

The South-Western City School district has faced adversity over the past year or so while fighting to maintain the integrity of their extra curricular activities “sports”. In trying to pass a school levy, the district was against several opponents while the athletes were faced with the a difficulty of determining if a yes vote could be reached in time to save the sports. Despite no options of summer training at the school facilities and limited time for pre-season workouts, one team has fought through this adversity to continue to build a team that exhibits championship achievements.



The Grove City Wrestling Team has started their wrestling season off with two team titles and a current ranking of being the 6 best team in Central Ohio. The school district levy has displaced four potential starters out of the line up but the team has still prevailed to put together a winning line up. On December 5, the GCHS wrestling team captured the team title in the Ken Ash Invitational tournament at Licking Heights. In route to bringing home a championship title, the Greyhounds went 5-0 beating Franklin Heights 62-12, Westerville Central 62-16, Whitehall 45-22, Northland 58-16, and Licking Heights 51-21.



The following week the team competed in the Pickerington North Panther Duals. The competition field consisted of the top 3 team from Central Ohio Coaches Poll and the # 1 team in the State in division III, as well as a top team out of Cincinnati. In competition, the Greyhounds beat Dublin Scioto 29-23 and St. Francis DeSales 45-34. The Greyhounds ended their day at 5th place after beating the #3 team in Central Ohio, Hilliard Darby 36-30. The Greyhounds only losses were to #1 ranked Pickerington North and #2 ranked Teays Valley.

The holiday season continued to bring success to the Greyhounds wrestling team. In a 23 team tournament at West Jefferson High School, the Greyhounds brought home team title in the Division I & II “Big School” division. Leading the way for the Greyhounds was Collin Whitt and Jose Hughes. Both captured their individual championship title at their weight class, 130 and 160 respectively. Also coming up big for the Greyhounds was Nick Kowaleski at 145. Nick knocked off the #1 seed from West Jeff, despite falling short in his title match. Another big scorer for the Greyhounds was Jacob Swavely who only lost one match in his two days of competition. Currently the Greyhounds



are 8-2 in dual match competition and have two team championships. Standouts for the Greyhounds are Collin Whitt at 15-0, Jose Hughes 17-0, Jabob Swavely 14-1 and Nick Kowaleski 14-3.

The team has been successful for several reasons. The major reason outside of hard work is the loyalty to the team and school that many of the team members have. The fall of several levies has eroded some of the talent in SWCS but the Greyhounds have been able to maintain its core strength. Team members suffered defeat after defeat on the levy's but maintained faith and loyalty to the Greyhounds wrestling team in hopes of one last chance before the season started with the levy on November 3rd. The team has been turning heads in the wrestling community this season because of the talented wrestlers they have in their program. Success takes time to build and when you build it from the ground up, it has a strong foundation. The Greyhounds are building a strong foundation and tradition. The victory of the levy has been contagious for the wrestling team. With a season that almost did not happen, the Greyhounds are making the best of it. The Greyhounds will continue in competition this Thursday in an OCC dual and at the Porter Memorial at Hilliard Bradley on January 9.

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