

Governor Youth Wrestling Season Begins

Youth wrestling action got underway this past weekend with members of the Governor Youth Wrestling program competing at four different tournaments throughout the state. Three 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 was the sole champion in the 9-10 year old age division. Governor wrestlers Cade Hinkle and Grant Judson competed in the 11-12 year old division, resulting in a second place finish for both.

On Saturday, seven wrestlers traveled to opposite ends of the state to compete in tournaments hosted in Douglas and Clark/Willow Lake. Both tournaments hosted wrestlers from the region, with Douglas attracting a sizable number of wrestlers from Wyoming and Nebraska. Jayden Wiebe and Matthew Hostler were both champions for their respective divisions and weight classes at these two tournaments, Cale Shrake, Aiden Heathcote, Ridge Leimbach, Jacoby Taylor each finishing in runner-up positions. Rylan



Governor Youth Wrestler Ethan Martinmaas works to turn his Parkston opponent at the Mt. Vernon Youth Wrestling tournament over the weekend. Martinmaas placed first at the event.

Shrake finished fourth in Douglas as a result of wrestling up an age division to compete.

“These were the kids we expected to venture out and compete over the opening weekend,” said Paul Turman, advance group coach for the program. “As more of our more inexperienced wrestlers have more opportunities for practice after the holiday season ends, we expect more than 30 or 40 wrestlers competing at tournaments throughout the state each week.”

The tournament in Mt. Vernon attracted the largest number of Governor wrestlers resulting in three champions and four runner-ups at the event. Gavin Stotts, Matthew Hostler, Ethan Martinmaas and Kenyon Kuiper each finished in first place for their divisions/weight classes. Andrew Snyder, Daniel Mason, and Jacob Mason each finished as runner-ups.

“With the number of wrestlers we had compete in Denver and in Fargo during the preseason, I think we are right where we want to be at some of these regional tournaments,” said Trevor Wiebe, president for the wrestling program. “We have started to have so many of our wrestlers commit to getting time on the mat throughout the summer and the fall that we are very optimistic about our numbers, and the amount of talent we have competing in all three groups. It looks to be a promising season.”

Local tournaments occurring this coming weekend on January 10th, 11th, and 12th include events in Sisseton, Sturgis, Webster, Elk Point Jefferson, Brandon, Aberdeen, and Hot Springs. Closest action will occur in Miller on Sunday afternoon.

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

Tri-Valley

1. Blake Judson – 1st
2. Cade Hinkle – 2nd
3. Grant Judson – 2nd

Douglas

1. Jayden Wiebe – 1st
2. Cael Shrake – 2nd
3. Rylan Shrake – 4th

Clark/Willow Lake

1. Matthew Hostler – 1st
2. Aiden Heathcote – 2nd
3. Ridge Leimbach – 2nd
4. Jacoby Taylor – 2nd

Mt. Vernon

1. Gavin Stotts – 1st
2. Matthew Hostler – 1st
3. Ethan Martinmaas – 1st
4. Kenyon Kuiper – 1st
5. Andrew Snyder – 2nd
6. Daniel Mason – 2nd
7. Jacob Mason – 2nd