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**Daily Nebraskan** 

## 'Fat Old Men' wrestling tourney raises funds for high school team

## By Lori Griffin Staff Reporter

Wrestling in Clearwater has grown beyond just the high school wrestling team. In fact, "old men" are getting involved too.

The Fat Old Men, Too (F.O.M.II) Wrestling Tournament will be in the Clearwater High School Gymnasium on March 30 at 10 a.m. The finals are scheduled to begin at approximately 7 p.m.

"The event is a wrestling tournament for old-time wrestlers who did not compete at the high school or college level during the past season," said Martin Fleming, director of the tournament for the past two years. "It gives ex-wrestlers a chance to participate in the sport again."

Last year's first tournament raised approximately \$2,800, which was used to buy a mat for the Clearwater High wrestling team. The tournament had almost 160 entrants and was the largest adult wreatling tournament in the state. This year, the tournament is cosponsored by the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce. Tournament directors are expecting 200 or more entrants and are setting a goal of raising \$4,000. This year the money will go toward buying uniforms for the high school team.

"The whole town becomes involved in this," said Bill Kester, chairman for the Chamber of Commerce. "The shop class makes all of the trophies and they also benefit from this because they will receive some new tools. We will also donate some new weights to the football team and the whole high school."

The tournament will consist of eleven weight classes, and any age can participate. The youngest participant last year was 18 and the oldest was about 40, Kester said. The entry fee is \$5 a person and \$2 extra a person for team receive 25 and ten percent payback competition. Teams are not limited to respectively. Last year, the suction the number of participants. The matches will consist of three one-minute rounds in weight classes, from 130 to unlimited.

The night is used to reflect on how the participants used to be when they participated in the sport," Fleming said. "They talk a lot about how tough old old-timers tournament in the state." they used to be and what it was like back then." night before the tournament and consists of the auctioning of all of the wrestlers participating in the tournament.



his money back," Fleming said. First place will receive 40 percent payback while second and third place will received \$1,600 for the wrestlers.

"I encourage everyone to try and come out and buy a wrestler," Kester said. "It is not limited to just people from this part of the state. Anyone interested can attend. It is the largest Although the main goal of F.O.M.II tournament is to buy the wrestling The Calcutta Auction will be the team uniforms, it is also for "showing off the new mat that was bought with last year's profits," Fleming said.

standing," Kester said. "Some of the mediocre wrestlers last year had a real tough time. Entrants must be pretty decent wrestlers to get in or they might not make it through."

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estlers participating in the tourna-ent. "People will bid on certain wrestlers" "We have some pretty good talent up here," Fleming said. "It is a pretty relaxed meet. It is also an event to get and if that wrestler wins, then the positive support for the sport. We feel

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