Eleven placewinners, led by three champions, boosted the HHS wrestling team to a first-place finish in the Banner County Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Harrisburg, Neb. Saturday, Dec. 8.

Coach Jack Garrison said the back door finally started working for the team, as wrestlers came back to win after a loss.

The tourney followed somewhat of a round-robin format, but each weight class was set up differently, depending on the number of participants.

Jesus Hermosillo at 195 lbs. and Dylan Kotch at 220 repeated as tourney champions from the previous week and are undefeated on the season. Nicholas Ortner joined the two on the champion stand, winning the 138-lb. class.

Leo Ortiz made it to the championship, finishing second at 160 lbs.

160-lb. senior Leo Ortiz faces off an opponent at the Banner County Invitational, on his way to a second-place finish for the day.

Third-place honors were earned by Issac Brandt at 120 lbs., Spencer Kotch at 170 and Astolfo Rojo at heavyweight.

HHS senior Astolfo Rojo works for a pin over Miguel Huerta of Wray in 285-lb. wrestling competition at the Banner County Invitational in Harrisburg, Neb. Saturday, Dec. 8. Rojo finished third in the weight division.

Four Dragons placed fourth in their weight divisions including Eric Rojo at 106 lbs., Ben Martinez at 152, T.J. Gertner at 170 and Sidney Struckmeyer at 220.

Javy Rojo competed in the JV portion of the tourney and finished second at 152 lbs.

Banner County was a fairly solid tournament, but coach Garrison said they'll have some tougher ones coming up on the schedule and need to get ready for the competition.

Holyoke scored 139 points to claim the team championship Saturday. Other teams and their earned points were Sedgwick County 128.5, Bayard 104.5, Sutherland 103, Morrill 77, Lingle Ft. Laramie 58, Garden County 41, Kimball 40, Hyannis 29, Wray 27.5, Hemingford 25, Crawford 23, Banner County 13 and Minatare 9.

This week, Holyoke hosts Yuma in dual action Thursday, Dec. 13, and JV wrestlers will

compete in Wray Saturday, Dec. 15.

Proud HHS Dragons and coaches are pictured with their first-place plaque earned at Saturday's Banner County Wrestling Invitational. Team members are pictured from left, in front, Astolfo Rojo, Nicholas Ortner, Eric Rojo and coach Cutter Garrison; and in back, Leo Ortiz, coach Dusty McConnell, Javy Rojo, Ben Martinez, Issac Brandt, Fernando Rojo, Cesar Hinostroza, Troy Brown, Dylan Kotch, Luke Stewart, Jesus Hermosillo, Nathan Miles, Spencer Kotch, Cody Lamm, coach Jack Garrison, T.J. Gertner, Sidney Struckmeyer and Marques Harvey.

Individual results from the Banner County tournament follow:

106 lbs.—Eric Rojo placed 4th, going 1-3 for the day. He was pinned in 1:31 by Slade Martinez of Crawford, lost a 0-18 tech fall to Rowdy Keller of Kimball, pinned Brock Lay of Lingle Ft. Laramie in 3:31 and was pinned in :31 by C.J. Sidrow of Morrill.

120 lbs.-—Issac Brandt placed 3rd, going 3-2. He pinned Cody Vaughn of Lingle Ft. Laramie in 1:38, was pinned in 3:41 by Collin Fleecs of Sutherland, pinned Zac Kline of Sedgwick County in :12, was pinned in 3:56 by Keith Graham of Sedgwick County and pinned Colten Gilchriest of Lingle Ft. Laramie in 1:30.

138 lbs.—Nicholas Ortner placed 1st, going 4-0 with four pins. He pinned Isaac Ralston of Sutherland in 1:53, pinned Cole Allison of Sedgwick County in 2:57, pinned Beau Beckman of Wray in 1:26 and pinned Rio McGinley of Garden County in 1:32.

145 lbs.—Luke Stewart was 0-2. He lost an 8-11 decision to Seth Rudy of Morrill and was pinned in 1:12 by Greg McKain of Sutherland.

152 lbs.—Ben Martinez placed 4th, going 3-2. He pinned Conrad Kildow of Bayard in 3:46, won a 5-2 decision over Tyler Huddle of Hemingford, lost a close 5-6 decision to Elvariste Gomez of Morrill, pinned Josh Kramer of Wray in 1:04 and lost a 1-4 decision to Allen Denton of Bayard.

