

Girls #8 seed in state tourney

Written by Darci Tomky

Holyoke's girls' basketball team won a regional championship Saturday and earned the #8 seed in the 2A State Basketball Tournament.

The Lady Dragons will travel to the Massari Fieldhouse at CSU-Pueblo for the March 11-13 tournament where the "Great Eight" girls' teams will compete for state champion honors. The eight teams are ranked in the following order:

Paonia (22-1), Kiowa (22-2), Akron (19-4), Sedgwick County (21-3), Sangre De Cristo (17-6), Rocky Ford (16-6), Sanford (14-9) and Holyoke (14-10).

Holyoke will first meet Paonia at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, March 11. Other first-round games will feature Sedgwick County vs. Sangre De Cristo at 8:45 a.m., Akron vs. Rocky Ford at 4 p.m. and Kiowa vs. Sanford at 7 p.m.

If HHS wins Thursday, they will advance to the semifinals Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. The girls' championship game is set for 5:15 p.m. Saturday, March 13, while the third-place game is at 2 p.m.

Complete brackets for both the girls' and boys' 2A state tournament can be found on page 8 of this week's Enterprise.

Dragon basketball a family affair

2010 Lady Dragon basketball. 1984 HHS boys' basketball team. What do they have in common? Much more than one might think.

Holyoke's "Cinderella Team" of 1984 exceeded everyone's expectations when their dream of a state championship became a reality.

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The boys' basketball team went into the state tournament with a 9-9 record—which is a bit deceiving. The Dragons started out their season slow with six losses.

The March 15, 1984 Enterprise said coach Tom Kammer summed up their season by saying, “It isn't over until it's over.”

HHS peaked at their district tournament with a big upset over the number one-seeded Haxtun team in the semifinals. They went on to earn a win over Wray and a spot at the state tournament.

Even though everyone thought it was a fluke that they got into the state tournament, the 1984 Dragons proved them all wrong as they fought their way to a well-deserved championship.

Two members of that state champion team were seniors Steve Beavers and Casey Gerk—now both fathers of two Lady Dragons on the 2010 team. Senior Shelby Beavers and sophomore Laura Gerk carry on the family tradition as they compete on the Dragon basketball team 26 years later.

Even though girls' basketball wasn't expected to advance to the state tourney, they met the challenge and earned a spot to compete there. Like the 1984 team, the girls started out the season slow, and they head to state with a 14-10 record. Are they another “Cinderella Team” in the making? State action this week will determine the outcome for this determined Lady Dragon basketball team.

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For complete Dragon sports coverage, see this week's Enterprise paper copy or online E-edition.