THE POWER OF GRIT

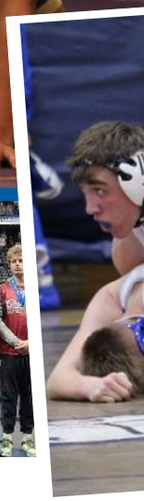
The boys wrestling team had an action-packed 2023-2024 season

Legacy's boys wrestling team had some major events that took place this season and their teamwork helped drive them to the top, including one match going into double overtime and six members that went to state. Wrestlers don't just have strong bodies, they have strong minds too. The sport requires full attention and enables them to react quickly and perform calculated movements which causes a lot of pressure. Junior Louie Persico and freshman Jaylen Smith both felt this pressure in many ways throughout the season, "Making weight caused pressure because if you didn't make it then you had to wrestle up. I also felt pressure because I didn't want to disappoint my teammates," Persico said. Smith said, "I feel pressure when my opponent is taller, bigger or just looks more intimidating." Persico and Smith were able to stay motivated from the pressure and help their team strive up to the top this season. Both teams went above and beyond with their courage, resilience, intensity, and tenacity to live up to their word of this season, grit. They had a good connection with their teammates and showed compassion toward each other. Junior Bryce Busby said, "In a hard fought match you have to show that same intensity throughout or else your opponent will take advantage and if you don't have the guts to come out strong then your opponent would have won before it even started." Busby was grateful he was able to be part of a team that had supportive teammates. The teams worked together and were able to accomplish so much this season. copy by julia patnaik and greta powell

A PIN FOR THE WIN
Escaping after choosing bottom in the second period against Holy Family is freshman Marcos Gongora. He was thrilled to be a part of the team and hopes to move onto varsity. "I was excited to wrestle Holy Family, I think I did pretty well with finally hitting my shots and being more aggressive which resulted in a pin," Gongora said. photo by ava rotman

#1 IN THE STATE
Winning state for the second year in a row and achieving a perfect record of 45-0 is senior Quinn Funk. Funk went up in weight and had to wrestle against mostly different people this year. "I'd wrestled him [his final opponent] two times before and they'd been pretty tough matches. So just going out and beating him was pretty cool," said Quinn. photo courtesy michael thompson

TOP NOTCH
Sophomore Landon Hetrick takes over on top against his Thornton opponent. He improved greatly during the season and felt positive going into the dual. "I thought I did pretty good, my moves were better than usual," said Hetrick. photo by riko burrows



OVERTIME OVERDRIVE

Senior Bowen Bethers goes into double overtime during the duel against Horizon

During the Horizon dual, senior Bowen Bethers went into double overtime against his opponent. Overtime in itself is uncommon in wrestling, so when Bethers went into double overtime, he was shocked. Bethers had gone into the match expecting to pin the opponent, but as the match went on he was still confident in winning, but had to be smarter about his moves. "It's super exhausting to get to double overtime to begin with, but winning it is a huge relief knowing you wanted it more than your opponent," said Bethers. Bethers won the match by one point. photos by greta powell

