

By Alan Carman

The Imperial Republican

With only six varsity wrestlers making the trip to Broken Bow, Head Coach Matt Vlasin was very satisfied bringing home sixth place out of the 11 teams in a tournament with some very tough competition.

Keithan Cochran and Trevor Fuehrer both returned with second place silvers and Nathan Hinojosa brought home a third place bronze medal.

Coach Vlasin said, "Trevor was probably the biggest surprise as he was giving up so much height and weight."

Trevor is working on getting down to the 160 pound weight class but due to restrictions on how much weight wrestlers are allowed to cut each week, he was forced into the 189 pound division.

"Most of the guys Trevor wrestled were much taller and bigger giving them the false impression he would be an easy match," Vlasin said.

However in the finals, the size and strength of Central City's Tyson Sutton proved too much for Trevor and he was forced to settle for second.

Cochran also had a very good tournament. In the finals he came up against a very tough Connor Boiling of Central City.

Coach Vlasin noted that Boiling has not lost a match since the third grade, going undefeated last year as a freshman and bringing home the state championship. Cochran went out and gave it his best shot but was unable to pull off the upset.

Hinojosa had a rough start in his tourney with his first match being against the eventual heavyweight champ—Blake Thomsen of St. Paul.

After getting pinned by Thomsen, Hinojosa stormed back through the consolation bracket to take third. In his final match of the day, Hinojosa faced Ryan Barlow of Holdrege, who was every bit of the 285 pound weight limit.

Coach Vlasin noted Nathan was having problems with the larger Barlow and was trailing in the match in the third period when he decided to shoot in low, get the double leg takedown, lifting Barlow high into the air, before taking him to the mat and controlling him to come out on top of the match 10-6.

In other action, Misael Garcia and Andrei Rodriguez were both stopped in the semi-finals of the consolations and Michael May was knocked out of the tourney in the consolation quarter-finals.

Coach Vlasin said they all wrestled well but showed some of the early season mistakes which he is confident they will get worked out in practice.

Freshman May had a very tough bracket with five out of the eight wrestlers having qualified for the state tournament last year and three of them bringing back hardware.

Two junior varsity wrestlers also made the trip Saturday. Freshman Makayla Bell wrestled in the 119 pound division, losing both matches in the first period by pin.

Sophomore Kenny Weaver wrestled at the heavyweight spot. There were only two wrestlers so they had a best two out of three matches. Weaver was pinned in both matches.

Junior varsity

119 Makayla Bell pinned by Katrina Brock (Hol) .29 sec.; pinned by Corbin Rookstool (Hol) .53 sec.

285 Kenneth Weaver pinned by Tanner Jackson (BB) 5:12; pinned by Tanner Jackson (BB)

1:47.

Varsity

112 Keithan Cochran pinned Landon Petska (Ord) 3:11, major decision 19-5 over Zane Smith (Bow), pinned by Connor Boiling (CC) 1:37 for second place.

119 Misael Garcia pinned Tyler O'Brien (GIC) 1:35, pinned by Austin Starkey (Stp) 1:13, pinned by Dillon Hill (Hol) 1:39.

135 Michael May pinned by Alex Stepanek (Stp) 1:09, pinned by Matt Denson (Bow) 4:18.

171 Andrei Rodriguez a bye, pinned by Jeremiah Starostka (Gic) 1:15, pinned by Matt Hilder (CC) 1:50.

189 Trevor Fuehrer major decision 14-3 over Blake Bandur (Ord), pinned Frank Mayo (Mad) 2:46, pinned by Tyson Sutton (CC) .58 sec. for second place.

285 Nathan Hinojosa pinned by Blake Thomsen (Stp) 3:29, pinned Logan Paup (CC) 1:41, pinned Francisco Vargas (Mad) 3:51, won decision over Ryan Barlow (Hol) 10-6 for third place.

Team travels to Holdrege

tournament Saturday

Coach Vlasin said he was very happy with practice this week noting the team's intensity level has been very high. Most of the wrestlers will be shooting for the weight classes they plan to occupy for the rest of the season.

Wrestling gets underway this Saturday at the Holdrege tourney with JV matches at 8:30 a.m. MT and varsity starting between 10 and 10:30 a.m. MT due to ACT testing.

Holdrege is expecting 11-12 teams Saturday including some eastern teams CCS doesn't get to see much of. These teams include Grand Island Northwest, Lincoln Northstar and Smith Center, Kan.