

# Sports

Xenia Gazette

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## XMS has successful season

By Anna Dembowski  
For Greene County News

XENIA — After a successful regular season, the Xenia Middle School wrestling team is preparing to send about four students to state qualifiers in March.

Eighth graders Peyton Bartley and Jacob Stickle and seventh grader Jhett Peck are among the Xenia students expected to compete in the qualifiers March 1 in Vandalia, Xenia head coach Andy

Lewis said. Bartley and Stickle were among the three Xenia students that competed in state qualifiers last year.

“From the beginning, the group of kids we ended up with proved that we were going to have a good year, because the beginning was so difficult in terms of conditioning and things like that,” Lewis said. “We ended up losing a lot of kids, so the kids we were left with was just a group of hardworking kids.”

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The middle school team, part of the Greater Western Ohio Conference (GWOC), went 15-2 this season and beat last year’s conference champi-

on Sydney in a dual meet.

Lewis said he credits the team’s success to hard work.

“We had a motto we went by all year long,” he

said. “We discussed the motto every single day in practice, and that was: ‘hard work beats talent when talent refuses to work hard,’ and we lived and breathed by it. So we, while in the wrestling room, basically daily just reminded ourselves that we needed to work harder than what our opponents could be working.”

The team had four students place in February’s GWOC tournament. Bartley took third; Peck took fifth; eighth grader Nolan

Wagner took sixth; and Phillip Nared, a seventh grader, took sixth in the respective weight classes.

Assistant coach Sean Brannen said Bartley has been a standout wrestler this season, as well as a motivator to the team and a team captain, and Peck has shown great improvement this season.

“We’ve had a real good group of kids, and they work their butts off for us every day,” Brannen said.

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