

Youth Wrestlers Kick-off Their Season

The youth wrestling season kicked off this past weekend with a number of Pierre wrestlers competing in tournaments throughout the state. Ten wrestlers from the Pierre Youth Wrestling program traveled to Douglas on Saturday January 8 to compete with more than 200 wrestlers from South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Representatives from the team came away with nine first place finishers in the multi-state tournament. Paul Turman, president of the Pierre Youth Wrestling program, noted that “It was nice to see so many of our young kids do so well to start out the season. Especially when considering that only some of the best from the regional states are likely to travel to compete out-of-state so early in the season.”

Many of these same wrestlers competed in Sturgis the following day which included more than 300 other competitors. Of the 12 that competed, Pierre came away with seven champions and two runner ups. Rylan Shrake competed for the first time in Sturgis with a 5th place finish while also receiving a sportsmanship award. In more local competition, six club members also wrestled in the Northern State youth tournament in Aberdeen, also on Sunday January 9. Representatives from the club produced two individual champions with Garrett Leesman and Jayden Wiebe. “A number of these kids wrestled up an age group to face tougher competition and still did quite well against older North Dakota wrestlers who made the trip to Aberdeen,” Turman said. “Our practices only began two weeks ago, and it is always exciting when our young kids can jump right in and wrestle well despite the fact they are wrestling older kids.” A significant number of the clubs wrestlers were sidelined over the weekend after the Lyman Wrestling Tournament was postponed due to bad weather. This coming weekend, club members will be competing at tournaments throughout the state including Rapid City, Huron, and Gettysburg.

Individual place winners at each of these tournaments are listed below.



Pierre youth wrestler Grant Judson works to pin his Lead/Deadwood opponent on his way to a third place finished at the Sturgis youth wrestling tournament.

Douglas – January 8th

1. Jace Bench-Bresher – 1st
2. Steven Fullerton – 3rd
3. Cade Hinkle – 1st
4. Blake Judson – 1st
5. Grant Judson – 1st
6. Michael Lusk – 1st
7. Austin Senger – 1st
8. Gabe Turman – 1st
9. Lincoln Turman – 1st
10. William Turman – 1st

Sturgis – January 9th

1. Jace Bench-Bresher – 3rd
2. Steven Fullerton – 5th
3. Cade Hinkle – 1st
4. Blake Judson – 2nd
5. Grant Judson – 3rd
6. Michael Lusk – 1st
7. Matthew Lusk – 1st
8. Austin Senger – 1st
9. Rylan Shrake – 5th
10. Gabe Turman – 1st
11. Lincoln Turman – 2nd
12. William Turman – 1st

Aberdeen – January 9th

1. Garrett Leesman – 1st
2. Skyler Leesman – 2nd
3. McGuire Raske – 4th
4. Jack Van Camp – 3rd
5. Will Van Camp – 3rd
6. Jayden Wiebe – 1st