

Kotch brothers wrestle at Reg'I, State Middle School tourneys

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Competing in the Colorado Middle School State Regional Tournament March 27-28 in Fort Lupton and the Colorado Middle School State Championships in Denver April 3-4 were Holyoke junior high students Spencer and Dylan Kotch.

At both tournaments, Spencer, 14 and an eighth grader, competed in the 135-lb. bracket, while Dylan, 12 and a sixth grader, was in the 160-lb. weight bracket.

At the Regional Tournament, wrestlers had to place in the top eight to be able to continue on in the state championships.

According to the boys' mother, Christy Finch, Spencer wrestled two very tough matches and dominated in both, coming away with wins. However, he let his third match slip away, losing by points. Still, he wound up with a second-place finish that guaranteed him good seeding at State.

Dylan met up with some hard eighth-grade competition and ended the day 0-2, but still qualified for third place and the chance to compete at State.

At the State Championships, held at the National Western Complex in Denver, both boys came out ready to wrestle. On Friday, April 3, Spencer was given a bye his first round and won his second.

Dylan, who was the only sixth-grader in his bracket, also won his first and second matches of the tournament, earning him the chance to return on Saturday, April 4.

Unfortunately, Saturday did not end as well for the brothers as they might have hoped. They both lost their third and fourth-round matches, ending the weekend 2-2.

However, added Finch, "All in all, it was a great wrestling season for both boys and they showed much improvement from the first of the season."

Both boys were coached by Dusty McConnell and Justin Helgoth. It was noted the brothers appreciate their coaches' hard work and dedication.