

02/02/2009

Huskie Wrestling Family,

We will have our final parents night tonight at Molly Malone's, 7 PM. All adults are invited. It is always a great time!

The Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Varsity wrestlers are not often recognized (outside of the wrestling room). However, at this weekend's conference tournaments, the lower level Huskies shined. An exclamation mark was placed at the end of what collectively is the best lower level season in school history! Take a minute to read the following:

FRESHMAN (Coached by Ryan VenHorst and Fred Arkin):

The freshman wrestling team has completed their season with a lot of growth and success as a culmination of hard work, focus, and dedication to reaching their potential. The freshman team finished in 3rd place on Saturday at the Conference Wrestling Tournament. We were only seven points behind the York and 21 points behind Downers Grove South. The Huskies finished with the most finalists (7) and the most individual champions (5). The huskies had 10 of their 16 wrestlers finish in the top 4 as well. The individual champs were Cameron Harris (90), Michael Woulfe (125), Khali Hartzog (135), Zak Ladwig-Scott (171) and Marq Brumant (285). Zak Ladwig-Scott was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler or OW. This is a phenomenal accomplishment for a first year wrestler, who managed to pin his way through the tournament. Second place finishers were Christian Minaghan (97) and Nick Reyes (103). Colin Rogers (112) placed third, losing a very close match to the eventual champ in the semifinals. Arlo Sheridan (130) and Jacob Friesen (215) took home fourth place as individuals. All of the Huskies wrestled with heart and desire, what has been deemed "Huskie Style Wrestling". We are very proud of these boys and look forward to the future off-season growth and successes that will be ahead for these young men. Many of them had little or no experience coming into this season and can now look back at the tremendous amount of skills that they have learned and move forward to contribute to one of the most successful wrestling programs in the state. Please congratulate these wrestlers on their success.

SOPHOMORE (Coached by Paul "Unit P" Collins and Octavious Bellamy):

Sophomore Huskies capped off a courageous effort with an 8-3 final round at the conference tournament. Down two weights along with two freshmen filling in, second place overall as a team was a remarkable achievement. Four finalist; Nate Crain (112), Chirino Watson (119), Frankie Picchiotti (125), Eddie Guen-Murray (189) each wrestled tough in the finals with Watson, Picchiotti, and Guen-Murray all winning their weights. Crain lost a heartbreaking 14-10 championship match, while Picchiotti won with a :50 fall. Guen-Murray and Chirino won decisions; Guen-Murray winning with a takedown in OT. Freshman Donald Hicks (103), along with Sophomores, Conor Harmon (140), Chris Bergen (160), Isaac Chadri (215) each finished with one loss on the day. Hicks and Chadri both placed third, while Harmon and Bergen both placed fifth. Donald Hicks finished off a very impressive day with a pin the third place match; highest finish by a freshman in quite some time. Kris Ellis (HWT) won his quarterfinal match with a fall, but lost his next two matches finishing fourth place. Wrestling for seventh place were Graham Steele (130), Brian Toledo (145), and Patrick Alcock (160); Steele won a decision, conversely, Toledo and Alcock lost hard fought decisions. Although he lost his only two matches Freshman Kobie Price showed toughness. These young men trained hard all season and took their training to higher levels the two weeks leading up to the conference tournament. Each wrestler should be proud of his efforts.

JUNIOR VARSITY (Coached By James "Beardo" Messer and Joe Manzello):

1st - Jordan Patush, Charlie Johnson, Brendan Rogers, Pat Lavigne, Charvis Peoples

Patush dominated all opponents, pinning his finals opponent in the 1st period. Ditto for "Chuckles" Johnson who merely tech-falled in his final match. Brendan was sick all week and managed to pull out some very hard-fought victories for a courageous performance. Pat Lavigne looked like a killing machine. He inside-tripped his final opponent four times before getting the fall. Charvis "Wrinkles" Peoples was the surprise of the tournament. After a 2-month hiatus from wrestling, came in and crushed the spirit of his two opponents. He won his final match by blasting a double on his opponent hard enough so that he could not continue wrestling.

2nd - Chris Wilson

Chris continued to show the kind of leadership that will make him sorely missed next year.

3rd - Anthony Manetti, Andrew Davenport, Justin Jurczack

Manetti actually won 3rd place for an unprecedented 2 times on Saturday. Because of an error by the head table, his first 3rd place match was against an opponent who was 2 weight classes higher. Manetti, not one to quibble over details, dispatched

him. Then later he beat the kid he was supposed to wrestle. Davenport continued to show that not only is he a man with 7 or eight nicknames, but he also has a lot of untapped potential. With a good off-season he could be scary-good. Jurczack, as a last-minute replacement for an ill Nick VerHalen, showed the kind of team-first mentality that we love. He showed up Saturday morning on the off-chance that he could be in the lineup at a higher weight class, then proceeded to wrestle his heart out and finish 3rd. That's "Huskie Style".

5th- Sean Jackson

Sean "Action" Jackson got a tough first round draw against the eventual champ. One mistake cost him a close match, bumping him to the 5th place bracket. Undeterred, Sean again showed the kind of desire that has made him the hardest-working JV wrestler of the year. Then in his 5th place match, he took Manetti's mistaken 3rd place opponent, and beat him soundly. This kid (and his coaches) couldn't believe he had to face another OP wrestler. Sean has made a ton of progress this year.

1st place as a team. Lyons Township, finishing 2nd, was 70 points behind us. We could not be prouder of the JV wrestlers. They battle everyday in the toughest practice room in Illinois against some of the nation's best. They consistently have shown a level of commitment that a coach does not often see on the under levels.

- The Varsity Regional tournament will be held at Morton East HS (south on Austin). Start time at 9AM. Be there! For more information check out our website: www.oprfwrestling.com

In Relentless Pursuit,

The Huskie Coaching Staff