

# WRESTLING HOMECOMING EVENT

## Wrestling homecoming a hit

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Closets and auxiliary bays. Hidden away from the rest of the school.

That's how many former members of the Warren County High School wrestling program remember their time spent grinding away on the mat. Tuesday was the first chance for many former grapplers see wrestling take center stage.

With a packed house gathered at Charlie Dalton Gym, the WCHS wrestling team held its homecoming. The event drew over 40 alumni, who were able to watch a trio of matches featuring the WCHS team, the WCMS team and the Pioneer Pride - a local AAU program.

"It's fun pulling up to the gym and seeing all the cars here for this," said Andi Jones, a 1997 graduate. "Matt Turner has done a great job getting alumni involved. And it's great to see the young kids wrestling as a start of a feeder program."

James Anderson Jr., who wrestled in 1996-97 and kept in touch while watching his younger brother Justin wrestle from 2001-04, was happy to see the teams out in the open after years of practicing in a closet.

"We had to rotate 10 people in while 20 others ran steps," said Anderson. "It was a closet. We made due with what space we had. I'm glad the program has come this far and is out in the open."

The old guard had a chance to see several standout performers, many coming when the high school battled Coffee County. A battle between Pioneer Chase Gannon and Andrew Lawson that went the distance at 170 was one of the highlights of a 41-27 Warren County victory.

"The intensity was awesome. I want to thank everybody who came out and supported us. It



WCHS wrestler Blake Snook won by pinfall during Tuesday's homecoming event.

really fueled the team," said Turner.

The alumni surrounded the ring at times, some swapping stories of their time on the mat while others tried their hand at coaching from the stands. Turner, along with AAU coach David Holcomb, were more than happy to have the moral support from homecoming.

"We're all working together to build things. We have coaches, alumni, lots of people helping out, supporting and helping build this AAU program," said Holcomb. "I'm happy to be involved with growing the youth program. We had kids who were way behind by middle school (compared to the competition) and even further behind as freshmen. We're hopeful this will help."

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Former WCHS wrestler Andi Jones had a chance to watch young B'lara McKinley compete during Tuesday's homecoming event at Charlie Dalton Gym.



Anden Green fights off his opponent from Coffee County. Green is one of many athletes participating in the local AAU wrestling program.



Eastlan Green sets up his opponent for a shoot attempt.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media

The WCHS wrestling team held its homecoming Tuesday night. Former grapplers who attended the event are, kneeling, from left, Casey Welch, Christian Lopez, Jordan Bonner, Bunn Cathcart, Briar Reedy, Andi Jones, Lupe Martinez, Kevin Ralph, and coach Bo Ramsey. Back row, coach Matt Turner, Justin Anderson, Joe Damon, coach Robert Pishe, James Anderson Jr., Taylor Bain, Andrew Williams, Chris Hillis, Tucker Slatton, Mark Chambers, David Corley, Justin Younglove, Stephen Martin, Spencer Pryor, Tom Cathcart, Jim Ramsey (squatting), Casey Williamson, Bryan Matheny and Ben Matheny.

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