Union wrestlers show how far they've come

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BREMERTON – Four years ago, the Union Titans had only 19 wrestlers in their first year as a program.

Saturday night in the Kitsap Sun Pavilion, the Titans won the championship trophy of the Olympic Dream Duals, beating perennial Class 4A power South Kitsap 36-26.

"Last year, we were happy to be here," Union coach Jon Godinho said. "The kids came through and won it. This is our first year as a 4A school, and the kids are starting to believe now."

Not many believed the rise would be so fast. The Titans from Vancouver currently have roughly 70 athletes wrestling for them.

Many teams have clamored to get an invitation to the Dream Duals, since Olympic moved the event once known as the Olympic Team Tournament from its high school down the street to the Kitsap Sun Pavilion at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, and expanded the format from eight teams to 16 teams six years ago.

"To get a team up here, we were lucky to be invited," Godinho said.

In the final, the Titans led South Kitsap throughout.

Pins by Sam Berry at 130 pounds and Tyler Davis at 135 gave Union a 24-8 lead after six matches. South Kitsap closed to within 30-26 after the Wolves' Connor Hartmann pinned Josh Reynolds in 50 seconds at 189 pounds, but the Titans won the final two bouts by decision behind Bryson Page at 215 and Max Proudfit at 285 to secure the victory.

South Kitsap had a fantastic finish in the semifinals of the Duals, as 215 pounder Eddie Mysner pinned Jeffrey Lueth of Yelm at the 5-minute, 26 second mark of his bout to lift the Wolves to a 39-36 victory over Yelm, the defending Class 3A state champion.

South Kitsap trailed Yelm 36-21 when the Wolves won a forfeit at 171 pounds, then Connor Hartmann pinned Ryan Van Rickley in 54 seconds to cut the lead to 36-33, setting up the decisive 215 bout.

Mysner and Lueth were tied at 10-10 in the third round, when Mysner turned Lueth on his back and got the winning pin.

Union had its semifinal drama, holding back Graham-Kapowsin 40-29.

The Kitsap Sun Pavilion will be filled again next weekend when the first Hammerhead Invitational will be held. It's a two day tournament starting on Friday with a 32-boys wrestler bracket, as well as an eight person bracket for the girls. The mats and equipment from the Dream Duals will stay in place until then. The success of this year's Duals should have a carryover effect for the Hammerhead.

"I think the momentum for this event will carry over into next week," tournament director Doug Dowell said. "Everyone got a taste of the competition in their mouth and come back for more. We got the scoring trees up with help from the Kitsap County Public Facilities department. Eventually, to win at all levels, if the Hammerhead runs smoothly, the quality will go up. There's going to be a feel to it like the NCAA's." Union will not make the trip back from Vancouver for the Hammerhead, choosing to

participate in a tournament at Shelton. South Kitsap, along with nearby schools Olympic, Central Kitsap, Bremerton, North Kitsap, Kingston, as well as Gig Harbor, Peninsula, Bellevue, and Lakes, will be among the numerous participants in the Hammerhead.

Olympic Dream Duals Dec. 11 at Kitsap County Pavilion

Championship match

Union 36, South Kitsap 26

103 - Trevor Smith (U) p. Koby Fenton :58; 112 - Colin Bryant (SK) d. Shayne Burt 9-3; 119 - Cody Hansen (U) p. Tommy Thompson 5:10; 125 - Terrell Wilson (SK) d. Micah Harpel 16-1; 130 - Sam Berry (U) p. Danny Wierzbicki :44; 135 - Tyler Davis (U) p. Cody Magdaleno :59; 140 - Brendon Hartshorn (SK) d. Brody Smith 11-5; 145 - Cody Barich (SK) p. Justin Hu 5:28; 152 - Matt Rice (U) d. Levi Shinners 7-2; 160 - Adam Gascoyne (SK) d. Jake Virtue 8-5; 171 - Dillon Thomas (U) d. Michael Neiner 5-1; 189 - Connor Hartmann (SK) p. Josh Reynolds :50; 215 - Bryson Page (U) d. Eddie Mysner 4-0; 285 -Max Proudfit (U) d. Charlie Murray 9-4. First round

Wenatchee 42, Central Kitsap 38 South Kitsap 63, Thomas Jefferson 12 Yelm 43, Kingston 34 Union 62, North Kitsap 13 Graham Kapowsin 58, Auburn Riverside 18 Klahowya 39, Davis 37 Heritage 56, Peninsula 22 Hudson's Bay 39, Olympic 37

Second round Quarterfinals South Kitsap 53, Klahowya 27 Yelm 45, Heritage 33 Union 48, Wenatchee 19 Graham Kapowsin 60, Hudson's Bay 15 Consolation Auburn Riverside 45, Olympic 33 Central Kitsap 60, North Kitsap 22 Peninsula 57, Kingston 21 Davis 53, Thomas Jefferson 27

Third round

Semifinals

South Kitsap 39, Yelm 36 Union 40, Graham Kapowsin 29 Consolation Klahowya 41, Kingston 20 Wenatchee 51, Auburn Riverside 16 Davis 43, Heritage 29 Central Kitsap 48, Hudson's Bay 26 Thomas Jefferson 42, Peninsula 30 Olympic 42, North Kitsap 36

Championship match

Union 36, South Kitsap 26 **Third place** Graham Kapowsin 42, Klahowya 34 Central Kitsap 37, Davis 36 Yelm 37, Wenatchee 36

Consolations

Olympic 48, Thomas Jefferson 36 North Kitsap 57, Peninsula 18 Kingston 54, Hudson's Bay 26 Auburn Riverside 39, Heritage 36