

Wednesday,
January 10,
2024

Holy War Champs!

The Stampede of Aggie wrestlers

Volume 1

Coach Odie

First Day of Competition

Holy Wars Tournament:

The Aggies came out on fire with the first competition. First round was against Cretin Durham Hall. It came down to the end to come out victorious. Peter Brownell got us started with a pin in the first period. The guys were very hyped. Hser Thaw pinned his guy too. This was the first varsity win and first varsity pins both wrestlers. Phillip Graner, Joseph Cummings, Sam Hunt, all got first period pins for the Aggies. Jacob McLaughlin got a second period pin. This is where it got interesting. The coach for Cretin Durham Hall made a mistake and took a double forfeit at 215 which gave the team victory to the Aggies, 36-33. This was our best start because we had some starter that were out of the lineup due to injuries.

Second round, the Aggies faced Benilde Saint Margarets. The Aggies flexed their muscles and beat them 54-24. It started with Peter Brownell getting a first period pin. Hser Thaw wrestled really well and got a first period pin as well. Phillip Graner got a second period pin. Joseph Cummings got a third period pin against one of his former youth wrestling teammates, and Sam Hunt got a second period pin. At this point, Aggies had it in the bag. Benilde Saint Margaret forfeited to the rest of the Aggies: Jacob McLaughlin, Gabe Ziernicki, Charlie Witzel, and Sam Clyde. (Continue on pg 2)



Hser Thaw getting a big takedown during the Cretin Durham Hall match. Hser Thaw ended up pinning his guy giving him his first varsity win. (Picture: Sophia Rossini)



Joseph Cumming looking to dominate his opponent and work for a pin. Joseph ended up pinning his Trinity guy to add to the excited of the day. (Photo: Richard Graner)

Coach Odie

Rough Duals in Lakeville

A tough day of wrestling for the Aggies

First round, the Aggies wrestled Rochester Century and lost 27-45. The Aggies were not outmatched by them, but you can see that the Aggies made some mistakes that cost us the dual. We didn't get our first win until 145, Joseph Cummings. Joseph Cummings, Sean Brennan, Jacob McLaughlin, and Sam Clyde all pinned their opponents. Charlie Witzel had a good match and won by a decision, 6-0. The biggest win of the night did come by Sam Clyde when he threw his opponent to his back and pinned him. We had a couple of matches that got away from us during this dual which would have made this outcome a lot closer.

Second round was against Bloomington Kennedy. This round the Aggies had more of a fight in them. They competed very well but still came up short. The Aggies lost 30-45. Of the matches that we actually wrestled, the Aggies would have won 30-28, but we

had to forfeit 3 matches. Getting the Aggies on the board first at 152 was Sean Brennan who pinned his guy in the first period. This got the Aggies started. Sam Hunt and Jacob McLaughlin both pinned their guys. Gabe Ziernicki got a forfeit. Charlie Witzel pinned his guy. Then, Sam Clyde wrestled a great match and when he went for his throw, he got caught and put to his back.

Third Round was against Lakeville South. Again, we had good fight from the Aggies. Peter Brownell lost a close match 10-6. Jonathan Muehleck and Hser Thaw both received a forfeit getting the Aggies on the board. Then we ran into some tough competition in the middle weights. Jacob McLaughlin won by a major decision, 20-10. Gabe Ziernicki won by a decision, 7-4. Sam Clyde wrestled a great match at the end and lost 8-2. Aggies lost, 25-39.



Theo Loehr (Photo: Richard Graner)



Vincent Jurek (Photo: Richard Graner)



Anthony Petruconis (Photo: Richard Graner)

Coach Odie

The First Home Duals

What a great day of competition for our first home duals.

The full day of wrestling was good for the Aggie wrestlers. We went 2-3 as a team and wrestled some great competitions. I know we had some matches that slipped through our fingers but hopefully we can learn from our mistakes and move forward.

First round was against Eden Valley / Watkins. It was a rough start to the day. The Aggie wrestlers weren't quite awake for the day. We had some great matches, but we came up short. We only had 3 matches that we won. Sean Brennan received a forfeit. Jacob McLaughlin pinned his guy in the second period. Charlie Witzel won by a decision, 7-3. Both Peter Brownell and Joseph Cummings came up short in their matches. Peter lost 8-3 and Joseph lost 4-2. The Aggies lost the dual, 15-54.

Round two was against Rochester John

Marshall and that was a better round for the Aggies. Hser Thaw got the Aggies started with a pin in 32 seconds. Matthew Eastham won by a forfeit. Joseph Cumming pinned his guy in 52 seconds. Sean Brennan received a forfeit. Both Jacob McLaughlin and Gabe Ziernicki pinned their guys and Charlie Witzel outscored his opponent 17-1 receiving a tech fall. Aggies won 41-36.

