HHS junior Chad Stroh accomplished much last week when he earned High School All-American status at the High School Wrestling Nationals in Virginia Beach, Va.

This tournament is the largest folkstyle tourney in the United States.

Stroh had a very good tournament, going 5-3 to place sixth. He lost three very close matches against nationally-ranked wrestlers.

Also participating in the HS Nationals was HHS freshman Mark Edmonds. He went 2-2 in the biggest bracket of the tourney, with 96 participants.

Several local wrestlers extended their high school and junior high seasons by competing in the Rocky Mountain Nationals and the Midwest Classic in Kearney, Neb.

Rocky Mountain Nationals

At the Rocky Mountain Nationals in Denver March 20-22, seven from Holyoke competed, with Stroh finishing fourth for the only place-winner.

Stroh had a fair week, wrestling very well on Friday, but he had a hard time getting going Saturday and Sunday, said coach Duane Stroh.

Sixth grader Dylan Kotch wrested very well and finished fifth in the tourney.

Edmonds showed huge improvement at RM Nationals, according to coach Stroh. He lost his second match, and something clicked on after that. Edmonds wrestled with more intensity than ever before, coming through the back side of the bracket and beating a kid he has never beat before. Edmonds went 7-2 and was one round away from placing.

Junior Luke Garrett also wrestled well, losing to two state champs. Coach Stroh noted the one that knocked Garrett out of the tourney was this year's 5A state champ at 152 lbs. Garrett lost 8-4, but had his opponent in a mills half at the end and was close to getting back points. He was 4-2 and was also one away from placing.

Sixth grader Nick Ortner went 2-2 in the tourney and has turned the corner nicely, said coach

Stroh.

Sophomore Brian Strong went 1-2. He wrestled well, but was in a very tough bracket with a lot of state champs, said the coach.

Eighth grader Spencer Kotch is improving, noted coach Stroh. But he didn't have a great tourney, going 0-2.

Midwest Classic

Six Holyoke wrestlers competed at the Midwest Classic in Kearney, Neb. March 28-29, with four earning places.

Stroh went 4-0 in the tourney, beating a Nebraska three-time state champ in the finals.

Edmonds finished third, going 5-1 in the late-March tourney, and Strong and Ortner both placed sixth.

Also competing were Garrett and sophomore Skyler Dittmer, who both went 1-2 for the weekend.