

## ***Youth Wrestlers Place 38 at State AAU Tournament***

During their Region tournament on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Governor Youth program qualified 62 wrestlers for the State AAU Wrestling Tournament which was this past Saturday and Sunday in Rapid City. This high number of qualifiers helped propel the program to an outstanding performance during the two day event with 38 wrestlers advancing into the placing round on Sunday. Hosted by the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association, the event included more than 1300 wrestlers representing wrestling clubs from throughout the state.

After competition concluded on Saturday, a total of 15 Pierre wrestlers had advanced into the championship matches for their respective weight classes. These 15 wrestlers and the remaining 23 club

members (excluding Cadets who finished their division on Saturday) then competed in the placing rounds held on Sunday to finally award the top eight place winners in each weight class.

Governor wrestlers found themselves in a great position to finish the season on a high note with 11 of the 15 finishing as state champions for the program. These included Ethan Martinmaas, Elijah Boutchee, Gabe Turman, Maguire Raske, Lincoln Turman, William Turman, LeAnder Austin, Austin Senger, Aric Williams, Lucas Stoltenburg, and Levi Stoltenburg. Finishing second at the tournament were Noah Williams, Brady Getz, Garrett Leesman, and Michael Lusk.

Of the fifteen finalists competing in the championship rounds, only three (Boutchee, Austin, and Aric Williams) had not seen action on the main stage in previous



**Pictured are the state place winners for the Pierre Youth Wrestling Program. Front Row: Noah Horsley, Hudson Stoesser, Andrew Snyder, Noah Williams, Jayden Wiebe, Blake Judson, Gabe Turman, Ethan Martinmaas, Xoe Murphy, Owen Heiss. Second Row: Rylan Shrake, Elijah Boutchee, Gavin Stotts, Tyson Johnson, Steven Fullerton, Jack Van Camp, Matthew King, Brady Getz, Jace Bench Bresher, Hayden Shaffer, Will Van Camp. Back Row: William Turman, Austin Senger, Gunnar Gehring, LeAnder Austin, DJ Highbear, Aric Williams, Levi Stoltenburg, Lucas Stoltenburg, Caden Buchholz, Gage Gehring, Pryce Dyk, Maguire Raske, Michael Lusk, Lincoln Turman. (Not pictured are Garrett Leesman, Skyler Leesman, Broch Zeeb).**

state AAU tournaments. Gabe Turman won his second straight state title, and Martinmaas, Raske, Lincoln Turman, Austin Senger, and Levi Stoltenburg added a second title to their list of accomplishments. William Turman earned his third state title after advancing to his fifth state championship match. Lucas Stoltenburg had made the finals on two previous attempts but fell short each time. Brady Getz advanced into his third state finals match, and Noah Williams earned his third trip after winning two back-to-back title two years ago. Lusk lost a close finals match which served as his sixth straight finals appearance, and Leesman lost 2-0 after winning his second state title two years ago.

Trevor Wiebe, president of the Governor Youth Wrestling program, noted “We certainly are doing something right with our program as we continue to be one of the most competitive programs in the state. To provide a comparison of the success of our program, the next highest number of state qualifiers came from Watertown which advanced 39 wrestlers to the tournament, just one more than we had place at the tournament.”

Also placing at the event were Andrew Snyder, Blake Judson, Will Van Camp, Jace Bench-Bresher, Gage Gehring, Skyler Leesman (third), Hudson Stoesser, Broch Zeeb, Xoe Murphy, Cadin Buchholz (fourth), Rylan Shrake, Jayden Wiebe, Matthew King, Jack Van Camp (fifth), Steven Fullerton, DJ High Bear

(sixth), Owen Heiss, Gunnar Gehring, Pryce Dyk (seventh), Noah Horsley, Gavin Stotts, and Hayden Shaffer (eighth). From this list, nine have advanced to the state finals at previous tournaments (Judson, Will and Jack Van Camp, Bench-Bresher, Gunner and Gage Gehring, Dyk, Shrake, and Stotts)

“While we would love to see every one of our kids have a chance at state championship, we emphasize how important it just to survive the first day of competition and make it into the placing round, said Paul Turman, advanced group coach. “At our last practice I reminded them that Austin Senger had placed third at the state AAU tournament just last year, and he still found himself in state finals for the Governor program as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Kids that get this experience learn the valuable lesson about what it takes to help a high school team score crucial team points once they hit the varsity lineup.”

While the folkstyle wrestling season



**Maguire Raske prepares to turn his Rapid City Cobbler opponent during his quarterfinal match during the State AAU Wrestling Tournament. Raske went on to win his second state championship with a second period pin during the finals.**

has concluded, a number of the club members will compete at the USA Freestyle/Greco State Tournament held in Harrisburg on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as a number of events around the country this summer. Additionally, the youth program hosts a variety of wrestling camps throughout the summer which are free to club members. Individual results for each weight class include:

***State Champion***

- Bantam 50 - Ethan Martinmaas
- Bantam 80 - Elijah Boutchee
- Midget 55 - Gabe Turman
- Novice 105 - Maguire Raske
- Schoolboy 100 - Lincoln Turman
- Schoolboy 105 - Will Turman
- Schoolboy 125 - LeAnder Austin
- Cadets 106 - Austin Senger
- Cadets 120 - Aric Williams
- Cadets 160 - Lucas Stoltenburg
- Cadets 195 - Levi Stoltenburg

***State Runner-up***

- Midgets 60 - Noah Williams
- Midgets 90 - Brady Getz
- Schoolboy 160 - Garrett Leesman
- Cadets 98 - Michael Lusk

***3<sup>rd</sup> Place***

- Bantam 55 - Andrew Snyder

- Midgets 65 - Blake Judson
- Novice 65 - Will VanCamp
- Novice 80 - Jace Bench-Bresher
- Schoolboy HWT - Gage Gehring
- Cadets 170 - Skyler Leesman

***4<sup>th</sup> Place***

- Tots 55- Hudson Stoesser
- Bantam 70 - Broch Zeeb
- Girls Tots 50lbs - Xoe Murphy
- Schoolboy 150 - Cadin Buchholz

***5<sup>th</sup> Place***

- Bantam HWT - Rylan Shrake
- Midgets 70 - Jayden Wiebe
- Midgets 103 - Matthew King
- Novice 85 - Jack VanCamp

***6<sup>th</sup> Place***

- Midgets 112 - Steven Fullerton
- Cadets 132 - DJ High Bear

***7<sup>th</sup> Place***

- Bantam 40 - Owen Heiss
- Novice HWT - Gunnar Gehring
- Cadets 220 - Pryce Dyk

***8<sup>th</sup> Place***

- Tots 35lbs - Noah Horlsey
- Midgets 103 - Gavin Stotts
- Novice 70 - Hayden Shaffer