

Stroh wins championship

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt



In a very tough “Battle at the Fort,” HHS wrestlers performed well Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Fort Collins Invitational.

The team wrestled much better than two days earlier in the league tourney, according to coach Duane Stroh.

Chad Stroh, at 135 lbs., went 3-0 for the day, earning Holyoke’s only championship. He battled hard, even though he was sick, said coach Stroh.

Mark Edmonds was off to a great start in the tournament, winning his first 112-lb. match with a tech-fall. Unfortunately, the bursa sac on his knee broke, and the injury forced him out of the competition.

Skyler Dittmer (130 lbs.) and Luke Garrett (171) both finished in fourth place in their weight divisions. Garrett, who was 4-1 in the tourney, had to forfeit the third-fourth place match, as he’d already wrestled five bouts that day.

While Brian Strong was one round away from placing at 140 lbs., he had his best tournament of the year, said coach Stroh. “I look forward to coaching him this week,” added Stroh.

Holyoke scored 82.5 team points for eighth place at Saturday’s tournament.

Windsor won the tourney with 227, followed by Pomona 221.5, Loveland 155, Fort Collins 146, Legacy 115, Poudre 113, Fossil Ridge 99, Holyoke 82.5, Akron 76.5, Middle Park 69.5, Mountain Vista 68, Mountain View 58, Gateway 39.5, Highland 37.5, Lakewood 16 and Denver

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West 8.

Individual match results from the Fort Collins Invitational follow:

112 lbs.—Mark Edmonds tech-falled Brendan Unitt of Windsor in 5:55. He was very aggressive and totally dominated, said Stroh. But the knee injury during the match ousted him from the rest of the tournament.

130 lbs.—Skyler Dittmer placed fourth. He won a 10-1 decision over Josh Tucker of Legacy, moving well on his feet. Then he defeated Josh Donkle of Windsor 12-9 in a hard-fought match. Dittmer was pinned in 4:46 by Isaiah Rosales of Pomona, a top-ranked 5A wrestler.

Dittmer totally dominated Jacob Fisher of Fort Collins, and pinned him in 4:32. He lost a 6-10 decision to LaDaris Mungin of Gateway, but outscored him 4-1 in the third period.

135 lbs.—Chad Stroh placed first. He easily handled Garrett Florian of Akron, pinning him in 1:07. Stroh then met 5A ranked wrestler Adam Barela of Fort Collins, who he decisioned 9-4.

Stroh wrestled a strategic, slow-paced match in the championship with Jessie Carlson of Legacy, who is ranked in 5A. Headed into the third period 2-2, Stroh got an immediate take-down and rode Carlson the whole period for the 4-2 win.

140 lbs.—Brian Strong was 2-2 for the day in his best tourney of the year. First meeting Dakota Difrancesco of Highland, Strong worked his way to a pin in the third period, in 4:37.

In his second match, with Devin Dunnum, wrestling unattached, Strong was on his back in the first period. But in the second, he got a reverse and a near-fall, then rolled Dunnum over again for a big pin in 3:55. “He looked really good,” said Stroh.

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Meeting Sam Kreimier of Loveland, Strong scored an escape. He almost had several things working that he'd been practicing in "the room," said Stroh. While the match ended in a 1-8 loss for Strong, it was much closer than the score indicated, said Stroh.

In his final bout, Strong was tech-falled in 4:28 by Austin Harris of Windsor. One round away from placing, Stroh again praised Strong, who looked good.

152 lbs.—Cade Garrison keeps getting better every week, said coach Stroh. "He looks extra good on his feet and on top," added the coach.

Garrison won a 7-1 decision over Henry Enockson of Lakewood in his first match. Garrison tilted Matt Manning of Mountain Vista twice in the second period and led 5-1 going into the final stanza. He got a nearfall and dominated completely to win a 12-3 major decision over Manning.

Garrison wrestled two good periods against Cyrus Massoudi of Fort Collins. He got caught in the third and was pinned in 5:33 in a match he could have won, said Stroh. Tied 5-5 with Ramon Marquez of Poudre, Garrison got caught and rolled in the third, when he was pinned in 3:51. "We will work on shape and mental toughness this week," said Stroh.

171 lbs.—Luke Garrett placed fourth. He won a 6-4 first-round match over Jeremy Garner of Legacy. A little bit tight, he then lost a 3-7 decision to Kohlman Scribner of Mountain View.

Garrett really picked it up, getting a big reversal to put Cody Dinkel of Fossil Ridge on his back for a 1:38 pin. That led to an 8-0 shutout over Dylan Avery of Gateway.

Garrett won by default over Tanner Huber of Fort Collins and then had to forfeit to Kohman Scribner of Mountain View. The forfeit gave Scribner third place and Garrett fourth.

189 lbs.—Casey Sage was pinned in 1:55 by Julian Cota of Mountain View. In his second match, he was working hard, but ended up getting caught for a 2:34 pin by Joey Garcia.

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Three compete in JV tourney

Three Holyoke wrestlers, with coach Dusty McConnell, competed in the Rocky Mountain High School JV tournament in Fort Collins last Saturday.

The HHS competitors wrestled well over there in a good tournament, said Stroh.

At 103 lbs., Frank Diaz was 3-2 for the day, only one round from placing, as he continues to improve.

125 lbs.—Francisco Diaz has been in a slump, said coach Stroh. Diaz went 3-2 for the day and was also one round from placing.

145 lbs.—Ben Martinez got caught in a weight class with top-quality wrestlers. While 0-2 for the day, he had a good time and learned a lot, said Stroh.

Upcoming action

The wrestling schedule for HHS just keeps getting tougher. The Dragons will compete in the Poudre Valley tournament in Ft. Collins this Saturday, Jan. 16 and will travel to Lexington, Neb. the next Saturday.

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