

Edmonds finishes season with a smile as #1 at 125 lbs.

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Victory was sweet for HHS junior Mark Edmonds Saturday night when he avenged a regional tournament loss to claim the 125-lb. state championship over Alex Klopp of Yuma.

Losing the regional championship to Klopp the weekend before was heartbreaking for Edmonds, but his 8-4 win on the state mats where it counts put the smile back on his face.

Even though Klopp came to Yuma two years ago as a champion from Wyoming and won fourth place at 112 lbs. in 3A competition last year, Edmonds said he looked past him at regionals. The two juniors never met on the mat during regular season.

But there was no looking ahead Saturday night at the Big Show. Edmonds was focused and in control, leading the entire match.

Coach Jack Garrison said losing at regionals was actually a blessing for Edmonds. "He was hungrier and angrier," and that paid off in his state tournament effort.



Mark Edmonds celebrates his second state championship as he dives into the arms of Coach Jack

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Garrison while Coach Dusty McConnell looks on. —Enterprise photo by Duncan Brandt

Entering the state bracket as a regional runner-up put Edmonds in some tough matches on his way to the championship. He had some battles coming through the bracket, squeaking by with 3-2 wins in both his quarterfinal and semifinal bouts.

He emerged with confidence, ready to battle again in the championship, said Garrison.

Less than 30 seconds into the championship match, Edmonds got a takedown for two points.

“That got me pumped,” said Edmonds with enthusiasm, just minutes after coming off the mat where he claimed the gold.

“He (Klopp) beat me on my feet at regionals—he threw me. So I was glad to get that takedown early,” Edmonds added.

Klopp escaped to make it a 2-1 match after one period. In the second, Edmonds earned a point when Klopp was warned and then penalized for stalling. Klopp escaped, and it was 3-2 Edmonds heading into the final period.

Edmonds started the period in the down position, got away and added a point to his score.

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