160 lbs.—Leo Ortiz placed 2nd, going 4-1. He won a 7-1 decision over Tristan Kirch of Garden County, pinned Jackson Carpenter of Morrill in 3:13, pinned Frank Kohler of Minatare in 3:18, won a 6-2 decision over Zachary Blake of Sutherland and lost a 6-10 decision to Trenton Applegate of Bayard.

160 lbs.—Cesar Hinostroza was 3-2 on the day. He won a 13-10 decision over Tristan Carruthers of Kimball, was pinned in 2:34 by Trenton Applegate of Bayard, was pinned in 1:45 by Jahni Krueger of Sedgwick County, won an 11-5 decision over Trevor Benge of Hemingford and pinned Jackson Carpenter of Morrill in 3:07.

170 lbs.—Spencer Kotch placed 3rd, going 3-2. He pinned T.J. Gertner of Holyoke in 3:59, pinned Marques Harvey of Holyoke in 2:54, lost a 6-11 decision to Tyler Horalek of Sedgwick County, pinned Payden Ayer of Hyannis in 1:41 and lost a 4-19 tech fall to Tristan Hunter of Bayard.

170 lbs.—T.J. Gertner placed 4th, going 2-3. He was pinned in 3:59 by Spencer Kotch of Holyoke, lost a 3-7 decision to Tristan Hunter of Bayard, won a 5-4 decision over Marques Harvey of Holyoke, lost a 1-6 decision to Tyler Horalek of Sedgwick County and pinned Payden Ayer of Hyannis in 3:26.

170 lbs.—Marques Harvey was 1-4 for the day. He won a 14-7 decision over Payden Ayer of Hyannis, was pinned in 2:54 by Spencer Kotch of Holyoke, lost a 4-5 decision to T.J. Gertner of Holyoke, was pinned in 1:39 by Tristan Hunter of Bayard and was pinned in 2:47 by Tyler Horalek of Sedgwick County.

182 lbs.—Troy Brown was 1-4. He lost a 6-12 decision to Landan Fear of Sutherland, was pinned in 4:43 by Alex Wamboldt of Bayard, was pinned in 1:36 by Emmett Hoover of Hyannis, was pinned in :23 by Mitch Van Duren of Sedgwick County and pinned Cody Lamm of Holyoke in 2:19.

182 lbs.—Cody Lamm was 0-5. He was pinned in 1:24 by Emmett Hoover of Hyannis, was pinned in :17 by Mitch VanDuren of Sedgwick County, lost a 6-14 major decision to Alex Wamboldt of Bayard, was pinned in 3:23 by Landan Fear of Sutherland and was pinned in 2:19 by Troy Brown of Holyoke.

195 lbs.—Jesus Hermosillo placed 1st, going 5-0 with four pins. He won a 13-6 decision over Tanner Willey of Bayard, pinned Gared Krakow of Banner County in :42, pinned Derek Steckman of Sedgwick County in :23, pinned Wyatt Rowe of Hyannis in :22 and pinned Asa Carlson of Hemingford in 2:32.

220 lbs.—Dylan Kotch placed 1st, going 5-0 with four pins. He won by injury default over Deondre VanDeWater of Sutherland, pinned Thomas Grubbs of Banner County in 1:33, pinned Sidney Struckmeyer of Holyoke in 1:15, pinned Moses Ash of Hemingford in 1:12 and pinned Riggen McIntosh of Lingle Ft. Laramie in 1:30.

220 lbs.—Sidney Struckmeyer placed 4th, going 3-2. He pinned Thomas Grubbs of Banner County in 5:24, was pinned by Dylan Kotch of Holyoke in 1:15, pinned Deondre VanDeWater of Sutherland in 3:31, pinned Moses Ash of Hemingford in 3:13 and was pinned by David Gifford of Banner County in 2:46.

285 lbs.—Astolfo Rojo placed 3rd, going 4-1 with four pins. He pinned Miguel Huerta of Wray in 2:58, was pinned in 4:42 by Matthew Hessler of Morrill, pinned Nick Hahn of Sutherland in 1:45, pinned David Young of Garden County in :11 and pinned Kain Forbes of Crawford in 2:51.

285 lbs.—Fernando Rojo went 2-3. He was pinned in :33 by Kain Forbes of Crawford, was pinned in 1:35 by Chris Wurm of Bayard, won an 8-2 decision over Bryson Dick of Sutherland, pinned Jeremy Hart of Garden County in 2:54 and was pinned in 1:19 by Miguel Huerta of Wray.

JV 152 lbs.—Javy Rojo placed 2nd, going 1-1. He pinned Jeremy Aguallo of Morrill in 1:45 and was pinned in 1:53 by Kyle Sides of Bayard.

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