

VHS WRESTLING



Social Media

Venice Indians



Wrestling



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Braves Invitational

The Indians start off the month traveling to Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland to compete at the Braves Invitational. This is notably one of the hardest tournaments of the year and the Indians still brought home hardware with Kase Hopper (120) finishing up 2nd (4-1) and Massimiliano Pellicano (134) finishing up 5th (5-2). Hopper made a statement in his semi-final match winning by decision (7-1) over his #8 (1A) ranked opponent. He fought hard in his finals but took home 2nd to his #2 (2A) ranked opponent. Pellicano had a long weekend with 7 matches, including 3 being against ranked opponents. He took home a win against #15 (2A) by major decision (13-1) and fought hard against his #3 (1A) and #4 (1A) opponents, losing by sudden victory and decision (4-2). Adding some extra points to the team score were Aiden Debrun (128) going 3-2, Colton Lehmann (152) going 3-2, and Christian Medina (146) going 2-2. Out of 33 teams, the Indians finished 16th. The Indians took this weekend to go against some good competition and prepare themselves for Districts.

Districts

The post season begins with Districts. Our district includes North Port, Palmetto Ridge, Riverdale, Sarasota, Riverview, and Lehigh. The Indians travel down to North Port High School to try and start their journey to the state tournament. Only the top 4 placers in each weight class will advance on to regionals. The Indians fought hard and had all but 3 wrestlers continue on to regionals. Placing 1st, going 3-0 was Kase Hopper (120) and Massimiliano Pellicano (132). Pellicano made a statement in his semi-finals match, beating his opponent from Palmetto Ridge by tech fall (16-1). Placing 2nd, going 2-1 was Dylan Vu (106) and Colton Lehmann (144). Vu fought hard to bring home the gold but fell to his #3 ranked opponent. Placing 3rd, going 3-1 was Aiden Debrun (126). Squeaking in at 4th place to secure their spot to regionals, going 2-2, was Carson Dec (113), Christian Medina (150), Micah Thomson (165), and Brady Williams (175). Medina put up a tough fight in the consolation semis, especially after losing in the semi-finals to his #11 ranked opponent, going through all 3 periods and winning by sudden victory to ensure that he had the opportunity to fight for 3rd place.

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Williams pushed hard to finish 3rd, but fell to his #9 ranked opponent, still finishing top 4 and advancing to regionals. Finishing up at 5th was Joseph Swiacki (190) and Trevor Whittington (215) and in 6th was Aj Nigro (285). The Indians finish up 3rd as a team with only Palmetto Ridge and North Port finishing ahead.

Girls Districts

Similar to the boys, Milana Borelli (120) is also fighting her way to the state tournament. Girls districts gathers opponents from 17 other schools to compete to go to regionals. Borelli went 3-0 to ensure her trip to regionals and continue to fight for the state championship. In the semi-finals, Borelli made a statement finishing off with a tech fall (17-2) in 3:00. She made things quick and simple in the finals, getting a pin in just 1:19.

Girls Regionals

Similar Working hard, Milana Borelli finished up 4-0 at regionals, taking home 1st place. She started off dominant winning her first 3 matches by tech fall in 2:00 (15-0), 1:44 (19-3), and 4:16 (16-0). Bringing home the gold in the finals, she won by decision 7-3. Borelli keeps her season alive and prepares for states.

Regionals

Nine Indians traveled to Kissimmee for the weekend to fight for their spot at states. Similar to districts, the top 4 finishers will continue to states. Placing 1st was Kase Hopper (120). Hopper had a big performance going 4-0 for the weekend and having big wins against ranked opponents. In his semi-finals match, he beat his #16 ranked opponent by decision (8-4) and for 1st place, he pinned his #9 ranked opponent in 3:58. Placing 2nd was Massimiliano Pellicano (132) going 3-1 for the weekend, losing only to his #7 ranked opponent by decision (6-1) in the finals. Aiden Debrun (126) had a long weekend, having 6 matches, but finishing 4th to prove he had what it takes to make it to states. Debrun finished up 4-2 for the weekend, only losing to the same opponent, ranked #9, in both the quarter finals and the 3rd place match. While their post season ended at regionals, the rest of the Indians showed up and fought their best fight with hopes to train hard this off season and make it to states next year. Micah Thomson (165) went 3-2, Brady Williams (175) went 2-2, Dylan Vu (106), Carson Dec (113), and Christian Medina (150) went 1-2, and Colton Lehmann (144) went 0-2.





