

Growing Number of Governor Youth Wrestlers Compete During Second Week

A series of youth wrestling tournaments were held on January 10, 11, and 12 with 35 wrestlers from the Governor Youth Wrestling program participating. Over the course of the three days of action a total of 17 individual champions were crowned along with 8 runner-up finishes.

On Friday January 10 a total of 3 wrestlers competed at the Elk Point-Jefferson tournament resulting in first place finishes for Hudson Shaffer and Hayden Shaffer. Blake Judson also finished as a runner-up at the tournament. The following day competition continued at tournaments in Webster, Sturgis, and the AAU Winter Nationals in Omaha, NE. On Saturday five Governor wrestlers finished as champions in their respective weight classes (Matthew Hostler, Andrew Snyder, Gabe Turman, Nathan Williams, & Noah Williams), followed by a third place finish for Steven Fullerton, and fourth for Gabe LaRouque. Garrett Leesman finished 6th at Winter Nationals which serves as the primary Midwest national tournament for the AAU organization and hosted wrestlers from 14 states. Leesman was the only Governor Youth wrestler competing at the event and won his first match by pin over Cody Downey from Indianola, NE, followed by a pin over Jeffery Haynes from Council Bluffs, IA. After a loss in the semifinals, Leesman was injured in the consolation



Nathan Williams works to pin his Aberdeen opponent during his final match at the Webster Youth Wrestling Tournament. Williams went on to place 1st at the tournament.

semifinals and lost his two final matches by injury default.

“We had a lot of our more experienced wrestlers travel in different directions on Saturday to get some good matchups with regional competition,” said Cody Hostler, vice president for the Governor youth wrestling program. “These kids have really been practicing hard and it shows when we compete against clubs from around the state.”

On Sunday January 12th, the largest number of wrestlers traveled to Miller for their annual youth tournament. Twenty wrestlers competed at this tournament resulting in nine champions (Rylan Shrake, Carson Stoeser, Matthew Hostler, Lincoln Shoenhard, Jacoby Taylor, Ethan Martinmaas, Jacob Mason, Daniel Mason, & Justyce Murphy), four runner-ups (Caynen Carr, Tristan Spencer, Lincoln Dilges, & Ridge Leimbach), six third place (Cael Shrake, Gavin Stotts, Tyrone Oldenkamp,

Evan Mcfarling, Colton Cass, & Spencer Taylor), and one fourth place finish (Nicholas Murphy).

Also on Sunday, wrestlers traveled to Aberdeen & Brandon Valley. “Brandon Valley is a very tough tournament for the start of the season as they use an eight-man brackets and load weight classes based on wrestler talent,” said Travis Shaffer, the clubs group one level coach. “You expect to see weight classes with between five and six state place winners from the previous year so you have to be ready to wrestle in every match.” Three Governors won their respective weight classes (Jayden Wiebe, Jack Van Camp, and Will Van Camp), followed by a runner up finish for Hayden Shaffer, and third for Hudson Shaffer. Additionally, Noah Williams finished first in Aberdeen, along with a second place finish for Nathan Williams and Matthew King, and fourth for Jaxon Ducheneaux.

Club members will compete in Gettysburg, Huron, Whitewood, Mitchell, Harrisburg, and Rapid City this coming weekend. Individual performance for each Governor youth wrestler includes:

Elk Point

- Hudson Shaffer - 1st
- Hayden Shaffer - 1st
- Blake Judson - 2nd

Sturgis

- Matthew Hostler - 1st
- Andrew Snyder - 1st
- Steven Fullerton - 3rd
- Gabe LaRoque - 4th

Webster

- Gabe Turman - 1st
- Nathan Williams - 1st
- Noah Williams - 1st

AAU Winter Nationals

- Garrett Leesman - 6th

Aberdeen

- Noah Williams - 1st
- Nathan Williams - 2nd
- Matthew King - 2nd
- Jaxon Ducheneaux - 4th

Brandon Valley

- Jayden Wiebe - 1st
- Jack Van Camp - 1st
- Will Van Camp - 1st
- Hayden Shaffer - 2nd
- Hudson Shaffer - 3rd

Miller

- Rylan Shrake - 1st
- Carson Stoesser - 1st
- Matthew Hostler - 1st
- Lincoln Schoenhard - 1st
- Jacoby Taylor - 1st
- Ethan Martinmaas - 1st
- Jacob Mason - 1st
- Daniel Mason - 1st
- Justyce Murphy - 1st
- Caynen Carr - 2nd
- Tristan Spencer - 2nd
- Lincoln Dilges - 2nd
- Ridge Leimbach - 2nd
- Cael Shrake - 3rd
- Gavin Stotts - 3rd
- Tyrone Oldenkamp - 3rd
- Evan Mcfarling - 3rd
- Colton Cass - 3rd
- Spencer Taylor - 3rd
- Nicholas Murphy - 4th