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PRESS RELEASE

Upu Tomua – O le Ta’aloga o le Pi’iga o se tasi lea o ta’aloga ua lauiloa ai Amerika Samoa i le lalolagi ona o ana tama fanau o lo’o fa’amanuia’ina ai.

O le Afioga le Lutena Kovana na saunoa e tatalaina le Sauniga mo le Fa’agatama o Pi’iga o lo tatou Itulagi.

O lenei Sauniga sa fa’ataunu’uina ia Mati 20, 2025, na saunoa fa’afeiloai le Susuga ia Ethan Lake ma fa’afeiloai ai le Afioga le Lutena Kovana, Afioga le Matua ia Pulumatala Ae Ae Jr, atoa ai ma nisi o le mamalu na auai. Na saunoa le Afioga le Lutena Kovana, ma momoli le agaga fa’agae’etia ma ia ta’ua ai, ua sefulu ma le tasi tausaga talu ai, sa talimalo ai Amerika Samoa i lenei lava fa’aagatama o Pi’iga. Na ia fa’afetaia le Atua ona o avanoa ma ia talosagaina le lagolago ā aiga ma le atunu’u mo lenei lava fa’amoemoe ina ia manuia ai Amerika Samoa.

O le tu’ualalo a lana Afioga le Matua mo alo ma fanau ta’aalo, ina ia teu i latou loto, e le gata ina fianu mo sa latou lava manuia, a e o lo’o fa’apea foi ona tapuaia e aiga, le atunu’u ma le malo lo latou alo faiva. Na apoapo’ai foi lana Afioga ma fa’alototele i fanau ia amio pulea ma avea i latou ma fa’ata’ita’iga lelei a e sili ona taula’i i le Atua lo latou fa’amoemoega ma tu’u atu atoa lo latou tomai ma le malosi mo le ta’aloga o le Pi’i.

Na saunoa foi le Afioga Lutena Kovana, o lenei fa’agatama e au lava i le fa’apolofesa lona siitia maualuga o le tulaga. Na taulaluga lana agiagi i lana fa’amalosiau i fanau ia avea nei fa’agatama e fesoota’i ma mafuta atu ai i nisi o uso ma tuafafine fa’a- le-Vasa Pasefika, na momoli foi fa’amanuiaga atoa ai ma le vala’aulia o le au ta’a’alo silasila ia Amerika Samoa ma saili ai foi nisi o lo latou mafaufauga lelei.



PRESS RELEASE

Acting Governor delivers the keynote address for the Oceania Wrestling Championships Opening Ceremony.


Thursday, March 20, 2025----The Oceania Wrestling Championships officially commenced in American Samoa, bringing together top athletes, coaches, and officials from eight Pacific nations for this prestigious event.

Mr. Ethan Lake, President of the American Samoa Amateur Wrestling Association (ASAWA), warmly welcomed the esteemed guests, including the Honorable Acting Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., cabinet members, families, and supporters of the event.

The opening ceremony commenced with a formal march by the participating teams and delegations, followed by the posting of the colors by the Tafuna High School JROTC Color Guard and the rendition of the national anthems.

In his remarks, Mr. Don Ryan, Executive of United World Wrestling, expressed gratitude to the organizing committee for their dedication in coordinating the event and acknowledged the invaluable support of sponsors. He then extended his best wishes to all athletes, coaches, and officials for a successful competition. Mr. Etisone Imo, President of the American Samoa National Olympic Committee (ASNOC), also welcomed all delegates to the territory, expressing appreciation for their participation and wishing them an enjoyable and successful tournament.

Delivering the keynote address, The Honorable Acting Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr. extended a heartfelt welcome to all participants. “Eleven years ago American Samoa hosted this same event with twenty-four competing island nations, so I humbly welcome you all back to our territory. We need to thank God for all the prayers and support of your families, especially the hard work that they sacrifice in order for all of you to be successful.” said Acting Governor Pulumataala.



He reminded the athletes that they are not only representing themselves but also their families, countries, and governments. He underscored the importance of unity and sportsmanship, stating, “Throughout your wrestling career, you will understand that it takes discipline and practice. Think of your parents and always focus on God - the purpose of life for all of us. The dedication you put into your wrestling career is great, but always honor your parents and you will be successful.” The Acting Governor also acknowledged the legacy of professional wrestlers of Samoan heritage and encouraged the athletes to embrace the opportunity to build connections with their brothers and sisters across Oceania. He concluded his address by extending his best wishes for the competition and inviting the athletes to explore American Samoa and create lasting memories.

The Oceania Wrestling Championships is taking place at the Lee Auditorium from March 20 to the 22. This championship serves as a key qualifier for athletes aiming for future competitions, include the 2025 Pacific Mini Games, the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, and ultimately, the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The competition welcomes participants from eight island nations: Australia, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Palau, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Tonga, and American Samoa.

The opening ceremony concluded with cultural performances by the Maluali'i Dance Group and a special presentation by the reigning Miss American Samoa.


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OUR CONTACT:

 www.americansamoa.gov

 comms@go.as.gov

 Executive Office Building
Office of the Governor
Third Floor, Utulei
Pago Pago, Am. Samoa 96799