

# Gulden steps down as wrestling coach

Posted July 12, 2011 by New Ulm Journal Sports

Jim Bastian - Journal Sports Writer, The Journal

NEW ULM - After just one year, Shane Gulden has resigned as head wrestling coach at New Ulm High School.

Gulden, who resigned a week ago, said that the main reason for his stepping down was that there was not a full-time Physical Education teaching job available next year at New Ulm High School.

He had been commuting from his job in the Twin Cities to New Ulm this past year.

"I will be going back to graduate school at Minnesota State Mankato," said Gulden, whose team compiled a 3-21 record this past year. "I had been thinking about stepping down when summer started."

Gulden, who saw his wrestling program hurt by a lack of numbers, said that rebuilding the wrestling program at NUHS is going to take a lot more time and effort.

"Plus our wrestling facilities are not the best," he said. "It is going to be hard to build a wrestling program with our [wrestling] room so small. Even with the small numbers that we had, we were tripping over each other. We need a better facility to get kids interested in wrestling."

He said that the lack of numbers in kids out for wrestling is a big issue for New Ulm.

"And I do not think that our numbers are any higher at the lower grades," he said. "We pull all the lower grades together and with the sixth graders that would be seventh graders this year there may have been five or six out for wrestling. That does not cut it either."

He added that the problem is compiled by the lack of interest in wrestling with the youth program and kids getting burned out early.

"You could put your finger on any one of those things," he said. "Plus there are other sports available to the kids. It is a culmination of all of those things."

But Gulden did say that there is a chance that wrestling could get strong again.

"Things sometimes go in cycles but it will take time if it does happen," he said "It is going to take a new wrestling room to generate interest with something that is up to date."

Gulden said that currently there is not enough room in the wrestling room to for a full-size mat in.

"For as low of numbers as we had this year, we could not fit our entire team in the room," Gulden said. "We had to have some kids sit outside the room and take turns because there was not enough mat space."

And the lack of numbers caused Gulden and the Eagles to forfeit a lot of their matches.

"We had to forfeit over half of our matches this year," Gulden said. "There were some matches where we forfeited as many as 10 weights in some matches."

Despite the lack of numbers and poor record, Gulden said that people were co-operative.

"They want the program to succeed - the true fans came each match to lend support," he said. "But again it is going to be hard to change anything when our wrestling facilities are so poor."

"Districts like New Ulm continue to cut but they have not cut any sports yet - knock on wood," Gulden said. "I tried to fund raise this year but it is difficult when you are a head coach."

Gulden said that he does not know who will apply for the head wrestling coach position.

"They need to first find a new Activities Director before they hire a wrestling coach," he said. "And they really need a unified booster club. Right now it is a mess down there."