



Lynn adds middle school wrestling

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Lynn Public Schools will offer wrestling for the first time this winter. The team, which will be open to all Lynn middle-school students, will be run out of Marshall Middle School. The program will be supported by a donation from the Lynn business community, led by RCG LLC.

The wrestling program is the result of a partnership between Lynn Public Schools, Boston Youth Wrestling (BYW), local attorneys Jared Nicholson and Clint Muche, and a handful of local and regional businesses.

The start of that collaboration took place in the spring, when Nicholson and Muche organized a visit by BYW to a Marshall gym class. Many expressed interest about taking up the sport. Matt Picarsic, managing principal of RCG, was inspired to make a contribution and lead a private fundraising effort that will cover the start-up costs of a full-fledged program, including the purchase of a mat and equipment.

“RCG is proud to be a founding sponsor of Lynn wrestling,” Picarsic said. “Our business is very actively involved in the Lynn community, and we believe it has a bright future. That’s why we want to be a part of a new tradition in Lynn athletics. With help from BYW, we think that wrestling will change a lot of lives in Lynn. We are grateful that a number of like-minded organizations and individuals have joined the initiative.”

Picarsic said Biondolillo Associates, Inc. and the Gilberg family and Edison Realty LLC have also stepped forward to help sponsor the program.

BYW will continue to be an involved partner in Lynn’s program, sharing its expertise and training resources.

“The fundamental skills of wrestling align to core values of dedication, perseverance and hard work,” said Mike Geary, Lynn’s assistant director of physical education and wellness.

Nicholson, a candidate for Lynn School Committee, realized that Lynn was without a wrestling program and approached BYW in the fall of 2014 with the hope that it could help him bring wrestling to Lynn.

“Wrestling is a great sport for a lot of reasons – it teaches discipline, builds confidence and gives student-athletes of all sizes a chance to participate,” said Nicholson, a Division I wrestler at Princeton University. “It is a particularly great fit for Lynn because of the low cost of participation for athletes and small space needs relative to other sports.”

Much of the wrestling will be intramural but there will be opportunities to compete against other schools in at least one tournament at the end of the season, which will begin in January and run for eight weeks.

Geary hopes the program will expand to the high schools at some point.

Registration will be held later this fall.