

Wrestling Pride!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Seven youth wrestlers from Edson participated in this year's Canadian National Wrestling Championships for Cadet and Juvenile age classes - all seven represented the Edson Gladiators Wrestling Club (EGWC) but play on Parkland Composite High School's wrestling team as well. Curtis Brinker is the senior coach for the EGWC as well as one of the coaches for the high school team. He was extremely proud of his players who were very dedicated in their training up to the competition that hosted over 800 wrestlers from across Canada. Except for one student, this was their first experience at a national championship tournament. "This was a great tournament for our kids. They learn so much more about the sport through this intensive training, and to see and compete against the best in Canada is a special opportunity. We want to thank all those who supported the team in our fund raising, and Pine Grove and Parkland schools for all their support and encouragement," noted Brinker. All of the youth did very well and one wrestler, Tiana Bryant, won her first Nationals' Gold Medal in Cadet and later finished 3rd in a subsequent tournament which places her on the wait list for a spot on Team Canada.



The wrestling season begins in October and wraps up in early spring. Along with community teams such as the EGWC, both high schools in Edson, Parkland Composite, and in Hinton, Harry Collinge, have school wrestling teams and Niton Central School also has a junior team. Parkland has over 20 wrestlers on their team with boys and girls from Grades 9 through 12. They are the proud winners of four rural provincial championships, three boys' provincial championships and two girls' provincial championships. In February, Parkland hosted the 2017 Alberta School Athletic Association (ASAA) Rural Wrestling Championships which included over 90 athletes from 24 schools across

Alberta. The girls' team earned a silver medal in Girls 3A and an individual gold medal in the female 65kg weight class. The boys' team came in 3rd in Boys 3A with silver and bronze med-

als won in various weight classes. “The tournament was a success for our wrestlers. We saw some marked improvement and some goals achieved by many of our kids. Hosting rurals gave us an opportunity to showcase some of the best athleticism Parkland has to offer,” Kim Edmondson, Assistant Coach.



The Harry Collinge High School Rockies’ wrestling program was founded in 1994 by current coach and principal, Glen Allen. Over the past 23 seasons, Rockies wrestlers have amassed some impressive results including Alberta Junior Olympic champions, Alberta Winter Games champions, ASAA champions as well as several top ten National Championship finishes. Their current team includes 15 athletes from the school as well as a club component including elementary and junior high athletes from all Hinton schools. This year’s results included silver medals in Alberta Junior Olympics and two golds at the 33rd Annual Paperweight Invitational. “The 2016-17 season turned out to be a challenging year for the wrestling Rockies due to a number of injuries. When able to compete, our current group of Rockies wrestlers have proven themselves to be excellent competitors and, more importantly, great leaders,”

said Coach Allen. “This group will play a key role in ensuring the continuing development of the program and its success.”

Although a smaller school, Niton boasts a large team of 32 wrestlers from Kindergarten to Grade 6 who have fun developing their skills as they learn about the sport. At the Junior Olympics competition held in Edson this year, Niton wrestlers brought home several medals: two gold, four silver and one bronze. “We’re very proud of all of our wrestlers and the effort they put into each and every competition,” noted Coach Shelia Easson. “We also are very appreciative of the older wrestlers from the Gladiators in Edson who come out to support the students during fun matches as well.”

