action over the weekend, three wrestlers from Pierre competed on the South Dakota Badlands team at the USA Heartland Elementary Duals in Omaha, NE. The event is similar to the middle school duals but composed of wrestlers between 1st and 6th grade only. The Badlands team went 5-3 and earned third in the Silver pool on the second day of action. Gabe Turman (6-2), Blake Judson (5-3), and Gage Gehring (3-5) each earned respectable wins at the event.