

# Wrestling team to be first in school history

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STAFF WRITER

Green County High School will start a wrestling team this year for the first time in school history.

Alex Taylor and Jonathan Whitlow are the coaches for the high school team which will include students from grades seven through twelve. Students who are in sixth grade may practice but not compete at the high school level.

For now, there is no middle school team but younger students may participate in club level wrestling.

Last week, the high school coaches hosted an informational meeting about the wrestling program for Green County.

Practice begins October 17 at the high school and students who are participating must have completed a physical exam.

Because there are so many new sports being offered in Green County this year and there is not enough money to adequately finance everything they need, Coach Taylor strongly encouraged younger athletes to participate in the Taylor County Youth Wrestling Club or the Lindsey Wilson College Blue Raider Wrestling Club in order to learn the basics. Both organizations emphasize the students learning the basic techniques of wrestling even if they never compete against other clubs.

Chris Harrison, one of the coaches in the Taylor County Youth Wrestling Club, explained to those in attendance at the informational meeting, that the Taylor County Club practices Tuesday and Thursday nights at Campbellsville University for an hour and a half each night. They will start in mid-October and run through the first weekend in February which is the state tournament. Athletes



Alex Taylor, one of the coaches in the new wrestling program at Green County High School, talks to prospective athletes during last week's informational meeting.



Myron Bradbury, an assistant wrestling coach at Lindsey Wilson College, told the athletes about the wrestling club he directs at LWC.



Several athletes and their families showed up for the informational meeting at GCHS to discover more about the wrestling program that is starting in Green County.

who are four through fourteen years old may participate in this club.

Wrestlers may choose to learn the fundamentals but not compete in tournaments but for an additional cost, they may be part of the competitive group. All youth wrestling tournaments in the state are on Sundays and parents must provide transportation for their children.

The Lindsey Wilson Blue Raider Wrestling Club does not focus on competitions but instead wants youth wrestlers to learn the basics of freestyle wrestling in two hour practice sessions which are held two times per week, October through December.

In the Spring, the Blue Raider Wrestling Club participates in national tournaments

but this is not a requirement to be part of the club. This club is open to students ages eight through 18.

Myron Bradbury, an assistant coach at LWC and director of the Blue Raider Wrestling Club, reminded the crowd that LWC has had eight national champions and 41 All Americans on the college level. He also told the group that many females are becoming involved in wrestling now.

Bradbury said that the athletes who do well at wrestling are the disenfranchised, the impoverished and farmers because they've already learned how to work hard to overcome adversity and achieve their goals.

Coach Taylor is excited about bringing this new sport to Green County.

"Wrestling is a sport of character and determination," he said. "I think this sport will

really benefit the youth of Green County."

Taylor knows because the sport is so new to this area, and specifically Green County that there is a huge learning curve for everyone involved.

"My only experience with wrestling," Taylor quipped, "is by way of fighting Elliott (Alex's brother) in the basement or watching it on television."

Taylor and Whitlow know they must surround themselves

with people who have knowledge of the sport in order to be successful in Green County.

"We are soaking up as much information as we can to establish a wrestling culture brand new to Green County," Taylor said.

For more information about the sport or to find out about competing, please contact the coaches by email at alex.taylor@green.kyschools.us or jonathan.whitlow@green.kyschools.us.



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Taylor County Youth Wrestling Coach introduces Avery Shuffett, a state champion wrestler who is part of the Taylor County Youth Wrestling Club.