

Four make top 4 in Lexington Invite

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Four varsity Dragon wrestlers finished in the top four in the always-tough John Higgins Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Lexington, Neb. Saturday, Jan. 21.

“Our varsity kids showed great improvement over last week,” said coach Jack Garrison.

Broc Pelle was the only Dragon to make it to the championship matches. He lost 5-6 in the 170-lb. finals to take second.

At 132 lbs., Mark Edmonds lost to a state champ from Kansas in the semifinals, then won his final match to take third place.

Coach Garrison commended both Jesus Hermosillo at 195 lbs. and Parker Redfern at 160 who showed improvement and did an excellent job to finish fourth in their weight classes.

Kearney won the varsity tournament with 202 points, followed by North Platte with 158.5, Lincoln Southwest 152, Scott City 128.5, Lexington 111, Cozad 108.5, Hastings 106, Schuyler 106, Beatrice 93, Millard West 80, McCook 71, Holyoke 67, Sidney 37 and Chase County 0.

For Holyoke, nine Dragons wrestled in the varsity brackets, while six competed in the junior varsity tournament.

Junior varsity wrestlers picked up a number of wins in the jayvee portion of Saturday’s tournament, said Garrison.

In the JV tourney, Spencer Kotch placed third at 145 lbs., Leo Ortiz fifth at 152 lbs. and Cesar Hinostroza got his first two wins of the year at 170 lbs.

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Individual results of Saturday's wrestling matches follow:

Varsity tournament

132 lbs.—Mark Edmonds placed third, going 3-1. He pinned Michael Sadd of Hastings in :57, lost a tough 4-6 decision to eventual champion Clay Mulligan of Scott City, won a 12-5 decision over Danny Ibarra of Lexington and pinned Connor Carstens of Lincoln Southwest in 2:04.

138 lbs.—Nick Ortner lost a 0-8 decision to Kyle Groshong of McCook (who ended up placing third) and lost a 0-7 decision to Devyn Egelston of Scott City, who placed fifth.

145 lbs.—Ben Martinez was pinned in 3:09 by Kalen Mazankowski of Kearney (who placed second) and was pinned in 4:21 by Brad Anderson of Hastings, who finished fifth.

152 lbs.—T.J. Gertner was pinned in :50 by Chance Helmick of Beatrice (who placed third) and was pinned in :30 by Jamieson Oertle of Kearney, who finished sixth.

160 lbs.—Parker Redfern was 2-2 and placed fourth. He pinned Mike Nutsch of Beatrice in 1:20, was pinned in 5:17 by Grant Holscher of North Platte (the eventual champion), won a 14-1 decision over Mario Barraza of Lexington and was pinned in 2:27 by Jared Torell of Lincoln Southwest.

170 lbs.—Broc Pelle was 2-1 for runner-up honors. He pinned Clayton Welch of Beatrice in 1:37, pinned Alex Boryca of Cozad in 1:34 and lost a 5-6 decision to Bobby Cahill of North Platte in the championship.

195 lbs.—Jesus Hermosillo was 3-2 and placed fourth. He lost a 0-4 decision to Daniel Chacon of Cozad, pinned Lane Hayes of Scott City in :45, pinned Jessup Workman of Beatrice in 2:53,

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won a 7-6 decision over Tanner Wintholz of Sidney and then met Chacon of Cozad again, losing a close 0-2 decision.

220 lbs.—Dylan Kotch lost a 3-5 decision to Tyler Brabec of Schuyler and lost a 0-5 decision to Simon Rangel of Cozad.

285 lbs.—Astolfo Rojo was pinned in 1:42 by Edwin Perdomo of Lexington (who placed sixth) and was pinned in 1:50 by Chris Williamson of Hastings, who finished third.

Junior varsity tourney

113 lbs.—Morgan Golden was pinned in :49 by Pascual Francisco of Lexington (who placed third) and was pinned in :19 by Chase Ramsey of Scott City, who finished fifth.

132 lbs.—Nathan Miles was pinned in 3:59 by Alec Duncan of Kearney and was pinned in :31 by Casey Taylor of Lincoln Southwest.

138 lbs.—Luke Stewart was pinned in :45 by Austin Mathews of North Platte (who placed second), pinned Peter Nyugen of Scott City in :24 and was pinned in 2:27 by Manuel Roman of Lexington, who finished third.

145 lbs.—Spencer Kotch placed third with a 3-1 record for the day. He pinned Brody McKnight of Sidney in 2:17, was pinned in :36 by eventual champion Connor Myers of Lincoln Southwest, won a 9-8 decision over Andrew Weils of Lincoln Southwest and won by default over Shane Lavante of North Platte.

152 lbs.—Leo Ortiz was 3-2 for fifth place. He won a 9-5 decision over Dakota Baumgartner of McCook, lost a 4-6 decision to Zane Hammaker of Kearney (who finished second), pinned

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Kevin Jurgensen of Sidney in 1:39, was pinned in 4:25 by Tanner Mastin of Sidney (who placed fourth) and won by default over Hudson Snider of Kearney.

170 lbs.—Cesar Hinostraza was 2-2 for the day. He won an 8-5 decision over Kane Taylor of Sidney, was pinned in 1:40 by eventual champion Dylan Mlady of North Platte, pinned Peter Ruiz of Schuyler in 4:29 and lost a 2-4 decision to Saige Valenzuela of Cozad, who finished sixth.

Upcoming action

This week's wrestling schedule is solid for HHS. Thursday, Jan. 26 is parents' night and senior night when the Dragons host Fleming for a 6:30 p.m. dual. The action will be preceded by some junior high matches starting at 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 27, wrestlers will travel to Akron for a dual prior to the Holyoke-Akron basketball games that night. The wrestling action will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28, varsity Dragons will compete in the Brighton High School tournament starting at 8:30 a.m. and JV wrestlers will participate in the varsity tournament in Stratton starting at 9:30 a.m.

Next Thursday, Feb. 2, the Larry Stroh Memorial Dual with Merino will begin at 6 :30 p.m. The Holyoke Junior High Bash will precede the HHS dual, with the bash starting at 2:30 p.m.

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