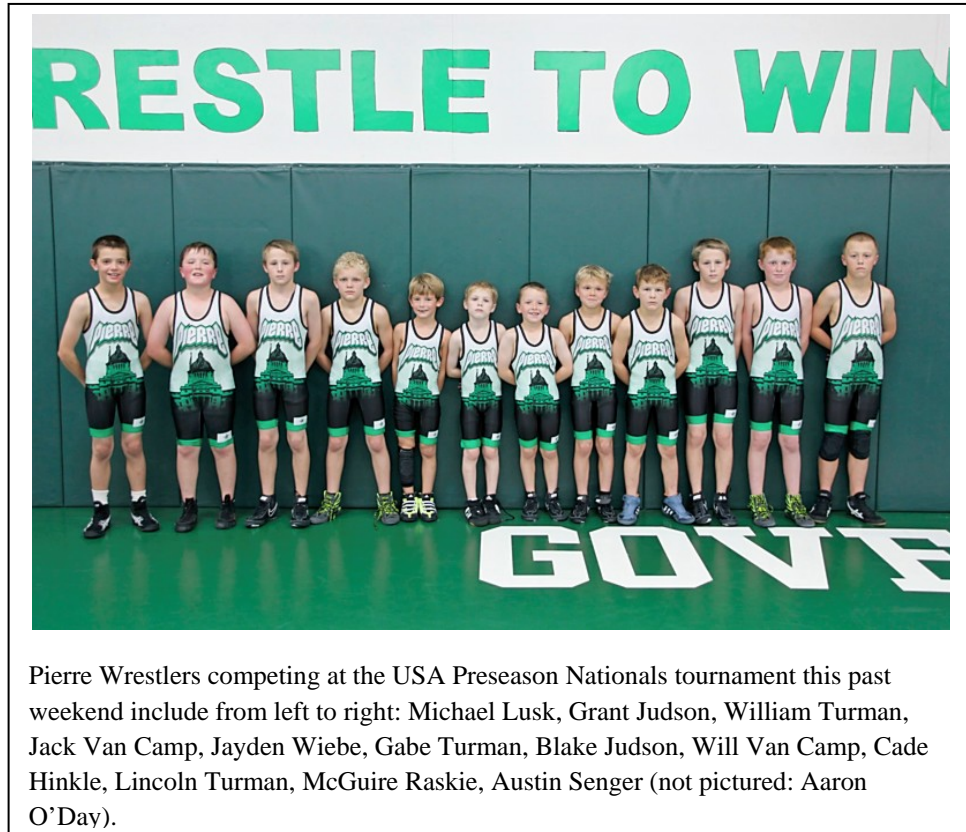


## Pierre Wrestlers Have Off-Season Success

With the start of the high school and youth wrestling season fast approaching, a number of a number of local wrestlers made their way to Cedar Falls, Iowa this past weekend to compete at the USA Preseason Nationals tournament.

Thirteen wrestlers attended the annual event to compete along with a total of 1,650 wrestlers from 31 different states. Pierre Youth Wrestling president, Paul Turman indicated that “Many of the wrestlers competed in brackets with as many as 64 wrestlers, which included some of the best talent from around the country.” He noted that “all of our kids had various levels of success, with at least three of the losses coming in overtime matches.”

In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade division, Michael Lusk won his first three matches at the 80lbs weight class advancing to the quarterfinals before losing in the closing seconds to Holden Heller (Illinois), and then again in the wrestle backs to Hunter Manka (Minnesota). Austin Senger also won his first three matches to advance to the semifinals at the 85lb weight class, where he



Pierre Wrestlers competing at the USA Preseason Nationals tournament this past weekend include from left to right: Michael Lusk, Grant Judson, William Turman, Jack Van Camp, Jayden Wiebe, Gabe Turman, Blake Judson, Will Van Camp, Cade Hinkle, Lincoln Turman, McGuire Raskie, Austin Senger (not pictured: Aaron O'Day).

lost 2-1 to Cody Boldrige (Illinois), and then ended up sixth overall at the tournament. William Turman (75lbs) won his first two matches including an exciting overtime victory against Carsten Trotzer (Wisconsin) to advance to the quarterfinals before losing his final two matches. Lincoln Turman (70lbs) won his first match and then lost his final two matches 2-0 in overtime.

A number of other wrestlers competed in the younger weight divisions (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) with each coming away with at least one win during the tournament including Will Van Camp, Jack Van Camp, Gabe Turman, Jayden Wiebe, Cade Hinkle, and Blake Judson.

Two wrestlers from this group in particular stood out with McGuire Raskie and Grant Judson both making it to the

championship match for their weight division. Raskie (80lbs) won his first three matches and then lost in the championship match to Shaeden Scheidt of Canton. Grant Judson lost in overtime during his championship match, but won his weight class on criteria as his opponent had lost earlier in the tournament to an opponent Judson had beat by superior decision. “It was great to see young kids like Grant and McGuire advance into the championship at a big tournament like this” said Turman. “It provides them with the experience of wrestling on a bigger stage and makes them better all around wrestlers.”

As many as ten wrestlers will travel to Denver this upcoming weekend where they will compete in the Rocky Mountain Nationals, Monster Match event. Last year



Pierre Youth wrestler, Grant Judson, works to hold down his opponent during his championship match at the USA Preseason Nationals.

7 of the 12 Pierre wrestlers that attended placed at the event.

Registration for the upcoming wrestling season will be held on November 14 in the Georgia Morse Middle School from 5:30 to 7:00. Those interested in competing this year are encouraged to attend.



Pierre Youth wrestler, Michael Lusk, works to cradle his Minnesota opponent on his way to a 7-2 victory during the quarterfinals of the USA Preseason Nationals.



Pierre Youth wrestler, Lincoln Turman sets out to take down his Minnesota opponent during his second round match at the USA Preseason Nationals.