

Wrestlers third at Kiowa Classic

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

With one runner-up and five third-place finishers, the Dragon varsity wrestlers captured third place in team standings at the Kiowa High School Classic Saturday, Jan. 26.

Coach Jack Garrison said it was nice to bounce back after last week's matches at Lexington, Neb.

Dylan Kotch was runner-up at 220 lbs., losing to the top-ranked wrestler in the state from Cheyenne Wells. "It was a kid we needed to see," said Garrison.

The coach also praised third-place finishers Leo Ortiz at 152 lbs., T.J. Gertner at 160, Spencer Kotch at 170, Issac Brandt at 120 and Astolfo Rojo at 182.

Other Dragons also earned wins on the mats at Kiowa for some great experience heading into the final weeks of the season.

Holly won the tournament with 156 points, followed by Discovery Canyon with 149, Holyoke 117.5, Bear Creek 107, Kiowa 100.5, Sand Creek 70, Manitou Springs 64.5, Cheyenne Wells 61, Manzanola 60.5, Grandview JV 42, Calhan 40, Clear Creek 39.5, Burlington JV 38, Peyton 28, Colorado School for Deaf and Blind 16, Simla 7, Hanover 4 and Miami Yoder 1.

This week, the Dragons will host Akron in dual action Friday, Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2, the varsity wrestlers will compete in Brighton while the JV team heads to the Stratton tournament.

Individual results from the Kiowa tourney follow:

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106 lbs.—Eric Rojo was pinned by Bryce Bachman of Discovery Canyon, won a 5-1 decision over Talor Claman of Peyton and lost a close 6-7 decision to Tristan Knockle of Sand Creek.

120 lbs.—Issac Brandt placed third. He won by a tech fall over Ryan Spurlin of Manitou Springs, was pinned in 3:22 by Ryan Byrnes of Discovery Canyon, pinned Hunter Hensley of Discovery Canyon in :30 and pinned Jordan Sullivan Monnet of Bear Creek.

126 lbs.—Morgan Golden was pinned in :49 by Trenton Honken of Discovery Canyon and was pinned in :30 by Andrew Obluda of Discovery Canyon.

145 lbs.—Ben Martinez pinned Zach Marshall of Discovery Canyon in 1:57, won a 10-1 decision over Evgenii Iasnobulkov of Manitou Springs, lost a 3-12 decision to eventual champion Anthony Potter of Clear Creek and lost a decision to Alex Aguilar of Grandview.

152 lbs.—Leo Ortiz placed third. He pinned Andrew Parrish of Clear Creek, lost a 9-12 decision to Sy Donaldson of Holly, pinned Cody Devine of Bear Creek in 3:39 and won a 10-6 decision over Billy Ryan of Manitou Springs.

160 lbs.—T.J. Gertner placed third. He pinned Matt Fischer of Discovery Canyon in 3:13, pinned Dez Wilson of Grandview in :58, was pinned by Jourdan Ellis of Calhan, pinned Schyler James of Discovery Canyon and pinned Maxx Gonzalez-Sarabia of Bear Creek in 3:49.

170 lbs.—Spencer Kotch placed third. He pinned Nate Kopcol of Clear Creek in 5:31, was pinned by eventual champion Aidan Osborn of Kiowa, pinned Alex Khaldy of Grandview and pinned Dalton Renner of Cheyenne Wells in :48.

182 lbs.—Astolfo Rojo placed third. He lost a major decision to eventual champion Alex Weber of Discovery Canyon, won by default over Haydyn Cramer of Manitou Springs and pinned Jonathan Bishop of Sand Creek.

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220 lbs.—Dylan Kotch placed second. He pinned Alan Pile of Manzanola and lost a 5-11 decision to Truett Box of Cheyenne Wells.

285 lbs.—Fernando Rojo was pinned by Gus Kern of Cheyenne Wells.

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