



2024-2025 Year in Review (and January's Newsletter)

**1... 2... 3... deep breathes*
(If you know, you know)*

As 2025 has come to a close, reflecting on our achievements as a board, as well as those of our athletes and coaches, has been a magical experience.

In the 2024-2025 season, our athletes...

- **Traveled approximately 16,448 kilometres** to attend 10 wrestling tournaments. Which resulted in:
 - **16 Gold Medals**
 - **13 Silver Medals**
 - **9 Bronze Medals**
 - **3** Fourth Place
 - **2** Fifth place
 - **5** Sixth place
 - Two 'Outstanding Wrestler' Awards at Zones
 - 'Overall Team Title' at Zones
- Youth and Adults participated in one No-Gi Jiu Jitsu tournament resulting in:
 - **4 Gold Medals**
 - **1 Silver Medal**
 - **2 Bronze Medals**
 - One injury (**cough** our New President **cough**)

Special Awards and Recognition

- Smithers Secondary School Athletics Awards
 - **4** Outstanding Athlete Awards
 - **1** Coach's Choice Award
 - **1** Glen Riddenoure Award
- As a club, we also won
 - Bulkley Valley Wrestling Club was voted **Best Sports Team** in the Interior News
 - Our very own Head Coach, was voted **Best Sports Coach** in the Interior News
 - Addison was also nominated and won a **Coach of the Year** award through ViaSports BC

Smithers Wrestlers for Silver and Golden for Seniors

During the 2024 Christmas season, the first **Smithers Wrestlers for Silver and Golden** event was held! Thanks to the Smithers Wrestling athletes and kicking Santa's a\$\$ (sorry Luke), two Bulkley Valley seniors received a small tree, a Christmas meal, treats and gifts, hand-delivered by our wrestling community with legendary renditions of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". **A huge thank you to Farley Rose Lifestyle for coordinating the event.**

Your 2024/2025 Board of Directors

Head Coach and Executive Director- Addison Bree

President- Ryan Elliott

Vice President- Tre Elliott

Treasurer- Jessica Whalen

Secretary- Kendra Papineau

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on December 17th in Telkwa, which provided another opportunity to reflect on all of the accomplishments as a whole, share our future visions and nominate a new board of directors. What has the board accomplished to date:

- Branding for documentation, marketing, designs, etc.
- New documentation, including parent handbook, liability release, image release, parent code, and financial documents
- Google docs
- Grants: 1 accepted (Via Sports BC for equipment loan program); 1 denied (Northern Health Imagine Grant); 1 pending (Four Rivers Co-op Community Impact)
- Community engagement events- supporting seniors during Christmas (mentioned above), wrap-up events (photo attached), athletic engagement

We would like to take a moment to also recognize the hard work that Ryan, Tre and their family have put into a lot of the above-mentioned accomplishments. The effort they have put into this club will forever be a legacy, and we, as a board, cannot thank you enough!



(Image) Year-End Party for the Smithers Wrestling Team, June 2025

What is ahead for January?

Business First

As the youngest Elliott is graduating, Ryan and Tre have decided not to seek re-election for a board position. However, they will continue to support the BV Wrestling Club with passion and dedication to ensure everyone knows it is the best wrestling and grappling club! We wish you all the best in your next endeavor, although we will just bombard one of the five group wrestling chats. Thank you once again for your time and commitment to the BV Wrestling Club. Words cannot fully express our gratitude. With that said, please welcome the new Board of Directors for 2025-2026:

Head Coach and Executive Director- Addison Bree

President- Amos Hunter

Vice President- Alison Price

Treasurer- Jessica Whalen

Secretary- Kendra Papineau

Exciting News

Some kids recently joined tournaments, but guess what? **We have a website!** New athletes can register, fill out liability forms, provide their personal info, and stay updated all in one place. Check it out- let us know what you think or what you'd like to see, and SHARE.

www.bulkleyvalleywrestling.com

Tournaments

The tournament season is off to a strong start with medals already making their way back to the Bulkley Valley! Upcoming tournaments* include:

- Shas-ti Kelly Road, Prince George (January 17th)
- Western Age Class, Richmond (January 23- 25th)
- Golden Bears, Edmonton (January 31st)

**As head coach, Addison makes tournament decisions based on what's best for both the wrestler and the team. Considerations include experience, dedication, performance, and tournament location. Some events are for novice or elite wrestlers only, so the tournament structure also plays a key role.*



(Image): PGSS Ice Breaker, December 2025