Third round was against Pine City / Hinckley / Finlayson. Aggies wrestled tough and got another team victory. Phillip Graner got us started with a pin in the first period. Joseph Cumming, Sean Brennan, Jacob McLaughlin, Charlie Witzel, and Gabe Ziernicki all got pins for the Aggies. Sam Hunt received a forfeit. This dual was a back and forth dual, but the Aggies came out on top. Winning the dual 42-36.

Forth round was against Cannon Falls.

Cannon Falls is always a tough team to compete against. Both Peter Brownell and Hser Thaw received forfeits when we wrestled them. The match of the weekend was with Joseph Cummings beat Griffin Peterson, 10-7. This was a great match. It went back and forth and at the end, Joseph sealed the deal. Sean (Continued pg 3)



Sam Hunt working on a great single leg shot against Cannon Falls. Sam came up short losing this match but it was a great match. (Photo: Richard Graner)



Lukas Scherping turning his Benilde Saint Margaret's wrestler and ended up getting a pin for the Aggies. This was his first JV win and a first win ever. Off to a great start. (Picture: Sophia Rossini)

Coach Odie

Holy Wars JV

Future looks good for the Aggies.

It was a good day for the Aggies JV wrestlers. We had one wrestler that went 2-0. Both wins were by pins. Great start Anthony Petruconis! Ryan Lancette went 1-0, pinning his guy in the first period. We had a couple of guys only have one loss on the day. The newcomer, Lukas Scherping went 2-1, getting his first win ever on the wrestling mat. He was very fired up about this first win. Vincent Jurek went 1-1. Vincent has improved

from last year. Theo Loehr also went 1-1, looking like a beast out on the mat. I noticed a big improvement from him this year. Charlie Graner had a great day with a record of 2-2. I did see some great offensive moves coming from him. Greer Michelson went 1-2 on the day, getting his first ever win in wrestling. Coming off the mat, you can see that he can face the world. What a great start to the season JV wrestlers.

Coach Odie

Holy Wars Tournament

Part 2:

The third round was against our rivals, Trinity. The Aggies wanted this one badly. To put more pressure on them, this was a section opponent and we needed to win. The Aggies gave up 5 pins right away, so Trinity was up by 30 points. Then the Aggies didn't look back and won the rest of the matches. Phillip Graner, Joseph Cummings, Sam Hunt all got pins. Sean Brennan, Jacob McLaughlin, Gabe Ziernicki, Charlie Witzel, and Sam Clyde all received forfeits which ended the battle against Trinity. Aggies 48 Trinity 30.

Hard work is paying off for the Aggies. They know that they must get back to work in order to get better. They know that these teams are still coming after them, but we got the upper hand on each of them this day.



Joseph Pepin working his magic in order to try to get a win against a good wrestler. He came up short but his effort is unbelievable. Keep working hard. (Picture: Sophia Rossini)

Coach Odie

Home Duals continued
Last round and JV



Greer Michelson working on his double leg takedown. Greer has shown a lot of heart trying to learn as much as possible in this short time. (Photo: Richard Graner)

Brennan and Jacob McLaughlin both pinned their guys. The Aggies came up short but put forth a great effort. Aggies 27 Cannan Falls 48.

Last round was against a very tough Faribault team. Faribault’s team is lead by 7 seniors and all of them are really good wrestlers. The Aggies only won 2 matches during this dual. Joseph Cummings won by a forfeit and Charlie Witzel won by a pin.

The ending score to the Faribault dual was Aggies 12 Faribault 61.

On the JV side of things. Four different wrestlers came out of this competition with 2 wins. The top two JV wrestlers were Ryan Lancette and Vincent Jurek. They both went 2-1 on the day. Ryan Lancette just about had a perfect day with a 3-0 record but lost to a close match with Faribault, 14-12. It was an exciting match.

We had two other wrestlers that went 2-2 on the day. Charlie Graner and Anthony Petruconis came up big with some great wins. I like seeing the effort and warrior mentality of both boys. They are going to be great if we can continue pushing themselves to become better.

Theo Loehr went 1-2. Theo had one match that got away from him against Faribault kid. It was a close match when Theo made a small mistake which cost him the match. Greer Michelson had a tough day and went 0-2. But the best quote came from Greer, “Come on coach, one more match. I know that I can get it.” I love this mentality. Keep this up, Greer.

Coach Odie

Orlando Ponce
Great Technician

Thanks to Orlando Ponce for coming in and doing a great job working with the boys on different techniques. The understanding of positioning themselves and having a higher chance of getting the move done correctly is great.

I also loved his message about God. You can tell that he found God and God is in his life. He shared that with the boys and they remember it.



