

Mathews takes first at lower weight class

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Chase County had a skeleton crew at the Holdrege Wrestling Invitational Saturday, with five competing in the varsity division.

However, the team still returned with a champion and a third place medal winner.

Jeremy Mathews, who dropped to the 171 lb. class after starting the opening weekend at 189, won his division and beat an undefeated opponent in the finals.

“He had a real solid day,” said Coach Matt Vlasin.

Coming down a weight class makes him a lot more competitive, Vlasin said.

At 103 lbs., Cochran just missed getting into the championship finals. After a first round bye, he was solidly ahead of his opponent from Grand Island Northwest, but got out of position, Vlasin said, and was pinned.

“I don’t think he would have had a problem with the kid in the finals,” Vlasin said.

The one little mistake in the semi-finals sent him into the consolation bracket, but he came back strong with two wins for the third place medal.

“He wrestled well all day, too,” Vlasin said.

Chase County’s other three wrestlers in the varsity division were Trevor Fuehrer, Nathan Hinojosa and Tyler Roenfeldt.

Hinojosa picked up a win during his matches Saturday, pinning an opponent from Lincoln North Star.

As a whole, Vlasin said the team showed improvement from the week before. There were some of those little mistakes again, he said, but there was “definite improvement.”

“We’re headed in the right direction,” he said.

With just five wrestling varsity, it was tough to compete for team points. The Longhorns finished at the bottom of the 10 teams there.

The Lueth brothers did not wrestle Saturday due to a funeral. They will be back this weekend.

Chase County had one medalist in the JV division. Joel Fisher won the second place medal in the 160 lb. class. No other results were available.

Team scoring in the varsity division was Grand Island CC 177.5, McCook 110, Grand island NW 101, York 98, Minden 89, Holdrege 81, Lexington 64.5, Lincoln North Star 61.5, Broken Bow 55 and Chase County 34.

Here are Chase County’s individual results from Holdrege.

- 103 Keithan Cochran bye first round, pinned by Kemmet (GINW) 5:46, dec. Gauna (McC) 16-4, pinned Pearson (Hol) 1:23 for 3rd place.
- 160 Trevor Fuehrer pinned by Dorcey (York) 0:30, pinned by Roehrlich (GINW) 2:57.
- 171 Jeremy Mathews bye first round, pinned Deihl (GINW) 2:37, dec. Osterbuhr (GICC) 9-4 for 1st place.
- 215 Nathan Hinojosa pinned by Sanford (Min) 2:25, pinned Paxton (Linc NS) 4:09, pinned by Bliven (Lex) 2:28.
- Hwt Tyler Roenfeldt dec. by Schroder (GICC) 12-2, pinned by Merrill (York) 2:53.

JV meet Thursday in McCook:

varsity at Sidney Saturday

The Longhorns expect to send six wrestlers to the McCook grade 9-10 tourney today (Thursday), which starts at 3 p.m. (MT).

Chase County has been attending this meet the last few years, and Vlasin said it's good experience for the younger team members.

Last year, 12 to 14 schools sent wrestlers to this tournament.

On Saturday, the varsity wrestlers will be in Sidney with seven to eight wrestlers.

Some stiff competition is expected, with a lot of Class B schools from the west there. With just half of a full team, Vlasin said it will be tough to compete for team points.

The team will be without seniors Jeremy Mathews and Sean Langin Saturday, who are on school suspensions due to disciplinary reasons.