



THE EUREKA REPORTER



Eureka's Leo Garcia spins away from Fortuna's Dillon Eckerfeld in the 130-pound championship at Fortuna on Saturday. Garcia was one of Eureka's two individual champions. Jackie Christensen/The Eureka Reporter



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Previous

1 of 2

Next

Loggers win conference

by Jackie Christensen, 2/18/2007

Eureka High had wrestlers earn points in 13 out of the 14 weight classes Saturday afternoon in the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference championships at Fortuna, and by doing so, blew away the competition en route to a league title.

The Loggers scored 185.5 points as a team, which was well more than second-place Arcata (131) and third place Del Norte (130).

"The feeling's great," said Eureka head coach Keith Adams. "We took a young team and put seven wrestlers in the finals, and the kids wrestled outstanding all day long."

Although the Loggers' dominance was the story of the day, two Ferndale wrestlers, who just happen to be brother and sister, stole the show by permanently carving their names into the H-DNC record books.

With their outstanding performances on Saturday, freshman Sara Hubbard (103 pounds) became the first female wrestler in H-DNC history to make the finals in a conference championship, placing second, while her older brother and senior Chris Hubbard (173) won his final match (in triple overtime) to become just the fifth H-DNC wrestler of all time to win four conference titles.

"We both work hard and we've been wrestling for a long time," Sara said about how the duo was able to perform so well. "It's just a lot of hard work in practice and wrestling smart and aggressive."

Older brother Chris echoed his little sister's remarks.

"The way I got here was just working hard every day in practice," he said. "I have a great coach and great teammates who push me to improve every day."

In the heavyweight division, Ferndale's John Thurston, who is the North Coast Sections No. 1 seed, denied Del Norte's Sherman Norton (the section's No. 2 seed) of a conference title in a 4-1 decision.

The conference championship was the third of Thurston's career, while Norton, who is a two-time NCS medalist and a state qualifier last year, has never won an H-DNC title.

Thurston was also named outstanding upper-weight wrestler of the tournament, while South Fork's

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Ferndale's Chris Hubbard, left, pushes McKinleyville's Luke Mathieson in the 160-pound championship at Fortuna on Saturday. Hubbard won the match in triple overtime to become just the fifth H-DNC wrestler to win four conference titles. Jackie Christensen/The Eureka Reporter

Previous

2 of 2

Next

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