

Wrestling team boasts largest turnout to date

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The wrestling program has grown by leaps and bounds over the past five years, and this season 25 wrestlers are ready to grapple on the mats.

Over the past five years, Coach John Downs has taken a program that was basically on life-support to a thriving program with four state qualifiers and one state placer.

One senior, Tyler Surface, returns to the varsity squad this year, along with juniors Casey Warburton, Patrick Dingeman, David Perez-Sanchez, Dustin Smith, Austin Moore, Jake Stevens, Jared Richerson, Damien Wills and Cole Pade. Sophomores Parker Ford and Dalton Ford round out the returning varsity players.

Tyler Friend, junior, is new to the sport, as is sophomore Ryon MacIntosh. Sophomore Brody Enstrom is new to Sisters High School but does have wrestling experience from his previous school.

Eleven matmen are

freshmen, 10 of whom wrestled at the middle school last year.

“We’re a young team,” said Downs. “The last four years the wrestlers that wrestled for me built the foundation for this program, and now I have placed the pressure on this new group. With five veteran wrestlers graduating last year, it opens the opportunities for new leaders to emerge and lead this team to becoming a mainstay at this school.”

Downs told *The Nugget* that all of the wrestlers have the potential to do something great for the team and for themselves.

“This program is no longer on life-support as it was in the past,” said Downs. “It’s starting to grow. Wrestling is getting so big we are in need of more support for equipment, and a wrestling room, not just an auxiliary gym. We need a room with wall pads and more mats. I don’t want my wrestlers to get hurt. I also don’t want kids cut from the team only because my room is too small.”

Foundation announces grants

The Roundhouse Foundation supports creative projects and organizations that connect the community of Sisters, Central Oregon, and rural communities in the Northwest through art, environmental conservation, social services, community leadership and education.

Arts-related grants were awarded to: Caldera; Columbia Center for the Arts; Crook County School District Music Program; Deschutes Public Library Foundation; Bend Soroptimist Harmony 4 Women Concert; High Desert Museum; Oregon Public Broadcasting; Silent Echo Theater Company; Sisters High School Visual Arts Department; Sisters Middle and High School Jazz Band; Tower Theatre; Sisters Schools Foundation; Community Orchestra of Central Oregon; Museum at Warm Springs; and Sisters Middle School.

In the area of education and environment, grants were awarded to: Bend Science Station; Deschutes Land Trust; Sisters Graduate Resource Organization; Harney County Library Foundation; High Desert Partnership; Kids Club Harney County;

Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Sisters Elementary and Sisters Middle School Libraries; Outlaw Black and White Club; Deschutes 4-H Association; Oregon Humanities; Oregon State University Foundation; and Sisters High School Vocational Education. The Foundation also supported Sisters High School Interdisciplinary Environmental Education (IEE) Program; Sisters Skate Park; Sisters Middle School Reading Program; Oregon Coast Aquarium; OMSI; and U of O Foundation for Pine Mountain Observatory.

The Roundhouse Foundation trustees made grants in the area of social services to: Furry Friends Foundation,

Sisters Elementary Counseling Department; Project Unify; Grant/Harney CASA Program; Healthy Beginnings; Heart Warmers; Kiwanis Club of Sisters; Oregon Adaptive Sports; Volunteers in Medicine; Opportunity Foundation; OHSU Age Related Macular Degeneration Research; and Harney County School District.

The Roundhouse Foundation does not fund faith-based or political organizations. The Foundation does not favor proposals to fund endowments or capital campaigns. The next deadline for grant applications is January 3. Interested applicants can learn more at www.roundhousefoundation.org.

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