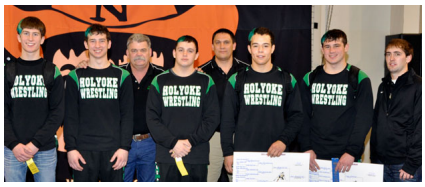
Seniors Jesus Hermosillo, Spencer Kotch and Astolfo Rojo and sophomores Dylan Kotch and Nicholas Ortner earned their way to the Colorado 2A State Wrestling championships at the Pepsi Center in Denver Feb. 21-23.

Hermosillo at 195 lbs. and Dylan Kotch at 220 won regional championships Saturday, Feb. 16 at NJC in Sterling. Spencer Kotch was runner-up at 170 lbs., while Ortner placed fourth at 138 lbs., and Rojo was fourth at 182.

Coach Jack Garrison said he's pretty happy with the troop he's taking to state. "Always, as a coach, you want to take more," said Garrison, but he's excited for those who are going. Additionally, he noted all five were bracketed well in the state tournament.



Holyoke High School state qualifying wrestlers are pictured with their coaches, from left, Nicholas Ortner, Spencer Kotch, coach Jack Garrison, Astolfo Rojo, coach Dusty McConnell, Jesus Hermosillo, Dylan Kotch and coach Cutter Garrison.

—Enterprise photo

All the HHS seniors who wrestled in the regional tourney qualified for state, and Garrison was especially pleased with that. Senior Ben Martinez broke his hand the week before regionals, so ended his season a week early.

Hermosillo and Dylan Kotch both enter the state tournament ranked second in their respective weight divisions. This is the second trip to the state mats for both regional champs.

Hermosillo was 2-2 at last year's state tournament and was just one round from placing. His losses were to the eventual second- and fifth-place finishers. He takes a strong 36-5 record into this year's state tourney. He will meet senior Drew Collins (9-4) from Rangely in the first round.

Dylan Kotch gained good mat experience at state last year as a freshman. He lost a one-point decision to the eventual fourth-place finisher. This year he sports a 26-6 record and will face senior Elliott Blessman (12-16), a senior from LaVeta, in the opening round.

Jesus Hermosillo works to put Stratton's Zach Cooper's back to the mat in the 195-lb. regional championship Saturday at NJC. Hermosillo won top honors with an 11-4 decision and heads to this week's state tourney.

—Enterprise photo

Dragon wrestler Dylan Kotch, pictured in back, has control over Theodore Zimmer of Highland in the 220-lb. regional championship. Kotch earned the win with an 8-2 decision to advance to this week's 2A state tournament as a regional champion.

—Enterprise photo

Spencer Kotch (19-15) will meet sophomore Justin Wilson (25-15) of Mountain Valley in round one at state.

Ortner (16-12) is set to face Paonia sophomore Gunner Chesnik (27-12) in the first round Thursday.

Rojo (15-15) will open the state tourney against senior Ryan Domson (10-0) of Hayden.

State tourney schedule

Thursday, Feb. 21—prelims, 3-6:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 22—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. 23—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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