

37 Place Winners at State Tournament for Pierre Wrestling Program

Just four weeks ago the Governor wrestling team won the State class A championship in Aberdeen with an outstanding team effort by placing a program high of 10 wrestlers. Aberdeen is proving to be a successful venue for domination by Pierre wrestling programs. This winning trend continued this past weekend as the Pierre Youth Wrestling program competed at the State AAU wrestling tournament place a club record of 37 wrestlers at the tournament.

Aberdeen hosted more than 1,200 wrestlers at the event representing wrestling clubs who had competed in district and region tournaments throughout the state. After competition concluded on Saturday, a total of 16 Pierre wrestlers had advanced into the championship matches for their respective weight classes. These 16

wrestlers and the remaining 21 club members then competed in the placing rounds round held on Sunday to finally award the top eight place winners in each weight class.

Pierre held a predominant place on the championship mat throughout the day on Sunday starting out with an exciting come from behind win by Ethan Martinmaas during the first championship match of the day. "Ethan fell behind quickly in the match before throwing his Hamlin opponent for a five point move to end the second period," said Paul Turman, president of the Pierre Youth program. "When he threw his kid to his back to take the lead the more than 150 fans in Kelly green attire literally erupted, and Pierre's presents was clearly felt when Ethan held on to win 13-12 in the closing seconds of the match."

Martinmaas's win was followed by eight other Pierre champions including



Pictured are the state place winners for the Pierre Youth Wrestling Program. Front Row: Jacob Mason, Ethan Martinmaas, Blake Judson, Will Van Camp, Jace Bench Bresher, Noah Williams, Gabe Turman, Rylan Shrake, Andrew Snyder, Jacoby Taylor. Second Row: Tyson Johnson, Matthew King, Maguire Raske, William Turman, Austin Senger, Grey Zabel, Aric Williams, Michael Lusk, Lincoln Turman, Justyce Murphy, Jack Van Camp, Brady Getz, Cade Hinkle. Back Row: Jacob Junk, Lucas Kessler, Jebben Keyes, Peyton Zabel, Lucas Stoltenburg, Alec Williams, Levi Stoltenburg, Nick Wiebe, Dustin Junk, Spencer Sarringar, Spencer Davis, and Gunner Gehring (Not pictured are Caden Buchholz and Jayden Wiebe).

Rylan Shrake, Lincoln Turman, William Turman, Peyton Zabel, Michael Lusk, Levi Stoltenburg, Jebben Keyes, and Alec Williams. Other finalists at the event included Blake Judson, Brady Getz, Jack Van Camp, Gunner Gehring, Austin Senger, Lucas Stoltenburg, and Nick Wiebe.

Governor wrestling coach Ryan Noyes who helped coach at the event noted that “The strength of our youth program continues to improve each year as we are advancing more kids into the finals than other programs even place at the event. Anyone will tell you that the foundations for a successful high school program is built around numbers. Getting kids out, keeping them interested, fostering technique, and putting them in these types of competitive situations is only going to improve our chances of competing for a state title every year,” said Noyes.

The Sunday morning activities began with a very touching tribute to Brooks Monfore who was one of six state champions for the Pierre program last year. The final match of the day featured a very

emotional win for the youth program, as Alec Williams (classmate and close friend of Brooks) was coached to a 4-3 victory by Barry Monfore. “Despite not having either of his son’s competing at the event, Barry gave his time all week at practices and then traveled to the event to give back to a sport that his son loved so much,” said Turman. “Brooks embodied so much of what is good about the sport of wrestling and was held in the highest regard by the wrestling community.”

Also placing at the event were Noah Williams, William Van Camp, Grey Zabel, Cadin Buchholz (third), Jacob Mason, Jace Bench-Bresher, Maguire Raske, Justyce Murphy, Spencer Sarringar (fourth), Jacoby Taylor, Cade Hinkle, Gabe Turman, Aric Williams, Dustin Junk (fifth), Spencer Davis, Jacob Junk (sixth), Tyson Johnson (seventh), Matthew King, Andrew Snyder, Jayden Wiebe, and Lucas Kessler (eighth).

While the folkstyle wrestling season has concluded, a number of the club members will compete at the USA Freestyle/Greco State Tournament held in Pierre on April 28th. Additionally, the youth program hosts a variety of wrestling camps throughout the summer which are free to club members.



Pierre Youth Wrestler Ethan Martinmaas works to pin his Hamlin opponent during his championship match. Ethan went on to win 13-12 to earn the first of eight championships for Pierre at the state Tournament.