
TITAN GRAPPLING NEWS

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2008 Olympic Team Trials truly an amazing experience!

Youth is served in Las Vegas!

Mike Eaton

Centennial Wrestling

The 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials were aptly named, "Amazing awaits." As the final step in qualifying for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, this tournament was an amazing experience!

The tournament was held at the Thomas & Mack Center on the UNLV campus in Las Vegas, NV over a three day period. Divisions being held simultaneously were the men's Greco Roman, women's freestyle, men's freestyle and finally, the Judo trials! To see the best wrestlers and judo athletes in the whole United States compete to earn their spot on the U.S. Olympic team was exciting. This personally was my third Olympic Trials to attend, having attended the 1996 Trials in Spokane

continued on page 2

Eight Team Titan wrestlers compete at Cadet & Junior Nationals in Fargo, ND!

*Hassani earns first All-American honors in
women's freestyle*

Mike Eaton

Centennial Wrestling

Finally, rounding out the last of the wrestling in July is the results from Fargo, North Dakota, otherwise known as Cadet and Junior Nationals!

Team Titan had 8 wrestlers participate in the national tournament including: Cody Curtiss, Alex Scheer, Philip Obenshain, Ryan Garner, Neda Hassani, Maliha Mithani, Emily Martin, and Stacy Martin.

Once again, Fargo proved to be the ultimate tournament with all of the nation's best vying to earn either a Greco Roman or Freestyle national title! This is not only the toughest national freestyle tournament for our high school aged wrestlers but it is also the largest tournament in the world! Some of our men's weight classes had over 80 wrestlers entered! With that being said, it was tough going for our men. Cody Curtiss went 3-2 in the freestyle division to lead the four. All four gained valuable experience and will come back to Texas and Frisco in particular better than ever!

The four women were able to be a part of the first ever Texas sweep of the junior national

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 U.S. Olympic Team Trials from Las Vegas, NV
- 1 Team Titan wrestlers compete in Fargo
- 4 Summer Camp roundup
- 4 Newest class of Titan alumni

and the 2000 Trials held here in Dallas. However, this was by far my most memorable.

This time I was blessed with the unique opportunity to be able to coach during the tournament. I served as a volunteer in Dallas but this was much more exciting and nerve-wracking all at once!

Emily Martin, '08, wrestled in the 48 KG weight class in the women's freestyle division. She drew two very tough opponents but gained a valuable experience nonetheless. Emily lost both of her matches but was able to score against both of her more experienced opponents. In fact, in Emily's first round match, she actually scored the first takedown with her signature "pass-by" to take the lead.

The fact that she was one of the eight women in the country vying for an Olympic team berth can not be lost in this experience. I was very proud of her efforts and can't help but to marvel over how far she has come in just four years of wrestling. Emily will be able to use this knowledge gained for the 2012 Trials and beyond!



Emily Martin, '08, shown above in red, wrestling in her first match of the 2008 Olympic Team Trials against Sara Fulp-Allen. Emily will attend the U.S. Olympic Education Center at Northern Michigan University in the fall where she will compete in freestyle wrestling and attend school.

Some exciting other stories at the Trials included:

- 18 year old and high school senior Jake Deitchler from Minnesota winning the Trials at 66KG in the Greco Roman division. This was very exciting to watch. Jake had most if not all of the Thomas & Mack Center crowd rooting for him as he became the youngest ever U.S. Olympic wrestler. It was thrilling to watch!
- Henry Cejudo, a 21 year old Freestyle phenom also earned his first Olympic Team with his win at 55KG in the men's freestyle division. Henry was coached his last two years in high school by my old high school coach in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I first met Henry about three years ago through Coach Brickell and it has been a pleasure watching him wrestle at such a high level for his age!
- Most of the U.S. Olympic team members seem to be a new, younger generation of talent, especially the women's team. All four qualifiers will compete in their first Olympics: Clarissa Chun upset returning bronze-medalist Patricia Miranda at 48KG; Marcie Van Dusen easily dominated the 55KG bracket; Texan Randi Miller also pulled off a major upset by defeating defending silver-medalist Sara McMann at 63KG; and finally, 22 year old Ali Bernard will represent the U.S. at 72KG.
- Of the 16 wrestlers who will represent the United States in Beijing, only two have Olympic experience. In addition, the average age of our 16 Olympic wrestlers is a mere 26.6 years of age! Our team is young but is very talented! This may give a young, up-and-coming wrestler the idea that these team members will be around for a while. Maybe that is so, but I think this gives all of our younger wrestlers hope that they can compete at a very high level, no matter how young they are! The one constant among these Olympians is the work ethic and dedication to fulfill these goals. I can't wait to see one of our Titans reach this level in the near future.❖

