

## Seven Dragons place; four qualify for state

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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With one regional champion, two runners-up and one fourth-place finisher, HHS will be well-represented at the Colorado State Wrestling Championships this weekend.

Action begins Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Pepsi Center in Denver and continues through the championship matches Saturday night, Feb. 18.

Regional action was held Feb. 10-11 at NJC in Sterling.

Broc Pelle claimed the 170-lb. regional championship. Wrestling strong all season, the HHS senior hopes to claim a state title before ending his high school wrestling career.

“He’s a powerhouse,” said coach Jack Garrison, adding the Dragon senior is wrestling exceptionally well.

Also making it to the championship regional matches and claiming runner-up honors were Mark Edmonds at 132 and Jesus Hermosillo at 195.

Edmonds returns to the state mats as a two-time state champ, but has his work cut out for him. His regional foe, Alex Klopp of Yuma, also defeated Edmonds in regionals a year ago. But Edmonds claimed the championship when they met in the state finals.

Klopp has been competing at 126 lbs. most of the season so the two have not met on the mats this year until regionals when Klopp bumped up a weight to 132 lbs.

It was a good championship match, with all points made in the third period, but Klopp took the 3-1 win. Coach Garrison has confidence in Edmonds, but noted he’ll have to step it up.

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