

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



50 Local Wrestlers Advance to Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation State Tournament

3,000 Expected to Attend; Over \$160,000 Economic Impact for Local Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2010

ROCKFORD, IL — The Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation state tournament returns to the Rockford MetroCentre, 300 Elm St., for the eighth consecutive year March 12-13. Approximately 900 young wrestlers ages 10-14 will compete in front of more than 3,000 spectators from throughout the state. The estimated economic impact of the state tournament is more than \$160,000 for area hotels, restaurants and businesses. The event is open to the public. All-session passes are \$15/adult and \$10/child; single session passes are \$5/adult or child; children under five are free.

For a complete schedule of events and updated tournament results, visit www.ikwf.org.

Local story angles:

HONONEGAH WRESTLER COLLAPSES AT PRACTICE. DIAGNOSED WITH LEUKEMIA: Earlier this season, Tom Rader pulled his son Matthew, a varsity wrestler for Hononegah, out of practice because his son appeared close to collapsing. Matthew was a star athlete who started wrestling at age 6, placed seventh in state at the MetroCentre in 2006 and was also a sectional and regional champion through IKWF. Matthew's wrestling career suddenly ended this season when he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Despite the challenge of undergoing treatment for the cancer, Matthew still finds the time and energy to guide his younger brother, Alex, through his own wrestling career. Alex, who started wrestling at age 5 and is now 13 years old, placed first at regionals and sectionals, heading into state with a 42 in 5 record. Alex idolizes his older brother Matthew and has learned much about wrestling from him. It's Hononegah's tradition for the athletes to dye their hair blonde for the state tournament, but Alex plans to take this a step further by cutting MTR, which stands for Matthew Thomas Rader, into his hair.

For interviews with the Rader family, call Tom Rader at 815.979.0263.

SON FOLLOWS IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS: Tony and Joshua Albers are a father/son team for Dakota Wrestling Club. Tony, who is currently the assistant head wrestling coach for Dakota, won the state championship in 1980 in the 105-pound weight class, and Joshua is following in his father's footsteps. Joshua, age 14, placed second when he was 10 years old, fifth when he was 11 years old and third when he was 12 years old. He hopes to win the state title this year as his dad did in 1980.

For interviews with Tony and Joshua, call Tony at 815.509.8829.

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Local Wrestlers

Local qualifying wrestlers represent 11 different wrestling clubs in the region: Rockford Wrestling Club and Warrior Monks of Rockford; Harlem Wrestling Club, Shooters Elite Wrestling Club and Hecox Team Banaiah of Machesney Park; Hononegah Kids Wrestling Club; Dakota Wrestling Club; Belvidere Bandits; Rochelle Wrestling Club; Stillman Valley Wrestling Club; and Xtreme Wrestling of Oregon.

Rockford Wrestling Club	Warrior Monks (Rockford)
Xavier Buchanan, Senior Division, 101-pound weight class De'gyon Macklin, Novice Division, 130-pound weight class Dustin Swanson, Novice Division, 70-pound weight class	Jacob Heavlin, Novice Division, 215-pound weight class
Harlem Wrestling Club	Hecox Team Benaiah (Machesney Park)
Tanner Anthony, Senior Division, 101-pound weight class Cameron Baxter, Senior Division, 189-pound weight class Brandon Elliott, Novice Division, 115-pound weight class Dylan Elmore, Novice Division, 84-pound weight class Ian Harwick, Novice Division, 156-pound weight class Maxwell Kuhrt, Senior Division, 138-pound weight class Dakota Paris, Senior Division, 79-pound weight class	Jenner Hecox, Novice Division, 122-pound weight class Kailor Hecox, Senior Division, 147-pound weight class Sage Hecox, Senior Division, 177-pound weight class
Hononegah Kids Wrestling Club	Shooters Elite Wrestling Club (Machesney Park)
Zachary Benkovich, Senior Division, 130-pound weight class Donald Coffey, Senior Division, 177-pound weight class Tyler Demoss, Novice Division, 115-pound weight class Christian Fausel, Novice Division, 74-pound weight class Zachary Mooney, Senior Division, 138-pound weight class Brady Powers, Senior Division, 74-pound weight class Keegan Powers, Novice Division, 79-pound weight class Alex Rader, Senior Division, 74-pound weight class Fernie Silva, Novice Division, 108-pound weight class Kyle Wallace, Senior Division, 215-pound weight class Blake Zalapi, Novice Division, 138-pound weight class	Andrew Abitua, Senior Division, 108-pound weight class Kenneth Abitua, Novice Division, 122-pound weight class Brandon Briggs, Senior Division, 84-pound weight class Jacob Hawkins, Novice Division, 84-pound weight class James Wolfe, Novice Division, 89-pound weight class
Belvidere Bandits	Rochelle Wrestling Club
Kodi Lock, Novice Division, 177-pound weight class Adam McConnell, Senior Division, 89-pound weight class Simon Montez, Senior Division, 189-pound weight class	James Davis, Novice Division, 215-pound weight class Manuel Rivera, Senior Division, 275-pound weight class
Dakota Wrestling Club	Stillman Valley Wrestling Club
Josh Alber, Senior Division, 89-pound weight class Chase Engelbrecht, Novice Division, 74-pound weight class Carver James, Novice Division, 95-pound weight class Gacob Lenox, Senior Division, 95-pound weight class Dylan Lydon, Senior Division, 166-pound weight class Daniel McCaslin, Senior Division, 177-pound weight class Nathan Olsen, Novice Division, 89-pound weight class Andrew Wenger, Novice Division 95-pound weight class Daniel Zimmerman, Senior Division, 156-pound weight class	Zachary Hare, Senior Division, 189-pound weight class Mason Tomash, Novice Division, 101-pound weight class
Xtreme Wrestling (Oregon)	
Nelson Baker, Senior Division, 95-pound weight class Nolan Baker, Novice Division, 74-pound weight class Colton West, Novice Division, 108-pound weight class Brady Wilsie, Novice Division, 66-pound weight class	

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Tournament Schedule

Thursday, March 11

4 to 7 p.m. Weigh-ins at the Rockford MetroCentre

Friday, March 12

7 to 7:30 a.m. Weigh-ins

Session I

9 a.m. Grand March

10 a.m. Championship Preliminary Round

12:30 p.m. (approx.) Championship First Round

Session II

6 p.m. Championship Quarterfinal Round

6:30 p.m. (approx.) Weigh-ins for second day of competition

7:30 p.m. (approx.) Consolation Preliminary Round

Saturday, March 13

Session III

6:30 to 7 a.m. Weigh-ins for second day of competition

8 a.m. Consolation First Round

9:15 a.m. (approx.) Championship Semifinal Round and Consolation Quarterfinal Round

11 a.m. (approx.) Consolation Semifinal Round

Session IV

4 p.m. Place Bouts – 3rd, 5th and 7th

5:45 p.m. (approx.) Parade of Finalists

6:30 p.m. (approx.) Championship Bouts

The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, non-profit organization that champions efforts to promote and further develop the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. RACVB generates positive economic impact for the community through investments in tourism marketing, sales, promotion and advocacy.

www.gorockford.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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