

Edmonds signs with Bucknell; receives their top scholarship

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Wrestling coaches and fans, family and friends surrounded HHS senior Mark Edmonds Wednesday, Nov. 9 when he officially signed his national letter of intent to wrestle for Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

It was the first day such letters of intent could be signed, and with the commitment comes a sizable scholarship.

Edmonds was Bucknell's number one recruit, and he was awarded their preferential scholarship, the top one they offer.

Approximately 8,000 students apply to the Patriot League school, and only 900 students are accepted each year. The total student population is around 3,500.

Bucknell touts itself as being first in the nation for student-athlete graduation rate, said Mark's dad, Bert Edmonds.



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HHS senior Mark Edmonds, pictured in front, center, is all smiles as he prepares to sign his national letter of intent to wrestle for Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. Pictured at the Nov. 9 signing are, from left, front row, his dad Bert Edmonds, Mark and coach Jack Garrison; and back row, coach Dusty McConnell and HHS principal Susan Ortner. Not pictured are coaches Duane Stroh and Allen Strong who worked with Edmonds in his wrestling career. —Enterprise photo

Edmonds returns to the mats this season as a two-time state champion, seeking his third title. At Bucknell, he will wrestle at 133 pounds next year.

Many loyal Holyoke fans joined Edmonds for his signing and celebration last week.

In addition to Edmonds and his dad, current coaches Jack Garrison and Dusty McConnell were in attendance, as well as solid wrestling supporter Susan Ortner, HHS principal.

Edmonds also acknowledged his peewee/junior high/high school coach Duane Stroh and junior high assistant coach Allen Strong.

This past summer, Edmonds had a 97-9 record, wrestling for National Wrestling Coaches Association at scholastic duals and for the Colorado USA team.

In a qualifying tournament, Edmonds placed first in Greco Roman and in freestyle and he also earned firsts in both at the CSU-Pueblo tourney.

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He was undefeated in Greco Roman at the Junior Duals in Oklahoma.

He competed in the NWCA tournament in Indiana and took third at the Midwest Classic Nationals in Kearney, Neb.

Edmonds wrestled for the Windsor Mat Pack at the Paonia duals, where Windsor won the tournament, taking all 12 of their duals. In that competition, Edmonds won all 12 of his matches, including 11 by pins and the last with a 9-0 decision.

At the Gunnison camp, Edmonds was undefeated in tournament action.

He wrestled in Fargo, N.D. with the USA team and just returned from a preseason national tournament in Waterloo, Iowa.

Edmonds looks forward to his senior season and beyond, and Holyoke can be proud of his accomplishments.

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