

The Starting of the Montana Japanese Cultural Exchange

Letter to Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director MHSA

From: Lanny Bryant [<mailto:lanny@wrestlingusa.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 8:33 PM
To: Brian Michelotti
Cc: Vincent M. Giammona
Subject: Montana Japanese Cultural Exchange

Dear Brian

Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director bmichelotti@mhsa.org

I attended a National Wrestling Hall of Fame meeting with coaches from Washington and Oregon. We discussed the Japanese wrestlers coming to the United States for the Japanese Cultural Exchange, and I was excited about the possibility of bringing the team to Montana.

We contacted the Japanese and they agreed to first fly into Missoula and then to continue their Cultural Exchange with Oregon and Washington wrestling teams.

My responsibility is to house the Japanese team and coaches in the homes of our Missoula coaches and team. We will have a dual meet at Big Sky High School and then transport the Japanese team to their next dual site. When our Montana team visits Japan, they will show us the same courtesy.

This cultural exchange educational experience is one the team members and coaches will never forget.

In 1984 we brought a Japanese Cultural Team to Montana and sent our team to Japan in the summer. We combined local high school wrestlers to create a dual meet team in order to allow more kids to become involved in the program.

The admission money made from the exchange was used to send the Japanese team to their next high school meet site and allowed the Montana team to have the funds to go to Japan.

While attending the Cultural Exchange meeting in Portland I learned the Washington, Oregon and California State High School Activities

Associations allow combining wrestlers from different high schools to make up the dual meet teams for competition with the Japanese team. They also allow ticket sales from the dual matches to provide transportation and financial support.

I Am serving as the wrestling Cultural Exchange organizer for the Montana state affiliate body of USA Wrestling (NGB) participating in the historic national HS CE wrestling program, now in its 54th year of existence.

The correct protocol for the participating state affiliates of the NGB is for each to agree to follow the applicable International wrestling rules of USAW and of the International body (FILA) and in this case, communicate with their respective school sports authorities. Washington organizer Craig Hanson contacted John Miller of the WIAA, Oregon organizer John Dustin contacted OSAA, California organizer Ricardo Garcia contacted CIF and the Montana organizer (You) should contact the MHSAA to coordinate this cooperative hosting of our counterparts of Japan. Let us know what we can do to help. We have met with the Japanese counterparts of the NFHS and the Japanese counterparts of Olympic style wrestling and seek a smooth & simplified process to follow in our conduction of the historic national high school wrestling cultural exchange program across the Pacific.

Follow the link to our expert, Masaru Yatabe, Oregon's CE Representative, to see why we feel that we are accurately communicating with the NFHS equivalent body in Japan and understand the expectations of all levels of the Japanese side.

My hope is that you will recognize the purpose and value of the Cultural Exchange Programs and allow Montana high school students to be involved in this educational program. We also ask that all ticket sales and funds raised from this event go to support this program.

Lanny Bryant
Big Sky High School Wrestling Coach
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