

Wrestlers place four in opener

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Two champions and two other placewinners emerged from the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament Saturday, Dec. 1, where the HHS Dragon team opened its 2012-13 season.

Eleven varsity wrestlers competed at St. Francis, Kan., while nine JV grapplers took to the mats in Goodland, Kan. for the Dec. 1 opener.

Senior Jesus Hermosillo and sophomore Dylan Kotch finished as champions at 195 and 220 lbs. respectively. Sophomore Nick Ortner placed third at 138 lbs. and senior Astolfo Rojo was fourth at heavyweight.

With 68 points, Holyoke placed eighth out of 11 teams at St. Francis. Colby won the tourney with 207.5, followed by Goodland 166, Wray 100.5, Sterling 98, Norton 97.5, St. Francis 78, Rawlins County 70, Holyoke, 68, Pine Creek 67, Wichita County 44 and Greeley County 21.

Coach Jack Garrison noted the team is very young with six seniors, eight sophomores and 11 freshmen.

He's pleased with the leadership shown by the returning wrestlers and said they'll be working hard to get the young kids going.

At St. Francis there were some tough schools as well as mediocre teams, said Garrison.

Hermosillo wrestled unbelievably well and defeated a couple of good wrestlers in his final two matches.

Nobody could come close to Dylan Kotch, said coach Garrison, noting the sophomore wrestler is much more powerful this year.

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Ortner lost in the front door, but wrestled a great tournament to come back to take third, said the coach.

Rojo is a light heavyweight, and Garrison said he is a really disciplined wrestler and had a good tournament.

Seniors Ben Martinez, Leo Ortiz and Spencer Kotch all wrestled well. Some got bracketed poorly, but they each won a match. Garrison looks for good things from them as they get in better shape and gain confidence.

Freshmen got their eyes opened at St. Francis as they were welcomed to varsity-level wrestling. Coach Garrison said they all fought hard and were definitely in the matches.

Individual results from the St. Francis tournament follow:

106 lbs.—Eric Rojo was pinned in :43 by Joey McFee of Rawlins County and was pinned in :13 by Skylar Johnson of Norton.

120 lbs.—Issac Brandt was pinned in 4:08 by Riley Hager of Norton and was pinned in 3:08 by Jake Rockwell of Wray.

138 lbs.—Nick Ortner placed third. He won a 15-4 major decision over Logan Lampe of St. Francis, lost a 1-7 decision to Joel Contreras of Sterling, won a 9-2 decision over Ricky Milke of Goodland and won a 4-0 decision over Toby Nickell of Norton.

145 lbs.—Luke Stewart was pinned in 3:36 by Erick Krier of Sterling and lost a 5-17 major decision to Idan Peek of Pine Creek.

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152 lbs.—Ben Martinez was pinned in 4:33 by eventual runner-up Kendall Miller of Norton, won a 9-7 decision over Jacob Clark of Wichita County and was pinned in 2:36 by Logan Guenzi of Sterling.

160 lbs.—Leo Ortiz was pinned in 3:36 by eventual champion Mikey Leibbrandt of St. Francis, won a 5-2 decision over Zane Powell of Sterling and was pinned in 3:15 by Cody Wright of Rawlins County.

170 lbs.—Spencer Kotch was pinned in 2:12 by eventual champion Quade Woofter of Colby, pinned Cole Dierks of Wichita County in 1:26 and was pinned in 2:05 by Tristan Whited of Sterling.

182 lbs.—Marques Harvey was pinned in 3:25 by Taylor White of Pine Creek and was pinned in 1:31 by Colton Cooper of Goodland.

195 lbs.—Jesus Hermosillo placed first. He pinned Brendan Hamilton of Pine Creek in :03, pinned Troy Quenzer of Colby in 2:15 and won a 5-3 championship decision over Tyler Gastineau of Goodland.

220 lbs.—Dylan Kotch placed first. He pinned Austin Hart of Colby in 1:11 and won a 6-0 decision over Skyler Mason of Wichita County in the finals.

285 lbs.—Astolfo Rojo placed fourth. He lost a 5-8 decision to Aaron Escamilla of Wray, pinned Jonathan Chavolla of Wichita County in 1:19 and lost a 2-13 major decision to Aaron Escamilla of Wray.

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Jayvees gain good mat experience

Nine JV Dragons entered a round robin tournament in Goodland Saturday. No medals nor places were awarded, but team members had a lot of good mat time, and coaches were pleased.

Freshman Cavin Kramer dislocated his hip, and coach Garrison said he could be out for the season.

Nathan Miles was 3-0 for the day at Goodland to go undefeated.

Fernando Rojo was 4-1, Sid Struckmeyer 3-1, Javier Rojo 2-1, Cody Lamm 2-2, Cesar Hinostraza 2-2, Troy Brown 0-3 and T.J. Gertner 0-3.

Upcoming action

This week, the whole Dragon team will travel to Harrisburg, Neb. Saturday, Dec. 8 for the Banner County Invitational.

Coach Garrison said they'll do a lot of round robin matches there, which will give lots of mat time to the wrestlers.

Holyoke will host Yuma for a varsity/JV dual Thursday, Dec. 13, starting at 6:30 p.m.

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