



Voice of the Mean Moose

# Alamosan

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Alamosa High School

805 Craft Drive

Alamosa, CO 81101

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## Wrestling Powers Through Season Australia Fires Rage On



Davion Chavez  
—Staff Writer—

After their performance at Reno, the Alamosa wrestling team was ready to tackle tournaments in Colorado. They would start with the Warrior Classic, a large and competitive tournament that takes place in Grand Junction just before Winter Break. This competition would determine whether or not Alamosa has what it takes to be a state champion team.

### @Warrior Classic 12/20-12/21

The Mean Moose had a strong showing at this tournament, finishing the two-day competition with 8 placers. The tournament was full of 3A, 4A, and even 5A schools, so Alamosa would have to compete to the best of their ability in order to keep up.

Alamosa brought home one second place medal, one third place medal, two fourth place medals, one fifth place medal, and three sixth place medals.

On top of that, Alamosa tied for first place with Pagosa Springs in the small school division. However, Pagosa Springs

ended up taking the small school team title, with Alamosa in second due to criteria rules.

The 3A team ranking also changed after the conclusion of the Warrior Classic, with Alamosa being ranked #1.

With the Mean Moose now at the top, there is a big target on their backs, and they must work even harder to stay on top and be the best 3A team in Colorado.

### Dual @Centauri 1/9

The first competition of the new year was against Alamosa's longtime rival, the Centauri Falcons. It was an interesting night of wrestling, but Alamosa was victorious as they won with a final score of 55-24.

It was a night full of pins with the majority of Moose wrestlers winning their matches by pins, the only exceptions being K. Liddell and Z. Rangel. Liddell bested M. Vigil in a close 7-5 match. Rangel ended up majoring J. Morreno 19-6.

### Tri-Duals @Alamosa 1/10

Following the Centauri dual, Alamosa competed in a tri-dual against Widefield and Adams City at home. The Moose would go against Widefield and then finish up by wrestling the 5A Adams City while Alam-

osa's Rowdy Crowd stopped by and showed their support.

The Mean Moose handled Widefield fairly easy as they won the dual with a final score of 61-18, with 6 of Widefield's points coming from a forfeit. The Moose wrestlers did a good job scoring bonus points and finishing matches early.

The dual against Adams City was a lot closer, coming down to a neck and neck victory for Alamosa. The Moose were trailing the entire dual until consecutive pins on the tail end of the roster was just enough to clench a 36-33 win.

### Gary Ramstetter Classic 1/11

To finish off the weekend, Alamosa hosted the first annual Gary Ramstetter Classic. Wrestlers from across Colorado came to participate in the competition that the tournament would bring, as well as to honor Ramstetter and the great legacy that he provided.

Alamosa performed well at this tournament, finishing off with nine placers. Among these placers, K. Liddell was able to seize a third place medal, overcoming D. Gibbs from the Alamosa JV team.

Alamosa's runner ups included Continued on Page 12



Joshua Medina  
—Staff Writer—

It isn't unusual for Australia to experience severe bush fires. The country has ignited nearly every year in the past decade, however these fires are usually small or contained quickly.

The fire that emerged in late 2019 however, has enveloped the country so quickly that its destruction has caused horrific effects, seeming nearly unstoppable.

Efforts by the country to slow the fires continue to seemingly have no effect. According to the counties fire services, at least 3,700 firefighters are on the ground across the country at any one time, as the fire rages on.

It is still unclear as to how the massive fire started, natural forces such as dry lightning or the Indian Ocean dipole most likely contributed to its ignition, causing record-breaking heat and drought throughout the country. The Indian Ocean Dipole is a phenomenon that causes the Indian Ocean to alternately raise and lower in temperature, which can greatly effect the heat of its shores.

Australian authorities believe the fires weren't caused by natural forces, but rather started intentionally. Authorities are currently investigating 24 people of deliberately igniting several bush fires.

Whether or not the fires were set intentionally, its danger to the environment are undisputed. Since September, 15.6 million acres have been burned in Australia and nearly 2 thousand homes have been destroyed, killing at least 28 people, including several volunteer firefighters. Whereas an estimated 1 billion animals have been lost to the fires, a number that can only rise.

The smoke produced by the burning forests has enveloped nearly the entire country, contaminating the air, and endangering hundreds of thousands of people, far away from its direct effect. there have already been several cases of people being rushed to the hospital due to choking on smoke have been breaking out uncontrollably.

Many citizens are afraid of leaving the shelter of their homes. Smoke also has the danger of causing severe irritation to the eyes and sinuses of citizens.

According to 7News Sydney, the smoke residents in the city inhale daily is equivalent to smoking 19 cigarettes, this number raises in other areas. Following this information, a demand for the government to ration smoke filtration masks sprung up. Government officials have begun rationing masks to those who are determined to be particularly vulnerable, with concerning existing health conditions.

The smoke produced by the fires is a large threat to the climate of the globe as a whole. An estimated 400 million tons of carbon have been produced by the fire thus far. To help scale this number, all of Australia's industrial emissions last year was about 530 million tons.

This massive number is only accelerating the overwhelming threat of climate change. Carbon dioxide levels are at an all time high of 415 parts per million, which is a peak higher than the previous record of 300 ppm, set over 300 thousand years ago.

The effects of the fires also has a high chance of bleeding out of the country and into the proximal ocean. Fires have a high potential of increasing the temperature of nearby shores. The ocean is also a huge carbon sink, meaning it absorbs a majority of the carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil fuels, wildfires and other producers of the gas. This absorption increases ocean acidity, which slowly kills off crucial coral reefs, and the ecosystems they support.

Coral reefs generate half of the Earth's oxygen, and absorb nearly a third of its carbon dioxide. Their destruction will cause a dramatic drop in atmospheric oxygen levels, as well as a powerful surge in global temperature.

Hundreds of millions of dollars has been donated to the fires by celebrities, smaller public figures, fund raisers, and the global community. Donations are needed from as many people as possible, as the damage done, and damage that is still to ensue will most likely cost billions.

Fire departments are accepting donations at cfa.vic.gov.au or rfs.nsw.gov.au. Australian Red Cross is accepting donations at redcross.org.au. More places to donate are as follows, frrr.org.au, givit.org.au/disasters, koala-hospital.org.au/shop/donation.

## Upcoming Events

### Wrestling

Feb. 6 Vs. Bayfield  
Feb. 7. Vs. Monte Vista  
Feb. 20-21 @ State

### Girls Basketball

Jan. 31 Vs. Centauri  
Feb. 1 Vs. Bayfield

### Boys Basketball

Jan. 31 Vs. Centauri  
Feb. 1 Vs. Bayfield

### Swimming

Feb. 14 @ State

### No School

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day  
Feb. 17 - President's Day



Photo By: Andi Golsan

**CLEAN UP ON AISLE 4**— Robert Alaart is the ultimate definition of a hype beast. Robert brings enjoyment and laughter as he sweeps the court at halftime of Moose Basketball games. Robert isn't just known for his good vibes at basketball games, he is also famous throughout Alamosa for crafting and selling keychains at local festivals

