

2019 – 20 Meridian Mustang Wrestling Season Wrap – up



The 2019-20 Meridian Mustang Wrestling season began with excitement and optimism. Ten wrestlers and three student managers started and finished the season, every team member was able to earn their letter in wrestling, team members are: **Seniors** - Hunter Green, Wyatt Haverluck, Zacharia Kerwood, Sonny Scheets **Juniors** – Lane Barton, Lindsey Brant student manager **Sophomores** – Tyler Lopez, Kenna Placek student manager, Wyatt Scheets, Isaiah Vculek **Freshmen** – Edward Haverluck, Jesus Nunez **Eighth Grade** – Jackson Huls student manager. Before our season started the wrestlers wrote down personal goals and team goals that they wanted to achieve by the end of the season. I am proud to say that every wrestler was able to achieve personal goals in some way or another. The range of goals varied from veteran to freshman wrestlers. Some of the goals were as simple as winning a match to becoming a state medalist. With strong numbers this year, we were more competitive in our dual competitions and tournaments. The boys were able to set a positive tone for the season by taking runner – up at the Harvard Invite and then following that up with a commanding performance by winning our home tournament the Bob Oliver Invite. The remainder of the season was a challenge for the team but we were competitive bringing home medalist on a consistent basis. The team had to battle with outside influences such as illnesses, injuries and grades. Seven wrestlers were able to make their way to the D-1 District Tournament held at Plainview High School. For all of us this was a new and exciting trip, we were heading into one of the most difficult districts in the State. The boys were up for the challenge, the boys wrestled well and we qualified four young men for the State tournament Lane Barton at 126 lbs., Hunter Green at 170 lbs., Wyatt Haverluck at 195 lbs., and Zacharia Kerwood at 285 lbs. For Lane and Zacharia this was their second trip to the State Tournament. The team finished in seventh place in the twenty – two team field. Of the top five teams all of which wrestled in the State Dual Tournament. This was an impressive showing for Meridian with seven wrestlers.

At the State Tournament the boys all wrestled hard and were very competitive. In the matches we lost the boys were in position to win but during the remaining seconds the matches slipped away. For the wrestlers who didn't medal, the wrestlers who we lost to went on to medal. We did come away with a State medal, Wyatt Haverluck was able to raise his level and intensity and dominate after a semi-final loss. Wyatt wrestled with vengeance and determination to capture third place at 195 lbs. For him this was a culmination of the past three years of adversity. He was able to end his season on a winning note and as a State medalist. Congratulations and Thank You Wyatt for your dedication and contribution to the Meridian Mustang Wrestling Program.

Now that the season has come to an end it is hard to say good bye to our senior wrestlers. These young men have dedicated themselves to the Meridian Wrestling Program for the past four years and now that their careers have come to an end they will not be forgotten. They are now and forever a part of special brotherhood the Meridian Mustang Wrestling family. Thank you seniors: Hunter Green, Wyatt Haverluck, Zacharia Kerwood and Sonny Scheets.



Pins for Dollars

Once again the Meridian Wrestling Program along with Fairbury and Tri County joined forces with Jefferson County Health & Life (JCH&L) for Pins for Dollars. JCH&L donated one dollar for every pin that the wrestling teams were able to record this season. The Meridian Mustangs were able to record 102 pins this season, which JCH&L matched with a check for \$102 to the Meridian Wrestling Program. Meridian's top pinner for the season were Zacharia Kerwood with 21, Wyatt Haverluck with 19, Lane Barton with 17 and Hunter Green with 14. The check was presented Wednesday March 4, 2020 by JCH&L Director of Public Relations Lana Likens and Interim CEO Victor Lee to Head Meridian Wrestling Coach Chris L. Placek and the Meridian Mustang Wrestling Team. Thank you JCH&L for partnering again this year and for recognizing the accomplishments of the high school wrestlers of Jefferson County.

