

## **Jesus Hermosillo, Dylan Kotch gain valuable experience on the 2A state wrestling mats**

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Junior Jesus Hermosillo and freshman Dylan Kotch gained tremendous experience on the state wrestling mats this past weekend.

Hermosillo, who finished as regional runner-up at 195 lbs., won two matches at state and was just one match from earning a medal. He lost to the eventual second- and fifth-place finishers.

Kotch was pinned in his first bout at 220 lbs., but came back strong to lose a one-point match to the eventual fourth-place finisher.

“Every year you’re here (at the state tournament) is a world of experience for the next year,” said coach Jack Garrison, noting he’s looking for good things from Hermosillo and Kotch next year.

### **Hermosillo gets two wins**

Having basically just started wrestling when he was a sophomore, Hermosillo has come a long ways, said coach Garrison. The coach figures he’s the most improved wrestler on the team this season.

He had a successful start to his experience last weekend when he won a takedown over Adrian Cereceres of North Park and put him on his back for a pin with six seconds left in the first period.

Hermosillo drew a highly-ranked opponent in the quarterfinals, losing a 6-15 decision to Johnny Loflin of Baca County, who finished second in the tournament.

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“He got outskilled—not outfought,” said Garrison, adding Loflin was just more experienced.



**Dragon Jesus Hermosillo is fierce in his second win on the state mats as he works his way to a 9-1 victory over Chance Padilla of Sargent Friday night. —Enterprise photo**

Coming back in consolations, Hermosillo wrestled defensively and handled the pressure well of knowing if he lost he was out of the tournament.

Losing wasn't even close to being on his mind as he worked his way to a 9-1 decision over Chance Padilla of Sargent.

Just one round from medaling, Hermosillo fought hard, but lost by a third-period pin to Colton Wyatt of Ignacio, who finished in fifth place.

Trailing 1-8 at one point, Hermosillo fought back to trail 9-13 as the second period ended. He was behind 9-15 when he was pinned in the third.

“He made some mistakes, but he never gave up,” praised coach Garrison. “He’ll always give you all he has,” the coach added, noting this state experience will be valuable next year.

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### Kotch gains experience

Two matches on the state mats will go a long ways toward confidence for Dragon freshman Kotch.

Coach Garrison said Kotch was real nervous Thursday, but didn't show that so much in his Friday match. He was a little hesitant to begin with, but improved on that, as well.

He trailed 1-2 after the first period against Zack Morgan of Sargent. Kotch got too high trying to reverse in the second and was pinned in 3:07.

Next up for Kotch was senior Aaron Ames of Swink. He was older with more experience, but it was a great match for Kotch. He got behind, but never gave up.



**Dragon freshman Dylan Kotch faces Swink's Aaron Ames in 220-lb. action Friday morning. Kotch lost a close 7-8 decision, and Ames went on to place fourth in the tournament.**

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### —Enterprise photo

Down 3-4 at the end of the first, Kotch escaped in the second to tie the score at 4-all. He was taken down and escaped again for a 5-6 deficit as the second period ended.

Ames escaped in the third for a two-point advantage. In an exciting scramble, Garrison said Kotch had the opportunity to win with a cradle, but Ames rolled him through and the score was tied at 7-7.

Only seven seconds remained in the match when Ames escaped for a point and an 8-7 match win.

Garrison looks forward to building on Kotch's experience gained this season as he continues his high school wrestling career.

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