

Four win tickets to the big show

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Seniors Mark Edmonds and Broc Pelle, junior Jesus Hermosillo and freshman Dylan Kotch earned their way to the Colorado State Wrestling championships at the Pepsi Center in Denver Feb. 16-18.

Pelle at 170 lbs. won a regional championship Saturday, Feb. 11 at NJC in Sterling.

Edmonds at 132 lbs. and Hermosillo at 195 lbs. finished as regional runners-up and Kotch placed fourth in the 220-lb. weight division.

Overall, coach Jack Garrison said of course you always want to take more to the state tournament. "But we're taking four good ones, and they each have a chance to hit the podium," he added.

Pelle won one match on the state mats at 140 lbs. as a freshman, took a year off, then placed fourth at 171 lbs. last year.

Taking a solid 35-3 record to the big show, Pelle is seeded second in the bracket. He will meet junior Jesse Evans of Kiowa (14-13) in the opening round Thursday.



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Broc Pelle works his way to a 170-lb. regional championship in this semifinal match with Corey Skeels of Byers. Pelle won his three regional matches in pins, at :45, :51 and 2:49.

—Enterprise photo

Edmonds returns to the state mats as a two-time state champion (112 lbs. in 2010 and 125 lbs. in 2011), and he placed third at 103 lbs. as a freshman.

The Dragon senior's regional runner-up finish seeded him lower in the bracket, but he's ready for the challenge. Edmonds (33-6) will meet senior John Burch (25-15) of John Mall in the opening round.



Mark Edmonds, pictured at left, puts Saul Galarza of Byers in pinning position in quarterfinal action in the 132-lb. regional bracket Friday. Edmonds earned the pin in 1:02.

—Enterprise photo

Hermosillo (22-17) is making his first trip to the state mats, and will face freshman Adrian Cereceres (21-12) of North Park to kick off the tournament.

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Kotch takes his 22-17 record to the big show, meeting junior Zack Morgan (18-10) of Sargent in the opening round.

State tourney schedule

Thursday, Feb. 16—prelims, 3-6:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17—quarterfinals, 10 a.m., followed by first-round consolations; second-round consolations, 5:45-7 p.m.; and semifinals, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18—third-round consolations, 10:30 a.m., followed by semifinal consolations; fifth-place matches, 2 p.m., followed by third-place matches; parade of champions and final matches, 6:30 p.m.

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