

Wrestling team small but tough

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt



Returning letterwinners on the HHS wrestling team this year are pictured from left, Mark Edmonds, Skyler Dittmer, Ben Martinez and Broc Pelle. Not pictured is letterwinner Parker Redfern. —Enterprise photo

With only nine members, the HHS wrestling team is small in numbers. “But the kids we have are really tough,” said coach Jack Garrison.

“They’re all coachable, and I’m looking forward to the season,” added Garrison, who is launching his first year as head coach for the Dragon wrestlers.

Garrison served as the HHS assistant coach last year. Helping with this year’s program is Dusty McConnell, who is starting his fourth year as assistant coach for HHS.

Five returning letterwinners lead the team. They include senior Skyler Dittmer; juniors Mark Edmonds, Broc Pelle and Parker Redfern; and sophomore Ben Martinez.

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They are joined by senior Perry Garrett and sophomores Leo Ortiz, Jesus Hermosillo and Spencer Kotch.

Edmonds returns as last year's 112-lb. state champion, after having placed third as a freshman. He's been working hard all summer and is looking good, said coach Garrison. Edmonds will probably wrestle at 119.

Dittmer lifted weights hard all summer and is ready for the season, said the coach. He finished third at state as a sophomore and fourth last year at 130 lbs. This year he'll start at 140, hoping to wrestle at 135 after Christmas break.

Pelle and Redfern lettered their freshman year and didn't compete in their sophomore year season. Coach Garrison said he's glad to have them back on the team.

Pelle competed at state as a freshman and looks to wrestle at 160 this year. Redfern will compete at 152.

Martinez also worked out all summer and is ready for the season. He will start at 145, hoping to drop to 140 after Christmas break.

Garrett competed in wrestling his freshman year and is now back after sitting out two seasons. He'll fill the heavyweight bracket for the team.

Kotch will probably wrestle at 152 and Ortiz at 140-145. Hermosillo is new to the HHS team, having previously wrestled his eighth grade year. He'll compete at 215 for the Dragons.

Holyoke opens the season Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Middle Park tourney in Granby.

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Local fans will have a chance to see the Dragons in action Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Larry Stroh Memorial Tournament in Holyoke. That will be the only performance for the Dragons on the home mats this year.

Regionals are scheduled Feb. 11-12 at NJC in Sterling, with the state tournament at the Pepsi Center in Denver Feb. 17-19.