

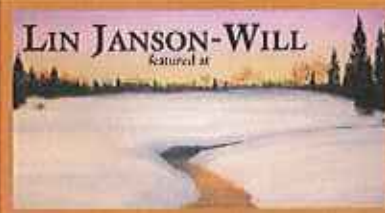
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Coach Angelo Vasquez, left, founder and head coach of Wolfpack Wrestling is raising money to bring Olympic gold and bronze medalist Rulon Gardner to Battle Mountain High School for a motivational speech.

Minturn coach trying to bring Olympic gold medalist to town

Angelo Vasquez needs \$3,000 to host Rulon Gardner

The Minturn Middle School and the U.S. Freestyle team wrestling coach are collecting donations to give his players the reward they have so diligently earned this year.

Coach Angelo Vasquez hopes to wrestle down \$3,000

to bring Olympic gold and bronze medalist Rulon Gardner to Battle Mountain High School, where he has agreed to speak at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.

"It's a reward for everybody, we're trying to bring [See MINTURN, page 11]

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Vail
Mountaineer

MINTURN [From page 10]

wrestling back to the valley," said Vasquez. "Battle Mountain and Eagle Valley High School (students) are going to regionals and it would be great to give them some inspiration to try to do better."

The freestyle team, known as The Wolf Pack, aged four to 19-years-old, have returned 69 medals, nine trophies and two state championship placements this year, said Vasquez.

"I'm very proud of my kids, they did a very good job this year, and it would just be exciting for them to meet someone who's gone all the way," said Vasquez.

Among his many achievements, Gardner took home a gold medal from the Pan American Games in 1998, the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia and the World Wrestling Championships in Patras, Greece in 2001. He won the bronze medal Olympic Games, Athens, Greece in 2004.

Now a motivational speaker, Gardner's travels the country "sharing his personal experiences to illustrate how persistence leads to success," according to rulongardner.com.

Vasquez has been pulling support together for Gardner's appearance since October, rallying teams throughout the county to pitch in. He was able to find sufficient pledges to secure a contract for Gardner's speech, but at the last minute, some major supporters backed out.

Vasquez is trying to raise a grand by next week to ensure Gardner will come to the event. He is also looking for a volunteer photographer to shoot photos for Gardner to autograph on the spot.

The Town of Minturn and Turntable Restaurant, where Vasquez is also employed, has offered to help. Keep reading the Mountaineer for more details on their upcoming fundraising events.

The Wolfpack Wrestling Team is a non profit organization, so any donations they receive are tax deductible. For more information, call Coach Angelo Vasquez at 970-827-4186.



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