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For Immediate Release
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West Jordan Youths Outstanding Wrestlers at Mountain Top Wrestling Club

(West Jordan, Utah) July 21, 2019 — Mountain Top Wrestling Club recently held its annual Awards Banquet, recognizing youth athletes for their achievements during the 2019 freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling season. Attendees from the 20-plus-member team received gold medals for their hard work and dedication over the season, team photos, and trophies for the Most Improved, Attitude Award, Rookie of the Year and Outstanding Wrestlers.

"This was a great year," said Coach Bill Kilpack. "We had first-year wrestlers who performed very well at state levels, and our veterans really proved themselves. It was a lot of fun with a lot of good growth over the season."

Two trophies for Outstanding Wrestler were awarded to Kale Zorn of West Jordan, who wrestled 12 & Under 60 lbs.; and Carson Pugh of West Jordan, who wrestled 16 & Under 195 lbs.

In 2019, Zorn advanced to the finals at the USA Wrestling-Utah Greco-Roman State Championships, where he earned silver, and finished fourth in state in freestyle. At season end, he was also the number-four ranked wrestler at 12 & Under in Utah, according to UtahWrestling.org and the no. 12-ranked wrestler in the overall youth divisions (ages 4 to 14).

Pugh won his first state titles, taking state in both freestyle and Greco-Roman. He finished the season as the top-ranked Utah wrestler at 16 & Under, as well as the top-ranked wrestler in the elite divisions (ages 15 to 18).

Two trophies were presented for Rookie of the Year. "These were all first-year wrestlers or their first year with Mountain Top Wrestling Club," Kilpack said. "They not only showed massive improvement over the season, but took it to the next level." Receiving Rookie of the Year were Dylan Hendrickson of West Jordan, who wrestled 16 & Under 113 lbs., and Min Htet of Salt Lake City, who wrestled 16 & Under 106 lbs.

Hendrickson, a first-year wrestler, placed sixth in state in Greco-Roman and placed consistently at tournaments throughout the season. Hendrickson finished the season as number-8 ranked 16 & Under wrestler in Utah and number 18 in the elite divisions.

Htet, also a first-year wrestler, placed consistently at tournaments all season, but fell victim to luck of the draw at the state tournament. "A wrestler finished fourth in state in both styles who Min pinned every time they met on the mat," Kilpack said. "Unfortunately, due to luck of the draw, Min ended up in the wrong spot on the bracket. That's just part of the sport." Htet ended the season ranked number two at 16 & Under and ranked number 3 in the elite divisions.

Three awards, the Cody Francisco Award for most improved wrestlers, were awarded. These were awarded to Campbell Coester of West Jordan, 14 & Under 98 lbs; Aiden Rod of Salt Lake City, 16 & Under 113 lbs.; and Max Greenwood of Sandy, 18 & Under 195 lbs.

Kilpack said, "Campbell only competed in one tournament over the season, where he finished second in all three styles, but his growth was more clearly shown at practice. His workout partners were high-school kids when he was only in the seventh grade. He went from spending a lot of practice on his back at the beginning of the season to ending the season putting them on their backs half the time, when they were top-ranked in Utah."

Rod, a first-year wrestler, came to the club late in the season, but showed very rapid improvement at weekend tournaments.

Greenwood placed higher at tournaments almost every week, then finished one round short of placing at the state tournament.

Trophies for the Attitude Award went to Koda Foote of West Valley City, who wrestled 10 & Under 50 lbs., and Alex Carpenter of Midvale, who wrestled 16 & Under 120 lbs.

"Sometimes it's hard to decide on a Most Dedicated," Kilpack said. "This year, it wasn't. Koda is small for his age, so he had only a few kids to wrestle, one of which was just a killer. But he went out and wrestled hard every weekened, making progress and keeping a smile on his face. Alex has spent some time away from wrestling and came back Mister Intensity. Doesn't matter what happens or what the score might be, he will come at you. They probably don't even realize it, but they were showing leadership through their attitude."

The trophy recipients were selected by the Mountain Top Wrestling Club coaching staff.

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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