Orlando Ponce and Gene Richtsmeier. Orlando’s message to the boys was very memorable. We are going to use it for the rest of our lives. (Photo: Bridget Richtsmeier)



Pictures of our seniors at work. Top and bottom left is Hser Thaw working his visious single leg. Top and bottom middle pictures is senior captain Sean Brennan working on different pinning combinations. Top and bottom right is senior captain Jacob McLaughlin working on his favorite pinning combinations.

Coach Odie

Senior Night Home Quad
Thanks to the senior wrestlers and Managers

First of the 3 duals was against Central Public Schools. This is a section opponent, and we came up on the short end of this. We only won 2 matches on the night. Both Jacob McLaughlin and Charlie Witzel won by pins. We had a couple of other good close matches, and the score really doesn’t show how well we truly wrestled against them. Aggies lost 12-61.

Second round was against Medford and the Aggies came out on top. It was a great dual and lots of tough wrestling, Peter Brownell, Phillip Graner, and Gabe Ziernicki had a forfeit. The match of the night was Joseph Pepin pin. Seeing the excitement

come from Joseph helped uplift the crowd and the Aggies wrestlers to do their best. Joseph Cummings, Jacob McLaughlin, and Charlie Witzel all got pins. Aggies won 42 to 36.

Last round was against Saint Charles. We had a slow start giving up 45 points. But that is when the Aggies came alive and put up 30 points of their own. Sam Hunt, Jacob McLaughlin, Charlie Witzel, and Gabe Ziernicki all got pins. Sam Clyde received a forfeit. Aggies lost 30-45.

Thanks seniors, we are going to miss you next year!!!



Top Left: Sean Brennan with a great foot sweep single leg takedown. Top Right: Jacob McLaughlin getting a pin. Bottom Left: Charlie Witzel working on getting a pin. Bottom Right: Sam Clyde throwing the big headlock trying to get the pin. (Photos: Richard Graner)

North St Paul Duals Consolation Champions!!!



Coach Odie

Out of 8 teams, the Aggies wrestlers placed 5th, making us consolation Champions. We went 3-2 on the day. This was a good day of wrestling. We were stuck in the tough pool. The teams that beat us placed 2nd and 3rd. We would have beaten the 4th place team but didn't have a chance to

wrestle them.

The day started out that Cretin Durham Hall wanted a rematch and we did even better than what we did the first time we faced them. Peter Brownell got us off on the right foot, by pinning his opponent. Then, Jonathan Muehleck received a forfeit earning 6 more team points. Sean Brennan, Sam Hunt, Jacob McLaughlin, Charle Witzel, and Sam Clyde all pinned their guys. The most exciting match of them all was Sam Clyde's. When he the referee slapped the mat, it was a huge boost to the team, and we went crazy. The Aggies won the match, 42-31.

Second round was against Centennial. Peter Brownell got us off to a good start. Peter pinned his guy in 46 seconds. Then Joseph Cummings had a very intense match that went into overtime and won with a takedown, 4-2. Then we got 3 pins in a row with Sean Brennan, Sam Hunt, and Jacob McLaughlin. But then Centennial's upper weights were just too much for the Aggies. We lost the dual 27-45.

Third round was against Saint Charles again and Saint Charles got a few more wins this time. We didn't get our first win until Sean Brennan got it at 152. Sean pinned his guy. Then we got 3 more pins with Jacob McLaughlin, Charlie Witzel, and Gabe Ziernicki. The Aggies ended up losing this one 24-52.

Fourth round was the start of the bracket. Since we went 1-2 in the pool, we went in the bottom bracket. We first wrestled Minneapolis Roosevelt and did well against them. We didn't get our first win until 139, Phillip Graner, and we didn't lose another match. Phillip Graner, Joseph Cummings, Sean Brennan, and Sam Clyde all earned pins. Receiving forfeits were Sam Hunt, Jacob McLaughlin, Gabe Ziernicki, and Charlie Witzel. The

“Blessed be to the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.”

- Psalm 144:1-2

Aggies ended up winning that one 48-27.

The last round was against North Saint Paul. It started out rough for the Aggies but when it came to 139 again, we started our winning streak. Phillip Graner pinned his guy in 24 seconds. Sean Brennan and Gabe Ziernicki both pinned their guy. Receiving forfeits was Joseph Cummings, Sam Hunt, and Jacob McLaughlin. The match of the night was Charlie Witzel as he went against North's senior captain. The match was a great one and Charlie controlled the whole match and ended up winning 15-4. Aggies ended up winning the dual 40-28.

JV result on the day: Charlie Graner went 2-1, Greer Michelson 1-2, Lukas Scherping 1-0, Theo Loehr 1-3, Anthony Petruconis 1-2, Ryan Lancette 1-2, Vincent Jurek 0-2.