



Submitted photos

The senior-level wrestlers who compete for the Cedarburg Matdogs pose with a collection of trophies they have earned already this season. The Matdogs won the Random Lake Youth Tournament, placed second at a meet in West Bend and took third at a tournament in Germantown.

Season off to a tremendous start for the Matdogs

By Bret Corner
News Graphic Correspondent

CEDARBURG — With first- and second-year wrestlers from 33 teams throughout southeast Wisconsin participating, the Cedarburg Matdogs recently hosted the annual Grant Schoen Beginners Tournament for youth wrestlers.

Approximately 200 wrestlers from Franklin to Valders came to Cedarburg High School to learn about the sport and, for many, compete for the first time.

Prior to the event, Concordia University Wisconsin wrestlers Mason Baumgartner and Mason Mergener held a warmup clinic to prepare the athletes to hit the mat.

“We want to thank all the volunteers who worked the event,” said Matdogs President Yvette Roller. “We want to thank Cedarburg head coach Getasew Shumet and the team for setting up and working the event, the Concordia wrestlers for the clinic, Tammy and Jeff Schoen, all the Matdog coaches and families and sponsors who made the meet a success.”

Once wrestling completed, the participants received a silicone wristband and a treat from Cedar Crest Ice Cream.

Money raised from the event will benefit HeartSafe Wisconsin. Through the money raised at last year’s tournament, Jeff Schoen provided CPR training for all of the Matdogs coaches.

The team is off to a strong start on the mat. The Matdogs recently took first at the Random Lake

Youth Tournament.

Denny Oechsner, Wyatt De La Cruz, Owen Muszytowski and Louis Roller all took home first place individually in their weight classes. William De La Cruz, Bailey Grudzinski, Ben Gundrum, Evan Sova, Kaitlyn De La Cruz, Sawyer Dueno, Nate Wiebe and Evan Provencher each finished second at their respective weights.

Earlier this season, the Matdogs placed second in the team standings at the West Bend Tournament and third at an event hosted by Germantown.

Anyone interested in more information about participating in the Cedarburg Matdogs Youth Wrestling Club can go to matdogs.com or contact head coach Matt Gartman at coachgartman@gmail.com.



Concordia University Wisconsin wrestlers Mason Baumgartner and Mason Mergener kick off the festivities at the Grant Schoen Beginners Tournament with a warmup clinic as approximately 200 wrestlers watch and listen.



Cedarburg Matdogs head coach Matt Gartman, left, and Matdogs President Yvette Roller, middle, present a check for \$500 to Jeff Schoen with HeartSafe Wisconsin, which were the proceeds raised during the Grant Schoen Beginners Tournament.



The action was fast and furious Feb. 5 as the Cedarburg Matdogs hosted the annual Grant Schoen Beginners Tournament. Participants got ready to lock up (left), posed for photos with friends (center) and went for the pin (right).