

# BLAIR WRESTLING

## May 2023 Newsletter

### *Dear Friends of Blair Wrestling,*

We are heading toward the end of the school year, and it has been an exciting spring for the wrestling program. Our athletes have traveled all over the country for different freestyle events—with a ton of success. I will highlight the events below, but first, I'd like to bring your attention to our golf outing this summer:

#### Golf Outing on Friday, July 21, 2023 Blair Academy Golf Course

Mark your calendars for our annual Blair Wrestling Golf Outing on Friday, July 21, 2023. This event for all parents, friends, and families, current and former wrestlers was a huge success last year, the first year doing it, and I'd like to see it grow and continue to bring people together. Following nine holes on the Blair green, we will kick back and enjoy a BBQ. The shotgun start is at 9 a.m. The cost for golf and the BBQ is \$150 per person; just the BBQ is \$75 per person.

Attached is the link to register, which contains more information. I'd love to get as many Blair supporters as we can! [Registration](#)

### On to the highlights...

#### USMC Women's National Spokane, Washington

Incoming ninth grader *Victoria Carbonaro '27* took second place in 14U and third place in 15U. Victoria also recently won an international tournament in Estonia. She has been working hard and is going to be a great addition to the team.

Ninth grader *Sarah Henckel '26* took second place in U17 and lost in the round robin finals to a really tough Jasmine Robinson from Texas. Sarah dominated her way to the finals, which qualified her for the Pan-American Championships in Mexico City in late June.

Incoming ninth grader *Corynne McNulty '27* took fifth in 15U, winning a number of matches. Another awesome kid with high aspirations, Corynne is from Massachusetts and brings great character.

Blair will have a really nice group of girls next year with our veterans, *Morgan Edwards '24* and *Jocelyn O'Keeffe '24*, combined with our three youngsters in Corynne, Victoria and Sarah. The women's program is growing and it's highlighted by some fantastic kids.

#### U20 and U17 U.S. Open Events Las Vegas, Nevada

*Carter Neves '24* put together a great tournament in U20, qualifying him for the world team trials in Geneva, Ohio. Carter took third in a bracket that consisted of many college athletes. Carter knocked off his NCAA-qualifying competitors and got on a roll. Carter, at heavyweight, is healthy and having a lot of fun.

*Pete Snyder '26* put together a good tournament, placing seventh in a really tough U17 bracket. Pete continues to make jumps in his wrestling, especially his freestyle wrestling. He is also opening up more, which has been something he wants to improve in this summer.

As a group, I thought we wrestled well. *Billy Dekraker '25* and *Will Henckel '25* had strong performances, although they wanted to do better. They beat some really good college athletes, and this tournament helped them move forward in their wrestling. They will both be trying to win Fargo titles, and Will aims to make a U20 world team. In addition, both Sarah and Morgan placed high at the women's showcase.

#### Portuese Northeast Regional Championships Atlantic City, New Jersey

We had a nice group wrestle at the Northeast Regional Championships, and many of them qualified for Fargo. I will highlight our top performers.

Incoming ninth grader *Cael Mielnik '27* won the 16U division at 182 pounds. Cael is tremendously tough and strong for his age. Cael is from the same town as Pete Snyder. Cael will be looking to win a Fargo title this summer.



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*Paul Ognissanti '24* and *Logan Rozynski '24* met in the junior division finals at 152 pounds. It was a great bout. Paul won the match, but they both had a nice road to the finals, beating some formidable opponents. Both will be looking to win Fargo titles this summer.

*Matt Lopes '24* won another Northeast Regional title at 138 pounds. His finals match was exciting as he got his opponent incredibly tired and took advantage of the situation. Matt continues to grow as a wrestler, and his freestyle is improving as well.

*Ryan Meier '26* had a breakout tournament at 126 pounds in the 16U division. Ryan lost in the finals in some positions that need to be addressed, but he pushed through some tough matches in the quarter- and semifinals to win. I still think Ryan has a lot more to give, and he is starting to figure that out. Ryan will have a great summer of training and improving.

As always, please reach out to me. I enjoy hearing from you all. I hope to see many of you at the golf outing!

Best,

*Coach Gitomer*