States

Three Indians traveled to states to do what they have been fighting for all year – to be a state champion. While none of the boys were able to call themselves a state champion this year, they finished up the year with a ranking. Aiden Debrun (126) made his only trip to states as a senior and while he wasn't able to secure a win, he enabled himself to compete with the best by trusting his skills and those around him. He finished top 16, going 23-13 this season. He lost his round 1 match the #1 ranked out of Southwest Miami and his consolation round 1 to the #14 ranked out of Harmony. Massimiliano Pellicano (132) finished up his season in the top 12. He went 43-12 this season and ended his first state trip going 1-2. He won his first-round match against #15 ranked out of Harmony and advanced to the quarterfinal. For the quarterfinal, he fell to #3 ranked from Flagler Palm Coast by major decision and met the #9 ranked out of Evans in the consolation round 2 where he had a close loss by decision (3-2). Kase Hopper (120) also finished up his season in the top 12. He went 40-10 this season and ended his second trip to states going 1-2. He had a quick pin in 1:00 for his first-round match against #15 ranked out of Bucholz. He met the #2 ranked out of Miami Southridge HS in his quarterfinal and loss by major decision, bringing him to his #4 ranked opponent out of Viera where he lost by decision (6-2). While Debrun made his last trip to states as a senior, Hopper and Pellicano still have another 2 years to make a statement and take home #1 in the state.

Girls States

Joining her counterparts for the boy's team, Milana Borrelli (120) also traveled to states in search of bringing home a title. She went 15-5 this season, with the 5 losses being to boys. In her first round, she met an opponent from SLAM Miami and made a pin in 3:30 to advance on to the quarterfinals. Going into the quarterfinals, Borrelli met her opponent from Matanzas and made a statement winning by tech fall (16-1). Borrelli made this a habit and beat her semi-final opponent from Hernando by tech fall as well (16-0). Borrelli faced an opponent from Liberty in the finals and showed who ran the state in a win by major decision (10-0), not giving up a single offensive point all tournament, making her an FHSAA Girls State Champion at 120! She will have her name added to the championship wall for present and future Indians to remember.

Youth States

The Venice Warriors were gearing up to prepare for their own pos season as well! From our youth program, 7 wrestlers are traveling to the I Own Florida Championships in Middleton where there will be a total of 622 wrestlers. All 7 wrestlers put in good work in their tough matches, and 3 came home with hardware. Placing 3rd was Wylder Flood (Girls 8U, 45) and Niccolo Pellicano (Boys 14U, 110). Placing 4th was Minmei Goodfellow (Girls 8U, 62). These future Indians are putting in good work and starting to get the winning mentality already.



Meet Your Tribe: Milana Borelli

Where were you born?

Springfield, Missouri

When did you move to the area?

Summer of '23

What is your favorite food?

Chicken Alfredo

What is your favorite movie?

The Mask

What is your favorite subject in school?

Science

What is your favorite thing to do outside of being on the mat?

Go to the beach

What is a possible career path for you?

Business management or graphic design



How long have you been wrestling?

7 years

Why do you love wrestling?

Because of the valuable lessons you learn and the experiences you get to have

What is your goal for this year?

Win a world championship because our dreams have to scare us

Giving Challenge

The 2024 Giving Challenge was a great success! Over 2 days, we were able to raise \$16,015 from 176 donations and with the matchings made by the generous Patterson Foundation, we raised \$29,305! This money will get put towards a new competition mat, workout equipment for the wrestling room, off season training, and in season expenses. Thank you to everyone for your support and donations to Venice Indians Wrestling!