2008 TITAN WRESTLING CAMP OF CHAMPIONS

The 2008 Centennial Camp of Champions was another great success. The COC brought in just under 60 wrestlers this year. The week was a great learning experience with clinicians Jerry Best, Jim Steffan, Darren Snyder, Crystal Molinar, and our own Brent Holtrop, '07 and Lene' Wood, '07, helping to teach another solid week of technique. Matt Crook, '06, also made some guest appearances and was a great help.

This year's Camp champions as seen in the picture to the bottom right are:

(Front row, left to right) Mark Mulligan, Baylor Steward, Will Curtiss, Jeremy Warren, Josh Kula, Abby Eaton, and Jackson Boerne.

(Back row, left to right) Jake Kula, Daniel Obenshain, John Simmers, Trey Neal, Alex Scheer, Estevan Molinar, Brynn Suttles, and Stacy Martin.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

AUGUST 25, 2008

1ST DAY OF WRESTLING PRACTICE

OCTOBER 14, 2008

Practice will officially begin before school for women and after school for men!

TITAN WRESTLING BBQ

NOVEMBER 8, 2008

CENTENNIAL H.S.

NOON

Come meet the coaches and bring the whole family as the Titan Wrestling family kicks off the 2008-2009 season.

RED VS. BLUE INTRASQUAD SCRIMMAGE

NOVEMBER 13, 2008

CENTENNIAL H.S.

6:00 PM

individual and dual tournaments! Texas won its first individual championship and its second dual nation title with wins over second place California in both divisions.

Maliha Mithani and Stacy Martin both won a match in the individual tournament while wrestling in very deep weight classes.

Neda Hassani earned her first All-American honors at Fargo wrestling at 102 pounds. Neda pinned her opponent in her final match to earn 5th place and the coveted AA status!! Congratulations, Neda!

Neda Hassani, class of 2009, became an All-American in Fargo with a decisive pin in her 5th place match at 102 pounds!



Emily Martin put together her second straight All-American performance at Fargo with a solid 5th place finish. That concludes her high school career with a Centennial record of 6 All-American finishes, all coming after during her junior season and beyond! Congratulations, Emily! Good luck at the USOEC next year!

Neda and Emily also played key roles in leading Texas to the dual national title.



TITAN WRESTLING CONGRATULATES ITS 7 NEWEST ALUMNI!

The Titan wrestling family would like to congratulate the following seven wrestlers who recently graduated from Centennial on June 6th:

Hannah Bailey
Grace Grissom
Haley Hunter
Emily Martin
Mark Baumann
Juan Dominguez
Doug Shelton

Each of these seven wrestlers also received a \$500 scholarship from the Titan Wrestling Booster Club as graduates of Centennial and Titan Wrestlers. Thanks so much to the TWBC for this wonderful gift—and thanks so much to all of you parents who help our booster club throughout the year! These young men and women are reaping the rewards of all of your hard work!

Titan Wrestling
c/o Coach Eaton
6901 Coit Road
Frisco, TX 75035

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Titan Men win in the Rocky Mountains

Rocky Mountain Wrestling Camp goes well for 10 Titan men

On June 18-22, ten of our Titan men went to Gunnison, Colorado for the Rocky Mountain Wrestling Camp held at Western State College. This is the oldest and longest running wrestling camp in the nation.

The Titan men fared well this year, despite having to give up 2 to 4 forfeits per dual! Their overall dual record for the week was 9-7. They finished in 12th place out of 30 teams.

The team consisted of:

- Cody Curtiss, junior, earned a dual record of 21-1
- Alex Scheer, sophomore
- Eric Smith, sophomore
- Brandon Richardson, sophomore
- Dalton Caudell, freshmen
- Josh Tew, senior
- Ryan Garner, junior
- Curtis Holtrop, senior, earned a dual record of 12-0 before injury
- Tony Ehmke, senior
- Trey Neal, sophomore

These ten guys not only earned some valuable mat time but also were able to go white-water rafting as well as hiking in the mountains near beautiful Crested Butte, Colorado! It was another great camp experience for all.

A special thanks to Brent Holtrop, '07 and Drew Caudell for serving as coaches/chaperones/drivers for this trip. Both did an excellent job and their time is much appreciated.❖

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