

Pierre Wrestlers Have Off-Season Success

With the high school wrestling season opening this coming Monday, a number of local wrestlers took advantage of two national tournaments over the past two weekends. On October 30th, Aaron O'Day and Dusty Paulsen competed at the USA Preseason Nationals in Cedar

Falls, IA which draws the top high school and youth talent from more than 40 states. O'Day went 2-2 at the 119lb weight class which included 88 wrestlers competing in a 128 man bracket. He won his first match in overtime against Vincent Hill (Illinois), and then lost by fall during the second round. O'Day then defeated Damon Griffin (Iowa) 7-3 in his first round wrestle back match, and eventually suffered an ankle injury during his final match and was forced to injury default.

Paulsen also went 2-2 competing at the 130lb weight class which included 69 wrestlers. He lost his first match in overtime to Michael De Jolsvay (Minnesota), and then won his next two matches in the wrestle backs before losing a close 3-2 decision to Peter Stewart (Iowa). Ryan Noyes, Pierre head wrestling coach, indicated "This tournament is considered to be one of the



Pierre Wrestlers competing in off-season tournaments during the past two weeks include from left to right. Front Row McGuire Raske, Will Van Camp, Jack Van Camp, Cade Hinkle. Back Row: Spencer Sarringer, Nick Wiebe, Aaron O'Day, Dawson Monfore, Dusty Paulsen, Tanner Monfore & Quinn Riemers.

toughest preseason events in the country. The fact that Aaron and Dusty could have some success against kids of this caliber is a good sign for our team this year. Even in those matches we lost they were able to keep things close."

More recently, 10 wrestlers attended the Monster Match tournament hosted by the Rocky Mountain Nationals organization in Denver, CO on November 6th. The tournament hosts wrestlers from more than 30 states and included more than 1,200 wrestlers. Pierre produced 7 place winners at this event including Cade Hinkle (5th), Jack Van Camp (5th), Spencer Sarringer (4th), Dawson Monfore (4th), and Nick Wiebe (2nd in Rookie Division). Tanner Monfore competed in both the 15 and under and 18 and under division, making it to the finals at his official age group, and winning

a number of matches while competing against older wrestlers.

McGuire Raske was a champion in the 8 and under division, becoming one of the first Pierre wrestlers with an opportunity to compete for the Triple Crown through the Rocky Mountain National organization. Athletes who win two Rocky Mountain National tournaments and then win at the largest event in March are recognized as Triple Crown winners receiving special recognition at the tournament. Jarrett Jensen, the son of former Pierre high school wrestling program Rick Jensen, is the only Pierre native to have accomplished this feat. Jarrett is on route this year to wrestle for his fourth straight high school wrestling title for Rapid City Stevens.

“It would be great for our program to have a wrestler at McGuire’s age compete for and win the Triple Crown in this event. We have been promoting attendance at more national tournaments the past few years, and our kids continue to have more and more success,” said Paul Turman, president of the Pierre youth wrestling program.

Registration for the upcoming wrestling season will be held on November 18 in the Georgia Morse Middle School from 5:30 to 7:00. Those interested in competing this year are encouraged to attend.



McGuire Raske stands with his trophy after his championship match at the Monster Match Tournament on November 6th. Raske is currently in the hunt for a triple crown through the Rocky Mountain National wrestling organizations.