

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Belgrade wrestlers second at 'Little Guy' championship

By Mike Brandt, Staff Writer | Belgrade News

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Belgrade finished second in the large team competition at the 2014 Southwest Montana Little Guy State Championship held at the Special Events Center Saturday. The Belgrade Wrestling Club finished the day with 103 points, while Dillon won the championship with 111.

"That was good for us," Belgrade wrestler Austin Hargrove said.

Belgrade had 60 wrestlers participate in the tournament. There were 33 from Three Forks and a total of 294 grapplers from 14 teams that battled for state championships.

Ennis took home the small team trophy with 49 points. Gallatin Gateway was second with 48. Townsend won the middle team title with 77 points, while Three Forks was second with 70 points.

Three Forks boasted three state champions. Kennedy Rogers won the girls Pee Wee 48 title, while Lauren Stone took home the girls Novice 79 championship. Tanner Sayer won the Middle 70 crown with a 15-13 decision against Belgrade's Brendan Gill.

"Tanner was my toughest competition," said Gill. "My other two bouts were tough also, but I got the upper hand in them."

Hargrove was one of the champions for Belgrade. He won his first state title in the Novice 95 class. He was second in the Novice 90 class a year ago.

"It was as good day," said Hargrove. "I had good competition. It was fun."

Hargrove also won the divisional crown a week earlier in Whitehall.

Other Belgrade champions were Luke Halverson (Pee Wee 50), Mason Watson (Pee Wee 53), Dylan Shepherd (Beginner 45), Joe Denny (Beginner 50), and Jayden Jensen (Novice Unlimited). Josie Espinoza won the girls Middle 93 title, and Brylee Cage at Middle 115.

Denny decisioned Samuel Schnackenberg, of Helena, 7-0. Cage pinned Gage Slater of Gallatin Gateway.

Espinoza, who won the Novice 79 title last year, pinned Sarah Anson of Sheridan in 2 minutes, 51 seconds.

Grapplers will be back in action at the Montana Open, which will be held March 29-30 at the Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark in Billings.

Editor's note: Complete results could not be obtained before the Belgrade News' deadline on Monday.