

Dittmer 6th in big 55-team wrestling tourney

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

In a 55-team Old Chicago Northern Colorado Christmas Tournament (NCCT), eight HHS wrestlers earned 54 points and gained good experience.

Dec. 17-18, the Dragons competed with 54 other wrestling squads, mostly from 4A and 5A schools, at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

At 140 lbs., Skyler Dittmer was Holyoke's only medalist, finishing in sixth place.

Coach Jack Garrison said Dittmer fought like crazy to win an overtime match over state-ranked Alex Sadlo from Berthoud. The win kept him in the move towards a potential third place, while Sadlo dropped to the seventh-eighth place match.

Mark Edmonds at 125 lbs. and Broc Pelle at 171 were both just one round from placing in the extremely competitive tournament.

Coach Garrison said this is one of the toughest tournaments in the state, and he thought the Dragons wrestled well.

"We have a long ways to go," admitted Garrison, but said the tournament gave them a nice chance to see where they stand.

Some new wrestlers or those who didn't wrestle last season got a chance to see the competition. "It was a good judge for us on where we need to go," Garrison added. "We just need more mat time now."

While some of the HHS wrestlers only got a couple of matches, Garrison still sees it as good experience for seeing the competition.

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“Every one of them battled hard,” said the coach, adding he was proud to see that kind of effort.

And as coach Garrison is fond of pointing out, “Everything is pre-season until regionals.” Emphasizing the importance of wrestling well each week, he noted the Dragons will take a break for the holidays before heading into the league tournament at Merino Friday, Jan. 7.

Individual results from the Old Chicago NCCT follow:

125 lbs.—Mark Edmonds went 3-2 for the weekend. He pinned Jon Mellema of Natrona County in 5:22, then lost a tough 2-3 decision to eventual fifth-place winner Devan Cruz of Coronado.

Edmonds came back to pin Tyler Oberg of Discovery Canyon in 4:40, won a 7-1 decision over Garrett Barber of Bennett, then lost a 0-3 decision to Tanner Taylor of Thompson Valley, who went on to place third.

140 lbs.—Skyler Dittmer placed sixth, going 5-3 for the weekend. He won a 4-2 decision over Brandon Dunnum of Fort Collins before losing a 5-8 decision to Alex Markowski of Pine Creek, then coming back for four straight wins.

He pinned Sam McCoy of Palmer in 3:47, pinned Drew Choal of Laramie in 2:24, pinned Darrius Lohr of Eaton in 3:48 and pinned Alex Sadlo of Berthoud in 5:24 (overtime).

Dittmer was then pinned by Garrett Vasquez of Loveland, who went on to place third, and lost a 4-6 decision to Justin Hays of Coronado to place sixth.

145 lbs.—Ben Martinez was pinned in 1:16 by Kyle McNally of Thompson Valley, the eventual seventh-place finisher; and was pinned in 1:26 by Scott Chalmers of Prairie View.

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160 lbs.—Parker Redfern went 2-2 for the tournament for some good experience.

He lost his first match to the eventual second-place finisher, losing in a pin in 4:23 to Austin Trujillo of Valley.

He came back for two wins, pinning Francisco Alvarado of Jefferson in 3:14 and earning a 7-6 decision over Logan Longworth of Weld Central. Redfern was then pinned by Henry Enockson of Lakewood in 2:59.

171 lbs.—Broc Pelle went 2-2 in the tournament, moving clear to the quarter-finals before suffering a loss.

He won a quick :41 pin over Joe Johnson of Thomas Jefferson, then a slim 5-4 decision over Devon Rojas of Greeley West before falling to Jeremy Smith of Centauri, who went on to place fourth.

Pelle was eliminated from the tournament in a heartbreaking 4-6 overtime decision to Dylan Nastiel of Elizabeth, who finished eighth in the tourney.

189 lbs.—Astolfo Rojo was pinned in 1:45 by Gary Miller of Columbine and was pinned in 1:17 by Zeke Dalton of Lakewood.

215 lbs.—Jesus Hermosillo was pinned in 1:00 by eventual sixth-place winner Matt Dreiling of Mountain Range and lost a 3-6 decision to Michael Harrison of Fossil Ridge.

285 lbs.—Perry Garrett was pinned in 1:41 by the eventual fourth-place finisher Josh Atkinson of Berthoud and was pinned in 1:53 by Justin Myer of Fossil Ridge.

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