

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION INC.

SCHOOLS/JUNIOR CAMP REPORT 2006

INTRODUCTION

Due to a very successful junior development program conducted in the Far "North/Eyre Peninsular Region" in June 2005, the South Australian Amateur Wrestling Association Inc. resolved to conduct a Schools/Junior Wrestling Camp in Port Lincoln. It was reasoned that this would give the students in this area a better opportunity to attend a camp held locally rather than travelling to Adelaide or interstate. The SAAWA has conducted a wrestling camp each year since 2003 and it was decided to have two in 2006, a senior camp at Morphett Vale and a junior camp in Port Lincoln, expanding our development program.

The Schools/Junior camp was held at the Port Lincoln High School. This school has acquired a wrestling mat along with three other High and Area schools in the region. The acquisition of these mats will hopefully be used to develop wrestling in these schools and culminate in regular competition in the area.

To enhance the program Adelaide and interstate male and female competitors were invited to attend. Initially there were six male and two female students from Adelaide who indicated that they would attend, two male and one female from NSW and two from Victoria. Up to the day before the camp started there were no nominations from the West Coast region. The final numbers that attended were ten students as two females and two males from Adelaide. and two from Victoria withdrew and three from Port Lincoln enrolled on the first day of the program. Although this number of participants was small, the camp was a great success.

The Port Lincoln High School proved to be an excellent venue to run a camp. The Gymnasium is well equipped for physical activities, is spacious and in spite of the unusually hot weather was quite comfortable. In addition to having a very good oval, it is walking distance from the beach, both being used for running and access to a jetty with a shark-proof swimming pool made swimming an added option for fitness training. The shopping and entertainment centre is also walking distance from the venue which is also a bonus.

Most of the meals were catered from the "Home Economics Centre" which was adjacent to the Gymnasium.

In addition to the thanks that must go out to all the students that attended, special thanks must be extended to Rob and Katrina Laurence who drove over from NSW to bring their three children to the camp. Also Rob for the use of his video camera in filming the sessions and his coaching assistance. Special thanks also to Peter Van-Daal who drove from Adelaide, bringing the four students with him. Thanks also to Todd George, the sports coordinator from the school who organized the venue and all other equipment, assisting in many ways and was on hand for any emergency.

In conclusion, I believe that with more intense and more direct publicity, such camps will be better attended and for the future of our sport must be promoted.

SAAWA Development Officer

David Schumacher