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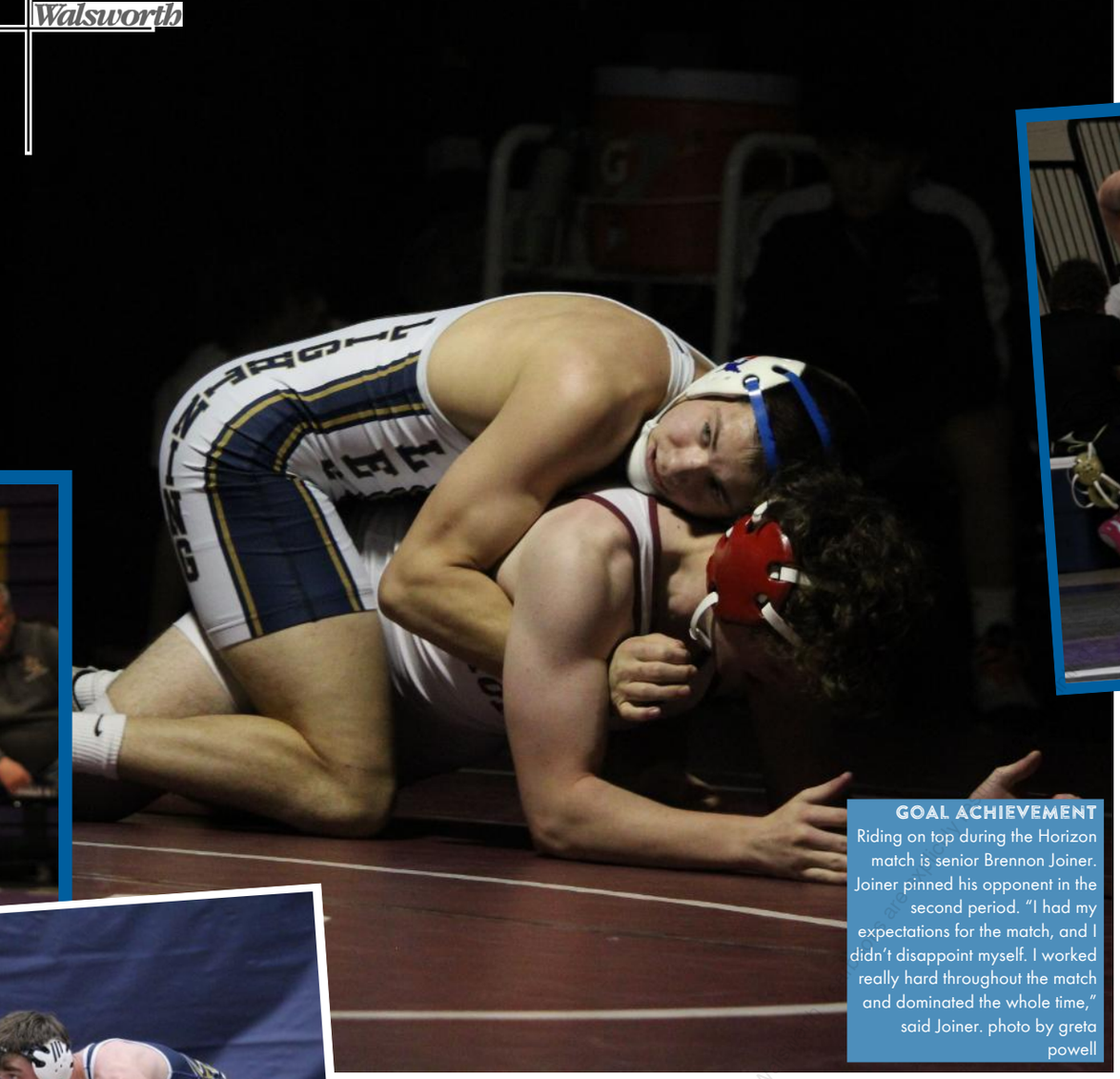

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT
Riding on top during the Horizon match is senior Brennon Joiner. Joiner pinned his opponent in the second period. "I had my expectations for the match, and I didn't disappoint myself. I worked really hard throughout the match and dominated the whole time," said Joiner. photo by greta powell

GOING BACK IN TIME
Standing up to escape from a take down against Erie, is junior Kaiden Le. During this tri-dual, Le felt less confident going into his match against Erie, "I was less energetic as I'd gone against... [him] before and remembered it was a really close match," said Le. photo by ava rotman

ONE UNCONFIDENT SHOT
In the match against Northglenn, sophomore Milan Ivanov-Mickey takes a shot at his opponent. He doubted his performance during this dual. "I kept missing a lot of shots and was holding myself back because of that," Ivanov-Mickey said. photo by alesea martinez

THE QUICK PIN
Attempting to pin down his Holy Family opponent, is sophomore Miles Le Grand. Le Grand was confident going into this match. "I thought of the match against him last year and used that to my advantage. I pinned him in 45 seconds," said Le Grand. photo by ava rotman

REGIONALS UNLEASHED

Legacy High School takes on the crowd of students, supporters, and wrestlers at regionals for boys wrestling

This year the boys wrestling regionals took place at Legacy during the school day; causing a lot of havoc for the students of Legacy High School. The event started soon after school causing chaos for the students leaving the parking lot and the parents coming in. Along with a large portion of the parking lot being blocked off for buses. Two of our very own wrestlers took first: senior Quinn Funk and sophomore Matthew Clifton. A total six of our wrestlers made it to state. "Maybe we could have qualified a couple other guys, but I'm happy with how we did, and we got six good, strong guys going to state," said Clifton.

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