

# FRESH off THE RECORDS



photo by Madelyn Augustine

**REFUSE TO LOSE** Stiff arming his opponent, freshman **JAMES VAWTER** works to get another win on the season at the Millard South Invitational. Going into the tournament at Millard South, Vawter knew he had to only get one more win under his belt to be the new record holder for the total amount of wins in a season. "I knew it wasn't going to be an easy win," Vawter said. "I had to stay mentally tough in all of my matches if I was going to be victorious."

## Freshman wrestler breaks two school records in his first high school wrestling season

by Madelyn Augustine

Freshmen year was intimidating for almost everyone, but freshman **JAMES VAWTER** didn't let the intimidation get to him during wrestling season. Vawter broke not one, but two school wrestling records during his first high school season.

Vawter began wrestling three years ago for the club team Skutt Ironhawks. If it wasn't for his older brother, however, he never would have started wrestling.

"I started wrestling because I saw my brother doing it and I thought it looked fun," Vawter said. "My brother is one of my biggest inspirations when it comes to wrestling. I never would have thought

that I would be a school record holder for wrestling when I first started. I've accomplished more than I imagined I ever would have."

Vawter broke the freshmen records for the most wins in a season, 31, and the most takedowns, 73. Going into the season, Vawter knew it would take a lot of time and dedication to meet his personal goals, but he was confident that he would be able to beat the records if he didn't give up.

"I'm really happy with how this season ended," Vawter said. "At the beginning of the season I gave myself a goal to break a

freshman wrestling record, and I ended up breaking two."

One of Vawter's fellow teammates, freshman **AIDEN SCHOLLMMEYER**, shared the record for the most wins in one season. Schollmeyer was confident in both his own personal abilities and his teammate's.

"James is very determined to prove himself to everyone," Schollmeyer said. "He is one of the most hard working people on the team and a really talented wrestler. I'm not surprised that I share the record with him"

Vawter couldn't credit all of his success

to his own personal talent. The guidance of wrestling coaches **SCOTT TOWNSLEY** and **CAL JACOBS** combined with being pushed by his teammates helped Vawter be at his personal best all season.

"James is a great kid who works hard to accomplish his goals," Townsley said. "His work ethic along with his skills are what allowed him to tie for the record of most wins and break the takedown record for freshman."

With the help from his coaches, support of his teammates and his own personal drive, Vawter had undeniable success in his first season as a Wildcat.



photo by Madelyn Augustine

**FIGHT TO THE FINISH** Working to get free from the grip of his enemy wrestler, freshman **KADEN WILLIAMS** mentally prepares himself for what to do next. Getting out of this position is hard, but with lots of practice and experience, Williams had it under control. "Wrestling is fun because I get to spend a lot of time with my friends," Williams said. "This year was my first year ever wrestling. I only started wrestling to fill my time up after football season was over, but I ended up enjoying it more than I thought I would've."

**OWN THE MAT** Fighting to get both of his opponent's shoulders on the mat, sophomore **HOSSAM ELARAKY** finishes the match with a winning pin. Going into the last tournament of the year Elaraky wanted to end the season on a winning note. "Wrestling is one of my favorite ways to spend my time outside of school," Elaraky said. "I also play football, but I enjoy wrestling a lot more than football because it is more of an individual sport. I am able to show off my skills that I work hard to perfect during practices when I wrestle at meets."



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**LAST MAN STANDING** Proudly claiming his victory, sophomore **DYLAN WEEETER** wins the first match of the day for Millard West. Weeter had experience from his freshman wrestling season that helped him keep his nerves under control and secure a victory for himself and the team. "Winning a match boosts my confidence in myself and my skills," Weeter said. "When I win it is a rewarding feeling because I know that all of my hard work and dedication was worth something. I didn't have the best season ever, but I noticed improvements in my skills throughout it. Wrestling is not only physically demanding, but it is also mentally draining. It's nice to have my teammates to support me through it all."

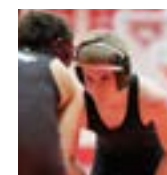


photo by Lauren Lundgren

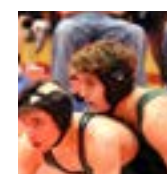
**BURY THE COMPETITION** Using all his strength, freshman **BRECKEN WALLACE** fought till the bitter end to defeat his rival. For Wallace, wrestling wasn't all the competition and winning of matches. "I mainly wrestle because it is a fun way for me to spend my time," Wallace said. "I've made a lot of new friends on the team. My teammates help the pressure of the competition go away."

## Close UP

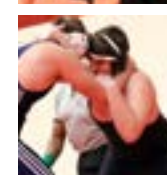
### Junior Varsity wrestlers give an insight into their world of wrestling



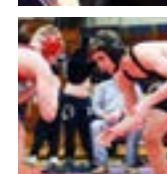
"I've been wrestling for a couple years now for my club team Skutt Ironhawks and now for Millard West. My skills have definitely improved over the years. I love going out and having challenging matches because I know it helps me get better."  
-**Dekyan Behrens '21**



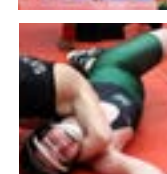
"This is my 11th year wrestling. I love Millard West Wrestling because I've made so many new friends. It's a cool experience because everyone wrestles for each other. I enjoy being able to represent the school while doing a sport I love."  
-**Weston Dietsch '19**



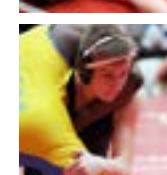
"I've wrestled for three years for both Russell Middle School and Millard West. My football coach told me that he thought I would be a good wrestler, so I decided to give it a shot. This season went pretty well for the team and for myself personally."  
-**Benjamin Roberson '21**



"My football coach practically made me sign up for wrestling, so I didn't have much of a choice. Now that the seasons over I'm glad I tried it out. Competing with the kids on the team is my favorite part about it because we're all pretty close."  
-**Creighton Fleming '21**



"This was my first year wrestling, so it was really challenging. I decided to start wrestling because my older brother, **ETHAN VALENCIA**, did it and I wanted to see what it was like. The season was rougher than I thought it would have been."  
-**Maksim Valencia '21**



"I think wrestling is a fun sport that can teach you discipline and how to work hard. I like being part of a team that really gets to know each other and become friends because it makes practices more enjoyable. Overall, this was a good season."  
-**Zachary Bartlett '21**



## The grind NEVER ENDS

by Madelyn Augustine

### Junior wrestler has to work to overcome a setback in his wrestling season

Any athlete knows that being sidelined is one of the worst things that can happen during season. Junior **PIERSON ADAMSON** had first hand experience with being sidelined during his junior year wrestling season.

Midway into the season Adamson developed cauliflower ear, an ear that has become thickened or deformed from repeated blows or rubbing of the ear. "I noticed my cauliflower ear one day after practice," Adamson said. "Having it was more of a burden than anything because I had to avoid contact to my ear for two weeks after I got it drained."

This season was important for Adamson

because not only did he wrestle for JV, but he also competed at varsity tournaments. Thanks to his cauliflower ear, Adamson had to sit out for two weeks of practices. Adamson's teammates and wrestling coach **SCOTT TOWNSLEY** knew that Adamson wouldn't let this setback ruin all of his hard work.

"Pierson is another kid that is extremely coachable," Townsley said. "He didn't let his ear get in the way of his success. He still competed with a tremendous amount of heart."

After enduring the pain of having his ear drained, Adamson came back into the season refreshed and ready to win.