

The Morning News

Local News for Northwest Arkansas

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Springdale Wrestlers Perform Well

By The Morning News

SPRINGDALE -- The Springdale Wrestling Club made history on Friday, competing in the first high school wrestling meet ever held in the state at the Brinkley Invitational. The SWC team includes wrestlers from both Springdale High and Har-Ber.

It was also a history-making performance for Springdale's Felicia Hill (103-pound class), who pinned her first opponent and earned a first round victory that set the tone for the weekend for the Springdale contingent.

"When you have someone like Felicia that works hard every day in practice provide a spark like this, it definitely gives a boost to the rest of the team," Springdale coach Anthony Haubner said.

Hill was among a group of 17 Springdale wrestlers who competed in Brinkley in the various weight classes.

Taylor Wethers (Springdale High) became the first SWC wrestler to claim champion honors at the 119-pound weight class with two pints.

Mat Holiday (Southwest Junior High), posted a 3-0 record and captured the heavyweight division. Holiday had three overall votes for the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.

Nick Hopkins (George Junior High) had a round robin bracket and, by providing a pin during his first match, gave him enough to walk away with a second place finish.

Jonathon Nunez (Springdale High) placed fourth with a strong tournament and became the SWC's first technical fall (win by 15)

Lauren Brewer (Southwest Junior High) gained some valuable experience from this weekend and Gatlin York went 1-1 and came away with a second place finish. Ashley Hilton (Springdale High) gained some valuable experience competing in her first tournament as well.

"Lauren and Ashley were instrumental in getting the rest of the team motivated to wrestle," Haubner said. "They were loud enough to be heard throughout the gym, yelling words of encouragement to all of their teammates. To have individuals like this keep up this type of enthusiasm all day, kept the whole team in the tournament.

"SWC's three female wrestlers were the first to compete in the state of Arkansas and helped raise awareness in Brinkley that females are capable of competing in the sport of wrestling."

Chris Rabe (Har-Ber) turned in an exceptional performance with three pins and had a tough match for third place. The match went into overtime with Rabe getting a pin in the last eight seconds of the match.

Tyler Edwards (Springdale High) and Aaron Cohorst (Springdale High) both had a productive day at 160. Edwards went 3-1 and lost a heartbreaker in the finals. Cohorst pinned two of his opponents.

Other Springdale wrestlers who took the mat at Brinkley included: Zach Clarke (145), Andrew Daily (171), John Bautista (171), Craig Morgan (171), Isaac Stephens (215) and J.C. Moore (Hwt.).

"When you have 18 individuals that are willing to travel and participate in their first tournament, that is incredible," Haubner said. "To have nine come away placing says a lot about the effort that they are putting in the room. Even more impressive is when you look at our two champions, with no mat experience, leave as champions, has a special meaning."

The Springdale club will be taking the next few weeks off to prepare for the next tournament on Jan. 6 in Russellville.