

Mountain Top Wrestlers Earn Nationals Titles at AAU Grand Nationals

(West Jordan, Utah) — Mountain Top Wrestling Club members travelled to Pocatello, Ida., to compete in the AAU Grand National Championships. All nine Mountain Top athletes placed, earning six Triple Crown Awards, 11 national titles in freestyle, nine national titles in Greco-Roman and nine titles in folkstyle.

"The guys had a really amazing tournament," said Coach Bill Kilpack. "For some, it was the best wrestling they've done all season and some the best in their careers. It was a great way to end the season."

Leading the team was Garrick Kilpack of Sandy, who competed in the Elite (ages 17 and 18) 138-pound division. He earned titles in all three styles, as well as in freestyle and folkstyle at the next weight up (145 pounds), and a runner-up finish at 145 in Greco. This was Kilpack's second consecutive year to earn a Triple Crown award at AAU Grand Nationals, his fourth consecutive year to win gold in both freestyle and Greco-Roman and second year in folkstyle.

"Garrick really wrestled well," said Coach Kilpack. "He wrestled so smart, all but one win coming by way of pin or technical fall [gaining a 12-point lead]. It was really impressive."

Five other wrestlers earned Triple Crown awards for the first time. Ryan Mecham of Magna took gold at Novice (ages 11 and 12) 140 pounds in all three styles; Corey Burgener of West Jordan at Cadet (ages 15 and 16) 152 pounds; Carson Pugh of West Jordan at Cadet 182 pounds; Dylan Upshaw of Sandy at Elite 152 lbs.; and Cody Mecham of Magna at Elite 220 pounds. Although it was the first time they earned Triple Crowns, it was not their first national titles at AAU Grand Nationals. Last year, Burgener won titles in freestyle and folkstyle; and Upshaw won titles in freestyle and Greco-Roman.

Winning two national titles at Tot (6 and Under) 45 pounds was Gabriel Foote of West Valley City. For Foote, it was his first time wrestling Greco-Roman and he also won the title in freestyle. Between the two tournaments, each of his wins came by way of fall.

Earning two national runner-up finishes was Kale Zorn of West Jordan, at Midget (ages 9 and 10) 55 pounds. He made his way to the finals in all three styles, but fell short against the same Nevada athlete, despite his valiant efforts.

Finishing fifth in freestyle was West Jordan's Clayton Weber at Cadet 106 pounds.

Worthy of note is that Foote and Weber are both first-year wrestlers. Weber started wrestling the previous winter; Foote started wrestling this spring season.

"The guys had a great tournament," said Coach Nick Hamilton. "It was really exciting to

see some of them really rise to the occasion. They wrestled well and implemented things we've been working on all season. All their hard work and dedication really paid off. We're very proud of them."

Mountain Top Wrestling Club is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing a venue for individuals to learn, develop and refine their athletic skills and abilities; and educating regarding the rules and regulations of freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. It is open to male and female athletes ages four and older who live anywhere in the State of Utah. Practices are held at West Jordan High School. For more information, call (801) 641-9832, e-mail coach@mountaintopwrestling.com or visit them on the Worldwide Web at www.MountainTopWrestling.com.

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